

Reality Check: Science-Policy Nexus in European Water Law

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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

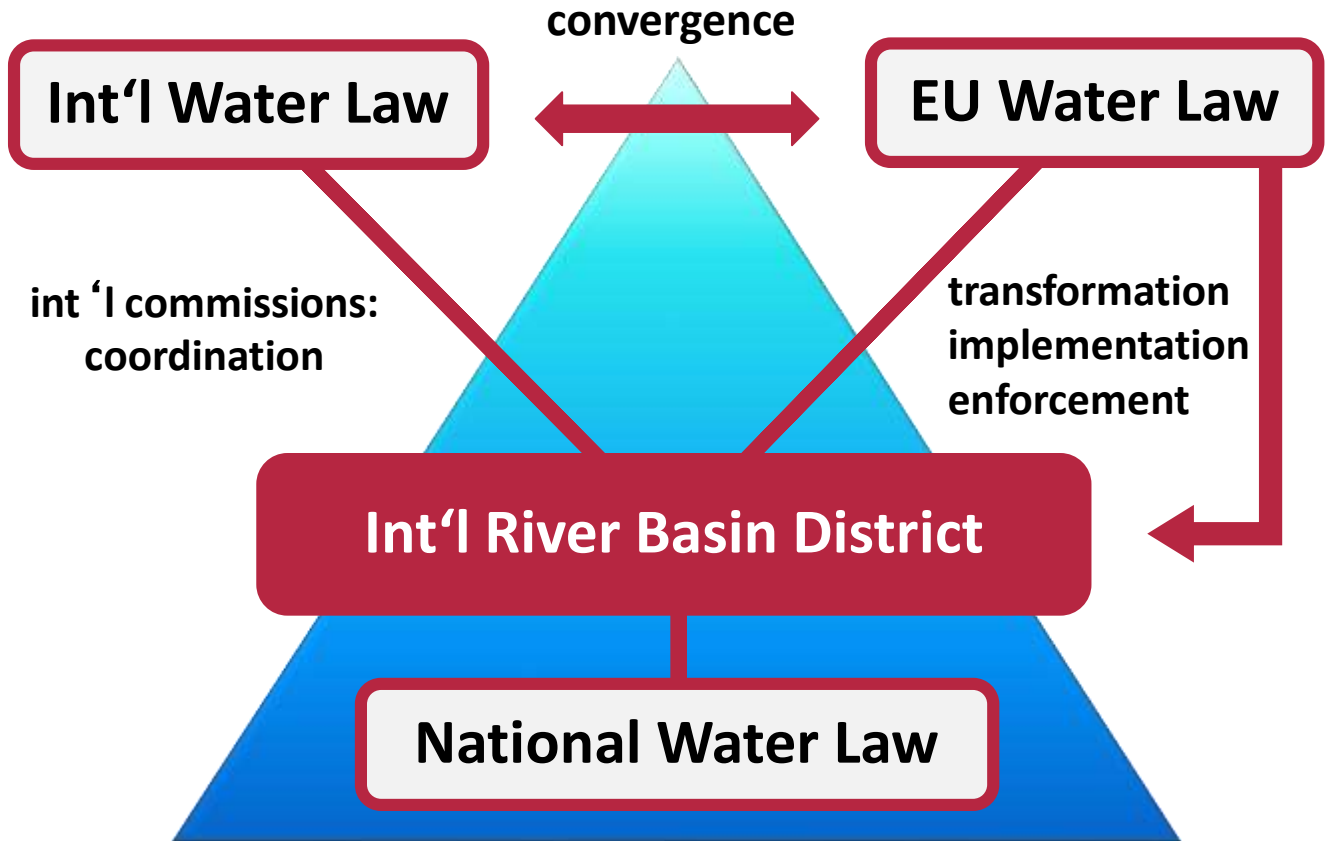
EU Water Framework Directive (1)

- **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

Multi-dimensional Regime



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

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