

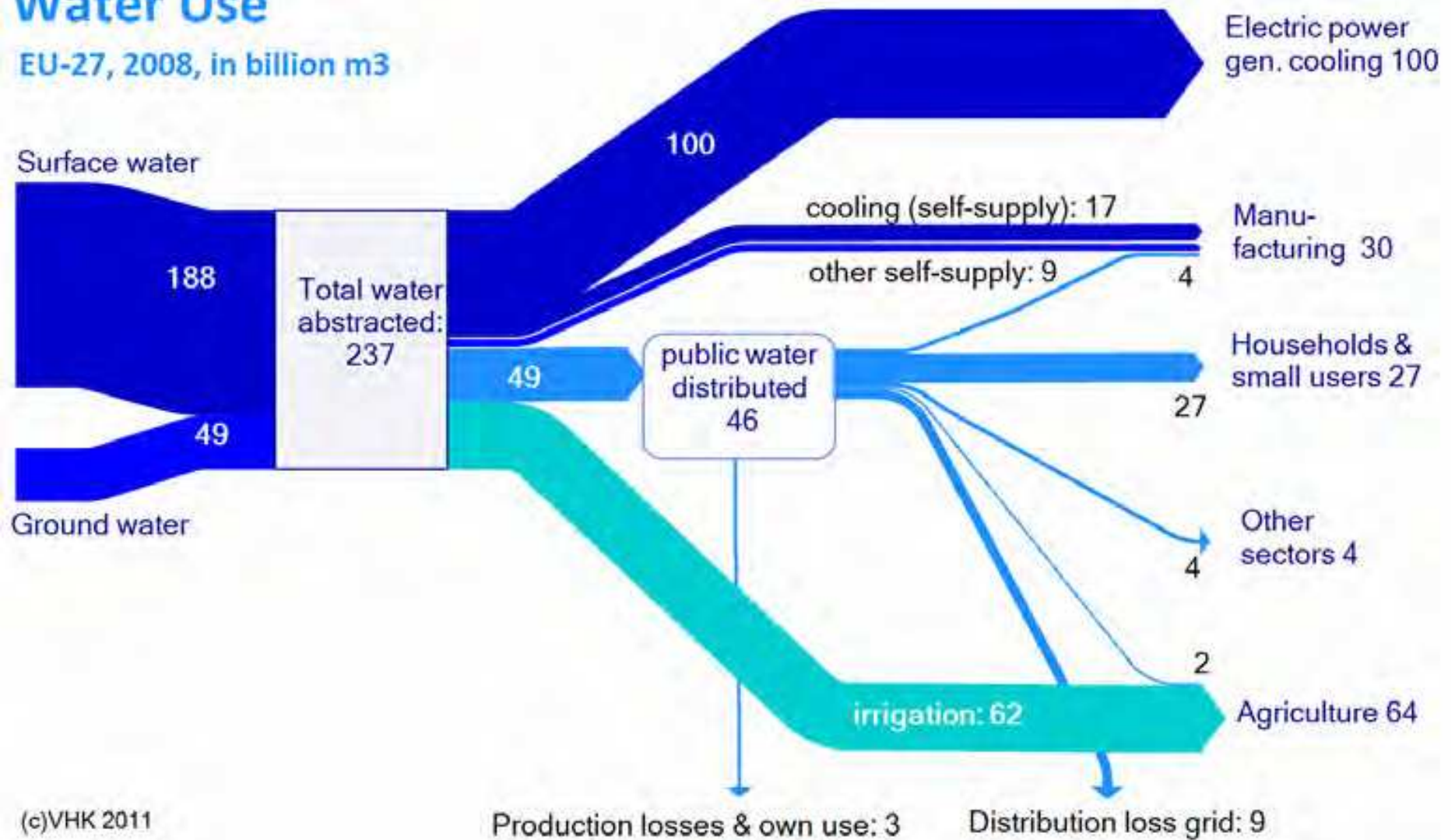


# **The EU Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)**

**Jornada internacional Agua de Consumo  
International Workshop Drinking Water  
Madrid, 21 April 2014**

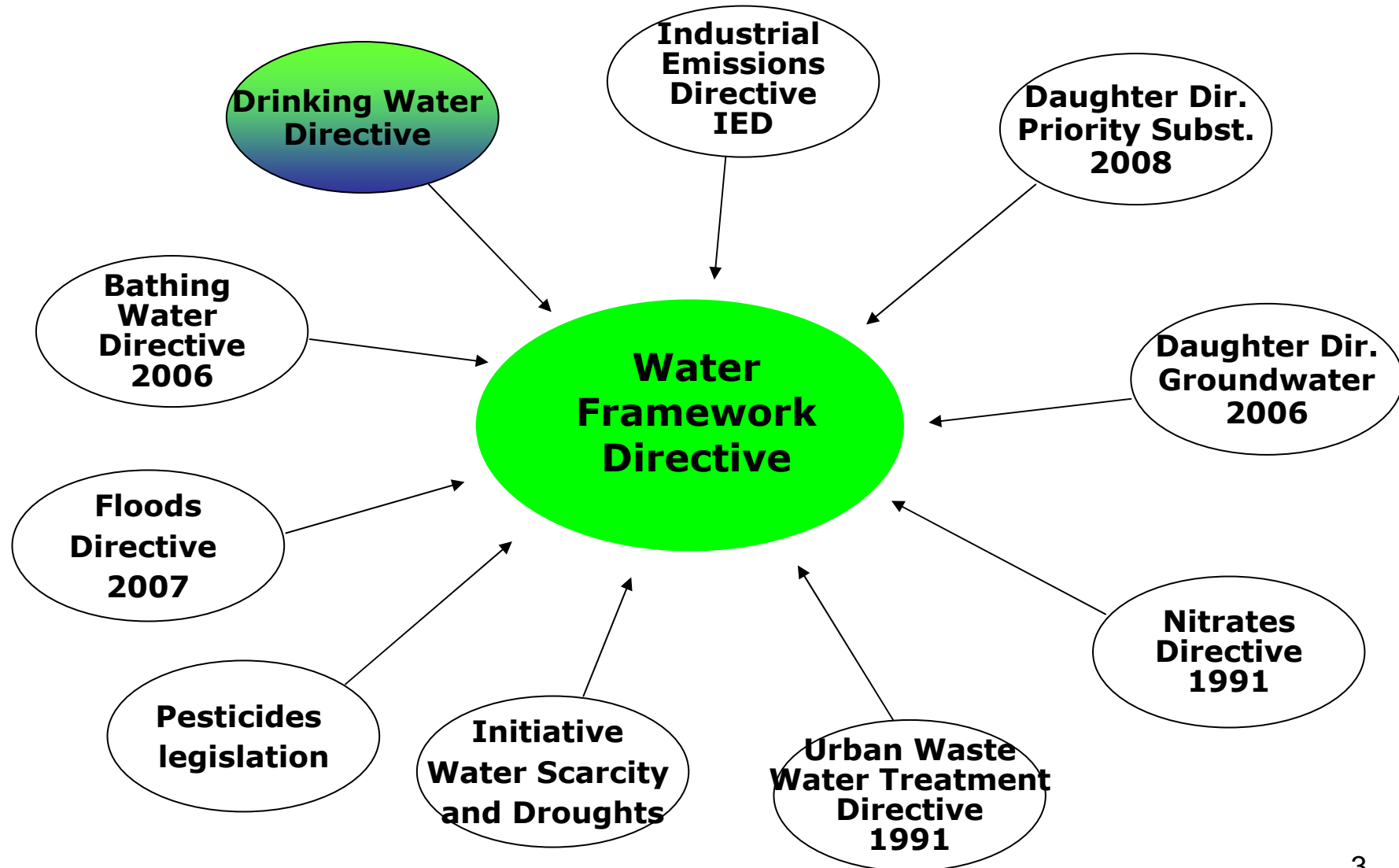
# Water Use

EU-27, 2008, in billion m<sup>3</sup>



(c)VHK 2011

# One management frame for all water-related legislation





### Recent EU Strategy Papers:

The **Blueprint** to Safeguard Europe's Water resources - Communication from the Commission (COM(2012)673)

- Water milestone related to the EU's 2020 Strategy and to the 2011 Resource Efficiency Roadmap
- better implementation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, filling the gaps as regards water quantity and efficiency

The **Fitness Check** of EU Freshwater Policy (Staff Working Document) – SWD(2012) 393

- Smart Regulation policy - to keep current regulation fit for purpose
- barriers to meeting the objectives; improve implementability; coherency?
- included 1) the Water Framework Directive, 2) the Groundwater Directive, 3) the Directive on Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), 4) the Urban Waste Water Directive, 5) the Nitrates Directive and 6) the Floods Directive

The **7th EAP** - Environmental Action Programme, Decision No 1386/2013/EU  
'Living well, within the limits of our planet'

- high standards of safe drinking and bathing water by 2020
- More needs to be done to ensure a higher quality of drinking water for small supplies



