

E-8705/10EN

Answer given by Mr Potočnik
on behalf of the Commission

(9.12.2010)

According to Art. 8 of the EU Water Framework Directive¹ Member States are obliged to make their monitoring programmes operational by the end of 2006 and to report them to the European Commission by 22 March 2007.

The European Commission has prepared a report on the implementation of the monitoring programmes in the Member States. It was published on 1 April 2009². At that time Greece had not reported its monitoring programmes to the Commission.

Greece reported its monitoring programmes on surface water in May 2009 and on groundwater in August 2009. The monitoring programmes cover the monitoring of biological quality elements. The monitoring results, in particular the status of the water bodies, need to be reported in the River Basin Management Plans.

The Water Framework Directive obliges Member States to report their River Basin Management Plans to the European Commission by 22 March 2010 at the latest. To date, the Commission has not received the Greek plans and therefore it launched an infringement procedure in June 2010.

The European Commission is undertaking an analysis of the River Basin Management Plans with respect to their compliance with the provisions of the WFD. This analysis will include a check of the compliance of the monitoring programmes and the ecological status assessments as well as the link between the monitoring data and the development of the programme of measures. Special attention will also be devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Measures and its financing. The Commission is not aware of EU funding devoted to the drawing up of river basin management plans in Greece. The Commission will assess the Greek River Basin Management Plans as soon as they become available and will prepare a detailed report on the contents of the River Basin Management Plans. This report will be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council by the end of 2012.

¹ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/implrep2007/index_en.htm#second