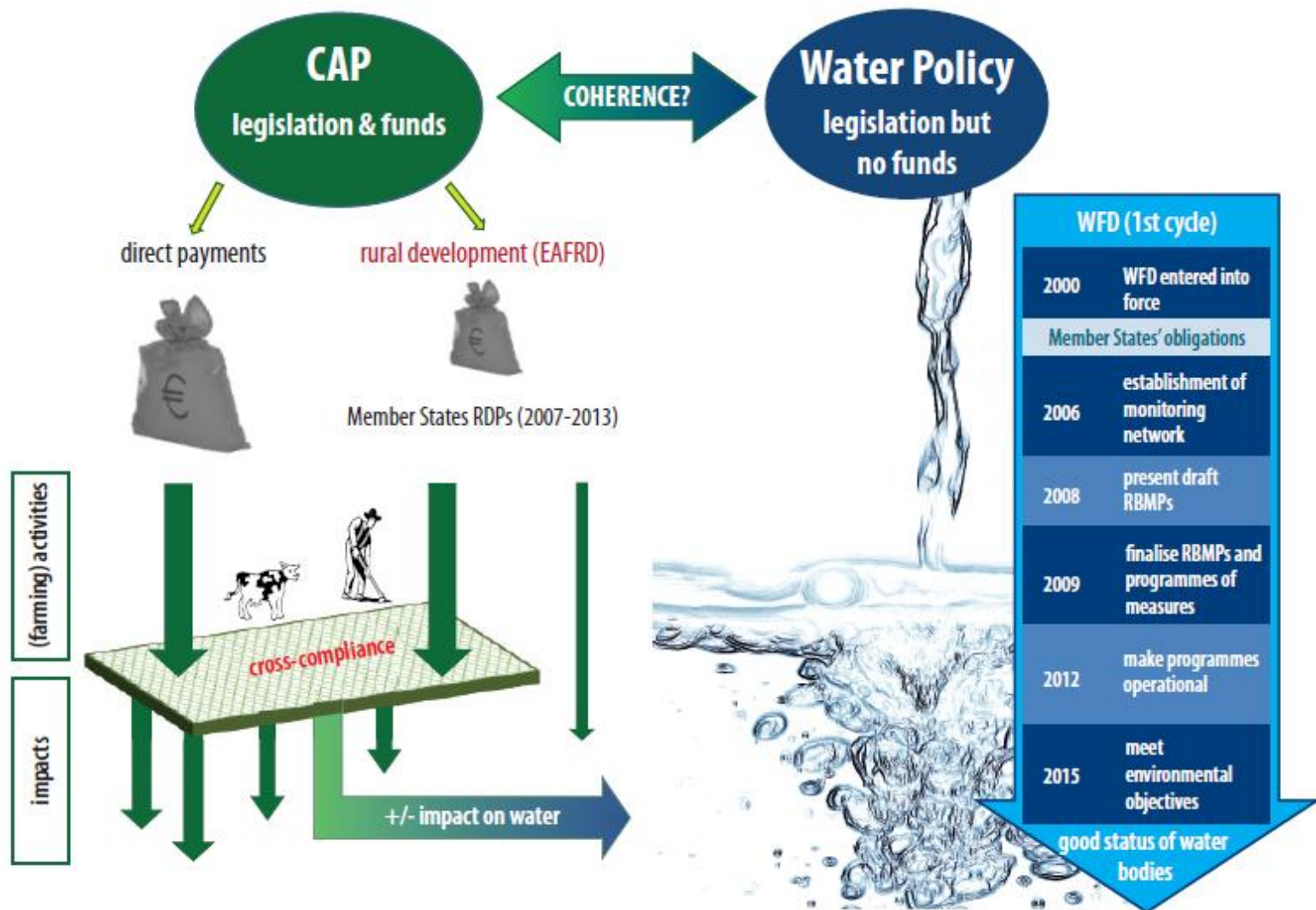


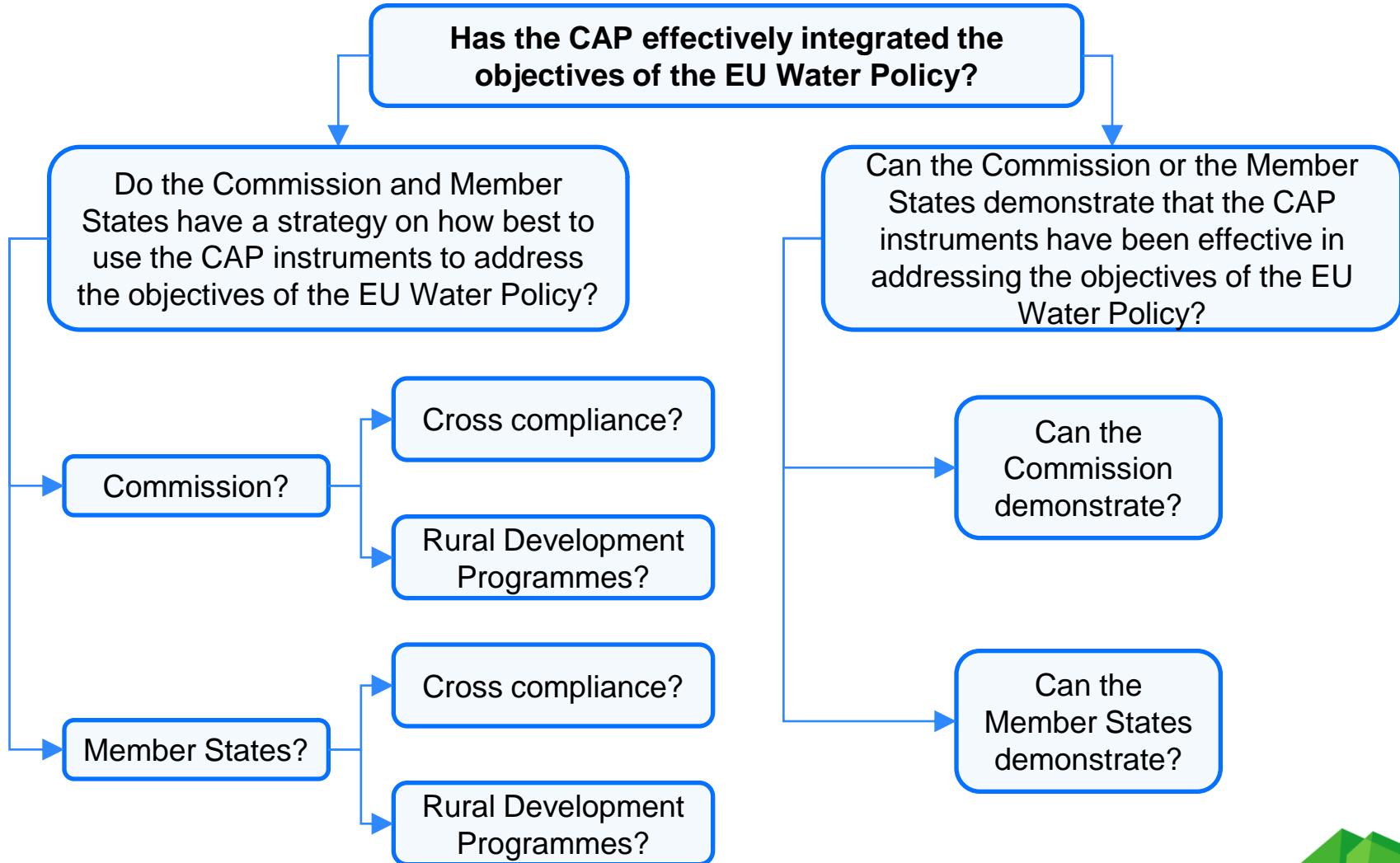
**EUROSAI Working Group on Environmental  
Auditing, 8 October, Vilnius**

# Use of survey in the audit of the integration of EU water policy objectives with the Common Agricultural Policy

# Coherence between the CAP and EU water policy?



# Audit questions



# Audit approach

## Document review



- Commission procedures, guidelines, correspondence with Member States, meeting minutes, Commission audit reports
- Member States internal procedures, national legislation, monitoring data & other documents, audit reports of Supreme Audit Institutions
- General studies on water and agriculture

## Interviews



- Interviews with representatives of Member States, especially from Ministry of Agriculture (cross compliance and RDP) and Ministry of Environment (WFD), Supreme Audit Institutions
- Bilateral meetings with umbrella organisations of stakeholders
- Interviews with officials of the Commission (DG AGRI and DG ENV)

## On-the-spot visits



- Assessment of:
  - type of water-related projects financed in Member States
  - how checks on cross compliance are executed
  - how CAP funds have incited beneficiaries to change their behaviour as regards water