# The Drinking Water Directive

- Aim: to protect human health by ensuring wholesome and clean drinking water
- MS obligations:
  - Ensure minimum water quality requirements  
=> parameter values in annex I
  - Regular monitoring of water quality  
=> monitoring and analysis in annex II & III
  - Informing the public & reporting to the EC
- Review of technical Annexes every five years
  - => Annex I amendments: co-decision
  - => Annex II and III changes: comitology



# ENV activities on drinking water

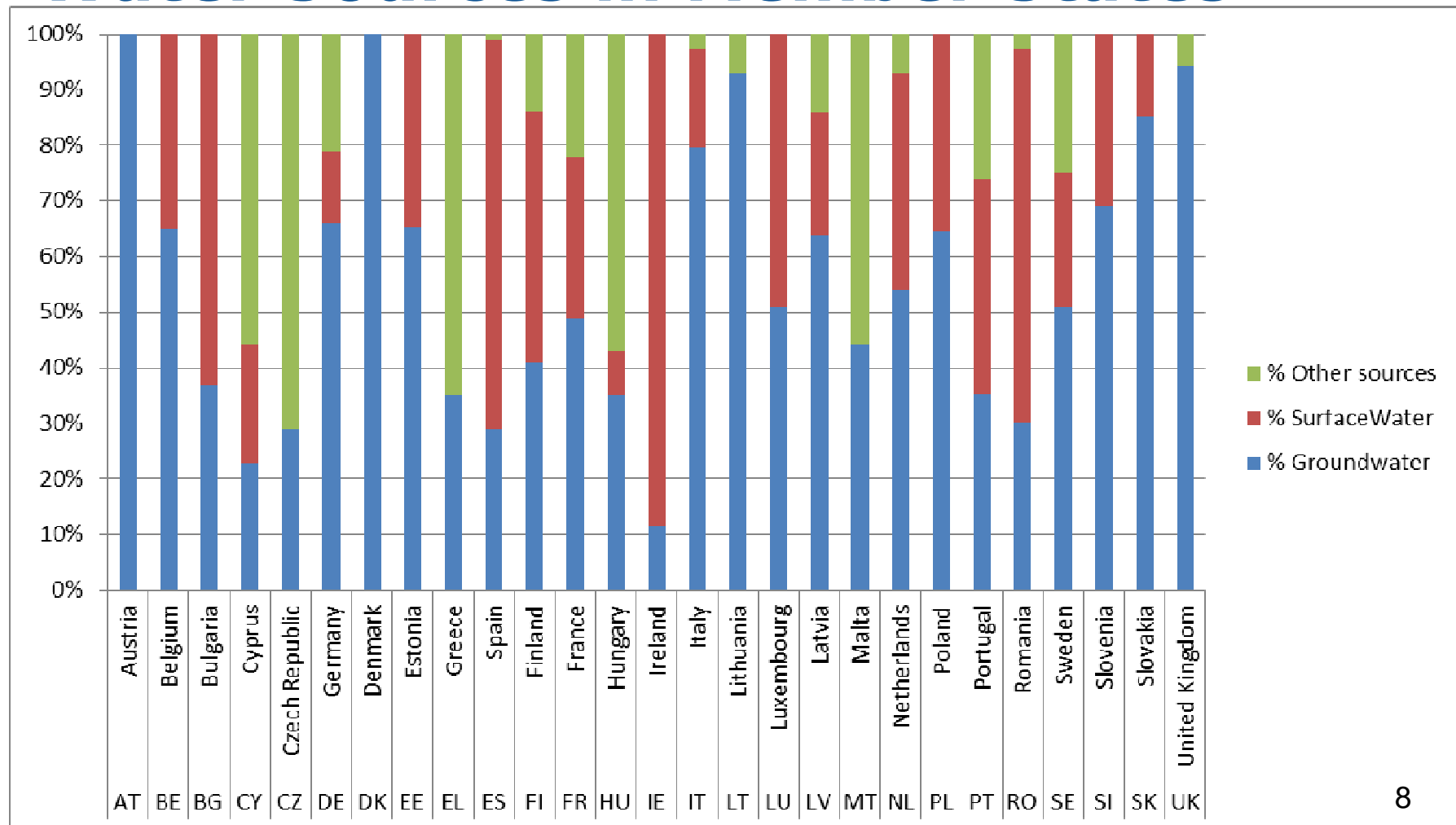
- Follow up implementation in Member States
  - Compliance verification/infringement
  - Compliance promotion (particularly EU 13 and Cand. States)
- Coordination of Committee meetings and technical working groups
  - EMEG - European Microbiology Expert Group
    - alternative methods (JRC, homepage available soon)
- **Processing of MS reports; drafting EU synthesis reports**



