Reality Check:
Science-Policy Nexus in European Water Law

Dr. Götz Reichert | Center for European Policy
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EU Water Framework Directive

- surface water (rivers, lakes) + groundwater
- “good water status” by 2027
- science-based approach
- EU Water Law: influence on
  - national water legislation
  - International Water Law (Danube, Rhine etc.)
EU Water Law

- **legally binding** on EU Member States
- **Transformation:** EU law $\Rightarrow$ national legislation
- **implementation** by EU Member States
  - **enforcement** by EU Commission
  - **judicial review** by EU Court of Justice
- **domestic + transboundary** water bodies
EU Water Framework Directive (1)

- integrated water resources management
- drainage basin
- River Basin District (RBD)
- Survey of RBD (update 2019, 2025)
  - natural characteristics
  - impact of human activity on water status
  - economic analysis of water use
EU Water Framework Directive (2)

- monitoring
- River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)
- Programme of Measures
- “good water status”
- “reality check”: review and updates (2021, 2027)
  - progress / deficiencies?
  - adaptation
International River Basin Districts
Multi-dimensional Regime

Int’l Water Law

EU Water Law

Int’l River Basin District

National Water Law

convergence

int’l commissions: coordination

transformation implementation enforcement
European Water Regime: Characteristics

- **ecosystem-oriented**: drainage basin, IWRM
- **science-based**: collection/sharing of information
- **adaptive**:
  - regular review and updates
  - Adaptation of plans and measures
- **inclusive**: transboundary cooperation
Dr. Götz Reichert
Center for European Policy
Freiburg | Germany
goetz.reichert@t-online.de