EU policy on river basin and flood risk management is governed by the Water Framework Directive (WFD)\(^1\) and the Floods Directive (FD)\(^2\). Article 3(3) of the WFD requires Member States to ensure that a river basin extending over more than one Member State is assigned to an international River Basin District (RBD). The River Evros is part of the ‘Maritsa-Evros-Meric’ RBD for which there is no permanent co-operation body or international River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The Commission encourages Member States to co-operate under the Common Implementation Strategy\(^3\) or Article 12 of the WFD\(^4\). In its assessment of the 2\(^{nd}\) RBMPs and of the 1\(^{st}\) Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), the Commission recommended Member States to develop drought management plans, monitor droughts and their severity and better connect their flood risks plans to climate change science\(^5\).

At EU level, the European Flood Awareness System\(^6\) supports Member States in their efforts to design cost-effective measures before major flood events. Also, the European Drought Observatory provides drought-relevant information derived from different data sources\(^7\).

Greece and Bulgaria concluded the agreement on the management of the River Arda in their sovereign capacity\(^8\). If a specific agreement will no longer be in place after 2024 the two countries will nonetheless continue to be bound also by international law. The United Nations Water Convention\(^9\), to which they are both parties, requires the parties to prevent, control and reduce harmful transboundary impacts, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way, ensure their sustainable management and cooperate through specific agreements and joint bodies.

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3. Including in the case of Greece and Bulgaria, as well as Turkey, which is the third riparian country: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/objectives/implementation_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/objectives/implementation_en.htm)
4. This Article aims to address issues that cannot be resolved bilaterally between Member States.
5. 5\(^{th}\) implementation report of the WFD and the FD, [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl_reports.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl_reports.htm)
6. [https://www.efas.eu/](https://www.efas.eu/)
7. e.g., precipitation and satellite measurements, modelled soil moisture content.
8. The intergovernmental agreement is not covered by any EU legal framework, but agreements cannot contravene EU legislation.