# Reporting

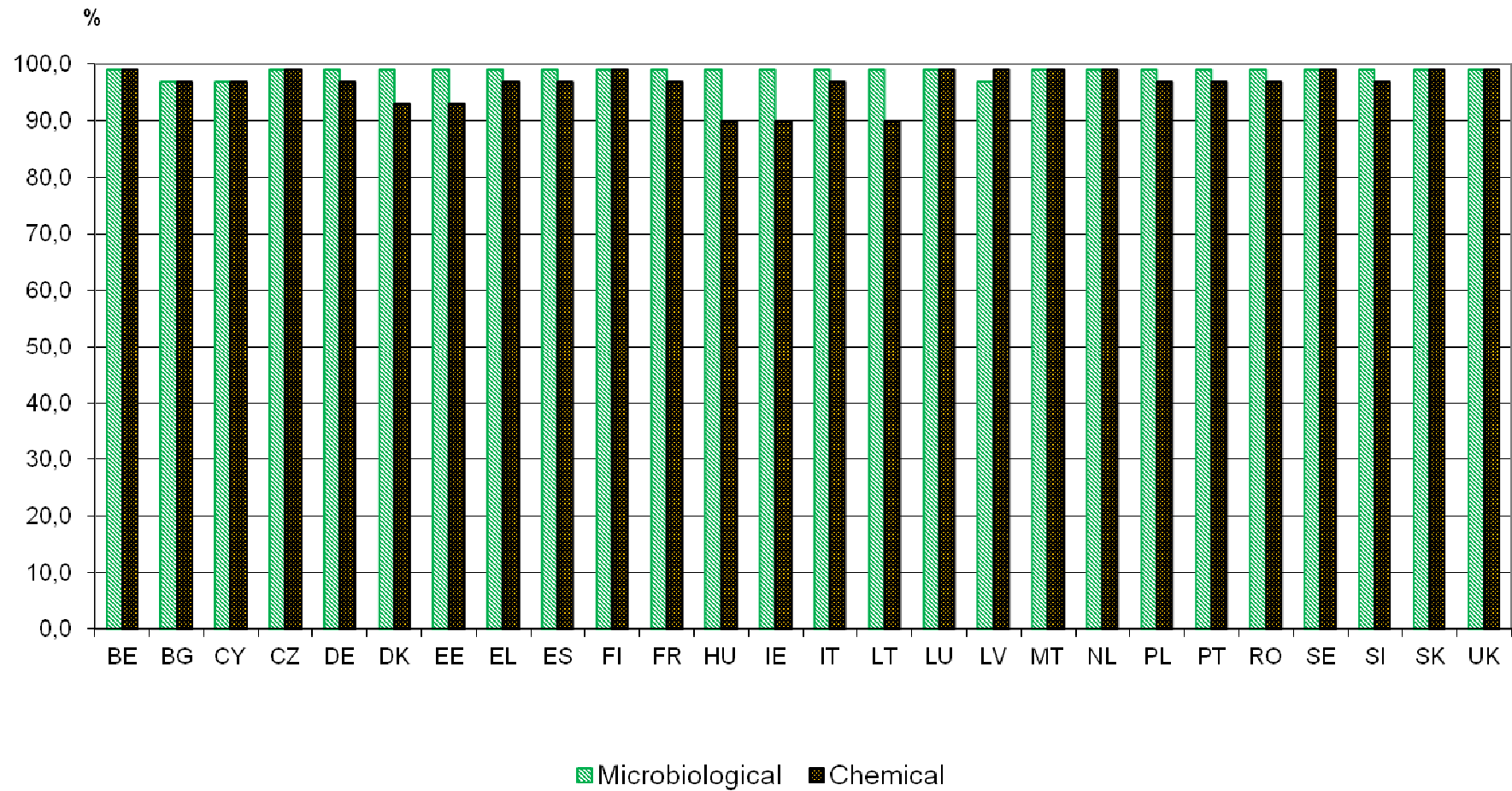
- Commission Synthesis Report
  - based on
    - Mandatory Reporting Large Supplies
    - Voluntary Reporting Small Supplies
  - to be published in May 2014
- Reported data per Member State available on EEA's Eionet Central Data Repository
- Country fiches and further documents to be published on our website
- Preliminary Results:•
  - 96,388 water supplies
    - 11,233 large, serving 317 million people
    - 85,405 small, serving 65 million people

