Exemptions under Article 4(7) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Common Implementation Strategy Workshop

13-14 December 2016, Brussels

FINAL AGENDA

In the frame of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (WFD) the need was identified to develop specific guidance on the application of exemptions under Article 4(7) for new modifications to the physical characteristics of water bodies and for new sustainable human development activities.

In order to kick-off the activities, a workshop is organised on 13-14 December 2016 in Brussels. The main objectives are to allow for an exchange of practical experiences on Article 4(7), clarify the common understanding, still open issues and remaining challenges which are in place.

In preparation of the workshop practical case studies were collected from across the EU. A Key Issues Paper, developed prior to the workshop using input from the MS, will guide the discussions at the workshop and serve as a basis for drafting a practical guidance document on the application of Article 4(7) in 2017.
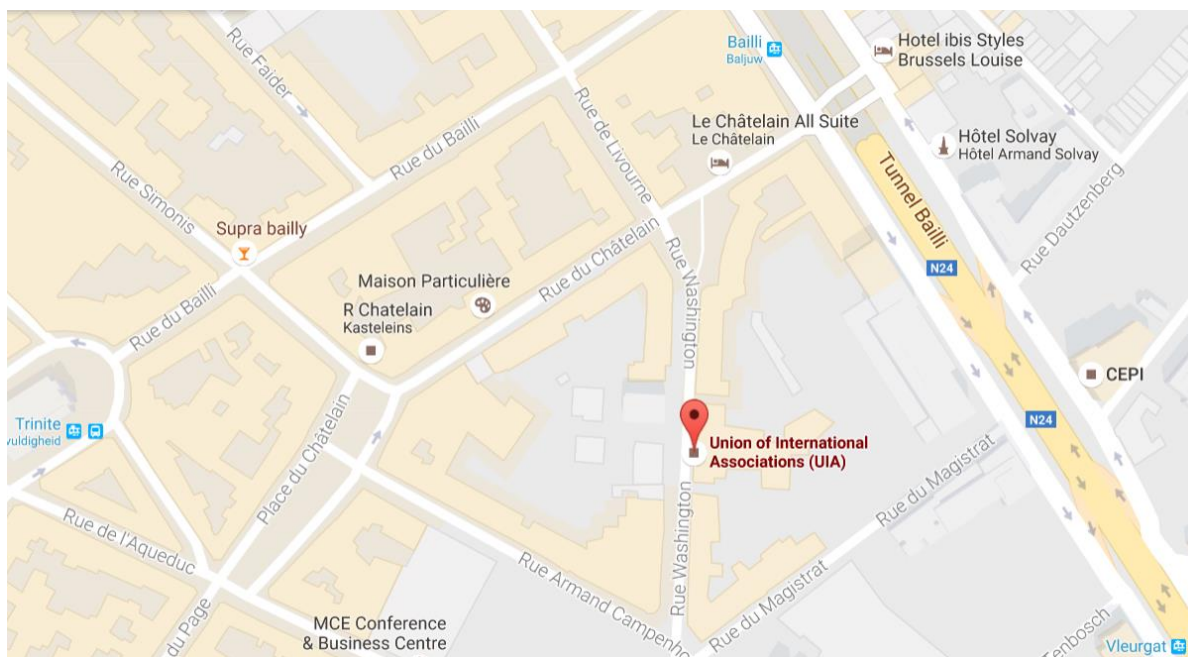
Venue:

Maison des Associations Internationales (https://mai.be/)
Rue Washington 40
1050 Brussels, Belgium

Public transport:
TRAM 81/94; BUS 54: Stop Bailli

Day one, 13 December 2016

08.30-9.00 Registration

09.00-09.30 Opening:

- **Welcome Address**
  P. MISIGA (Head of the Water Unit, DG ENV)
- **Introduction to the workshop**
  R. MAIR (Water Unit, DG ENV)

09.30 - 10.15 Plenary: Scope and conditions triggering Article 4(7)
Chair: M. MLINARIC (Senior Policy Officer, Water and Biodiversity, WWF)

- **Presentation of the Key Issues Paper on scope and conditions triggering Article 4(7)**
  T. DWORAK (Fresh Thoughts)
- **Ensuring WFD compliance: a checklist tool**
  J. BROOKE (Jan Brooke Environmental Consultant Ltd.)
- **Discussion**

10.15 – 10.45 Plenary: Conditions for granting exemptions under Article 4(7) - Part I
Chair: M. MLINARIC (Senior Policy Officer, Water and Biodiversity, WWF)

- **Presentation of the Key Issues Paper on mitigation measures**
  E. KAMPA (Ecologic Institute)
- **Discussion**

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.30 Conditions for granting exemptions under Article 4(7) - Part II
Chair: R. MAIR (Water Unit, DG ENV)

- **Presentation of the Key Issues Paper: Weighing interests and assessing significantly better environmental options**
  T. DWORAK (Fresh Thoughts)
- **The UK Water Framework Directive compliance assessment review**
  M. SCOTT (Senior Advisor, UK Environment Agency)
- **The Austrian Criteria Catalogue for new hydropower development**
  V. KOLLER-KREIMEL (Austrian Ministry of Environment)
- **Discussion**

12.30-13.00 Relationship to the RBMPs
Chair: Fanny Bontemps (Deputy Manager, French Ministry of Environment)

- **Presentation of the Key Issues Paper**
  T. DWORAK (Fresh Thoughts)
- **Discussion**

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.45 Working groups
Moderators: Co-leads Ad-hoc Task Group on 4(7)

- **Four parallel groups discussing: Scope, Assessment of impacts & mitigation measures**

15.45-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-18.00 Working groups
Moderators: Co-leads Ad-hoc Task Group on 4(7)

- **Four parallel groups discussing: Weighing interests, assessing significantly better environmental options, relationship to the RBMPs**

18.00 End of day one

Day two, 14 December 2016

09.00-10.30: Report back from Day 1
    Chair: J. RODRIGUEZ-ROMERO (Deputy Head of the Water Unit, DG ENV)

- **Report back from each working group**
  Rapporteurs
- **Discussion**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 Links with other Directives
    Chair: I. Comhaire (Policy officer - Policy division, Ministry of Mobility and Public Works - Flanders)

- **Presentation Floods Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
  T. DWORAK (Fresh Thoughts)
- **Presentation Environmental Assessments: SEA Directive & EIA Directive**
  S. DOBREVA DE SCHIETERE (Environmental Assessments Unit, DG ENV)
- **Presentation Birds and Habitats Directive**
  F. PAPOULIAS (Nature Unit, DG ENV)
- **Discussion**

12.30-13.00 Final discussion and next steps
    Chair: J. RODRIGUEZ-ROMERO (Deputy Head of the Water Unit, DG ENV)

13.00 End of workshop