# Water Sources in Member States



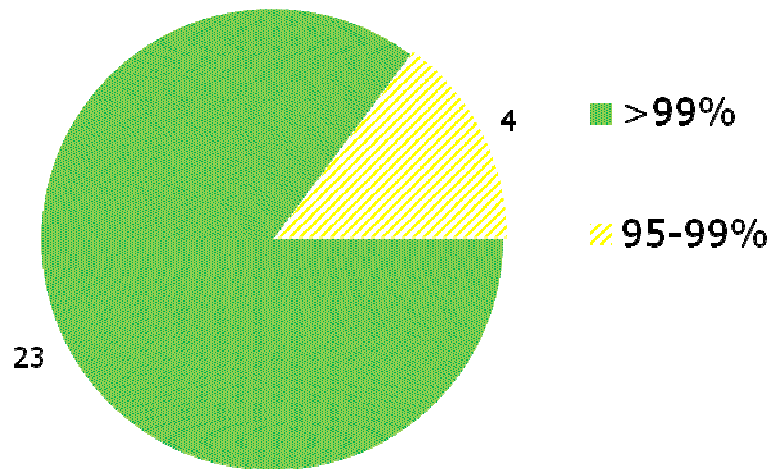


## Compliance Rates Large Water Supplies in 2010 (%)

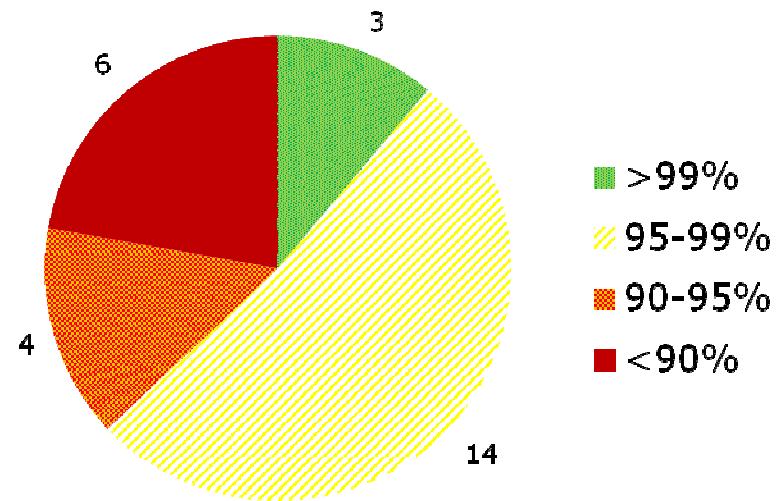


# Comparison large – small supplies

## Microbiology large supplies



## Microbiology small supplies



## Draft Conclusions Reporting Exercise

- *Compliance predominantly very good*
- *Quality in remote areas should be improved*
- *More (cost) effective monitoring, risk-based management approaches*
- *New/other parameters? Consider ongoing revision of the WHO drinking-water guidelines*
- *Easier access to environmental information, more up-to-date information for consumers*
- *Implementation timescales and derogation mechanisms are out-of-date*

## Small water supplies

- *Study and Workshop 'Towards a Guidance Document for the implementation of a Risk Assessment for small water supplies in the European Union' - Overview of best practices November 2011*
- *April 2012: DWD Regulatory Committee Meeting mandated the Drafting Group on Small Water Supplies to develop a policy guidance document*
- *"Framework for Action" document setting out a path towards improving the implementation for small water supplies has been agreed*

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/small\\_supplies\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/small_supplies_en.html)



# Risk-based approach

## Technical Development – Amendment Annex II/III

- April 2012 DWD Regulatory Committee Meeting  
-> mandated *an Expert Group to update the technical annexes of the Directive*
- November 2013 Regulatory Committee Meeting  
-> *Member States consulted*  
-> *draft Annexes discussed*
- *Draft Annexes within Commission close to finalisation, but not yet through Inter Service Consultation and Committee vote*



## Other recent development

"Right2Water" - first successful European Citizens' Initiative

- invites the Commission "to propose legislation implementing the human right to water and sanitation, and promoting the provision of water and sanitation as essential public services for all"
- submitted to the Commission on 20 December 2013
- support of more than 1.6 million citizens
- Meeting and Hearing in the EP on 17 February 2014
- Commission Communication COM(2014) 177 final of 19 March 2014

## Next steps

- Actions in Communication COM(2014) 177 final of 19 March 2014
- *EU-wide public consultation on the Drinking Water Directive, notably in view of improving access to quality water in the EU*
  - *To be launched before the summer*
- *Synthesis Report as a background document*
- *Way forward to be decided in autumn 2014*

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