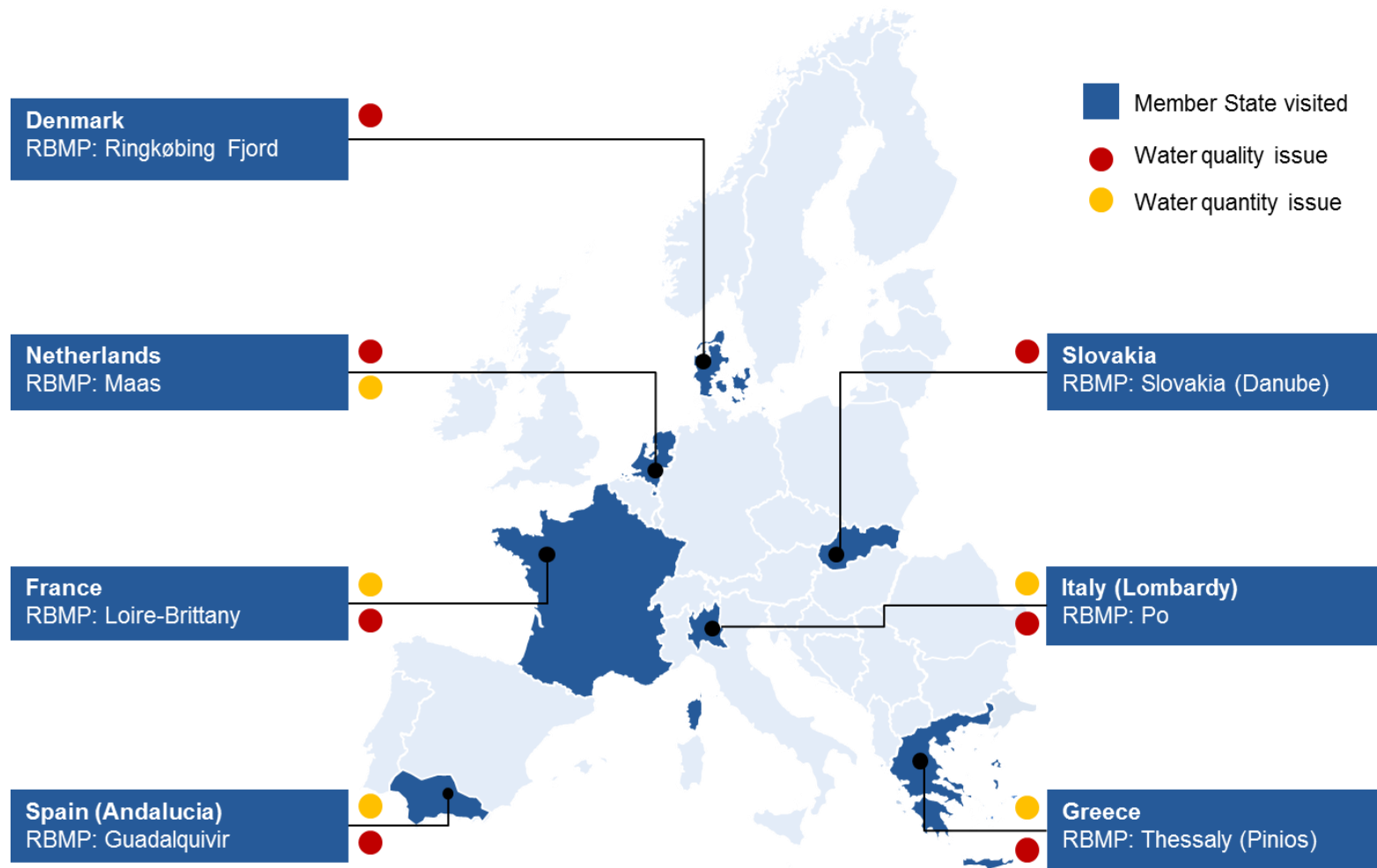
## Surveys



- **Consultation of agricultural advisory bodies in the Member States included in the audit through a web-based survey**

# Selection of Member States to audit

Aimed at a balanced selection (N, S, W, E) to represent main EU water-related issues such as water quality (nutrient load) and water quantity (water stress)



# Survey of farm advisory bodies

- In the absence of studies at EU level on the impact of cross-compliance and rural development on farmers' awareness and farming practices in relation to water, the Court carried out an online survey of 140 farm advisory bodies in seven Member States (or regions) which were visited during the audit: the Netherlands, Italy (Lombardy), Denmark, France, Slovakia, Spain (Andalusia) and Greece
- The survey was carried out between the 27 February and 31 May 2013. Sixty-seven out of 140 bodies (48%) replied to the survey



# Survey of farm advisory bodies

- Farm advisory bodies in the Member States were considered, as:
  - their daily and close contact with farmers gives them good view on the impact of changing agricultural policies on farmers' behaviour;
  - they were relatively easy to identify: the auditors requested managing authorities to provide the full list of farm advisory bodies active in the region/MS concerned;
  - we expected a higher response rate and more objective answers than when surveying individual farmers.
- The survey was carried out online.

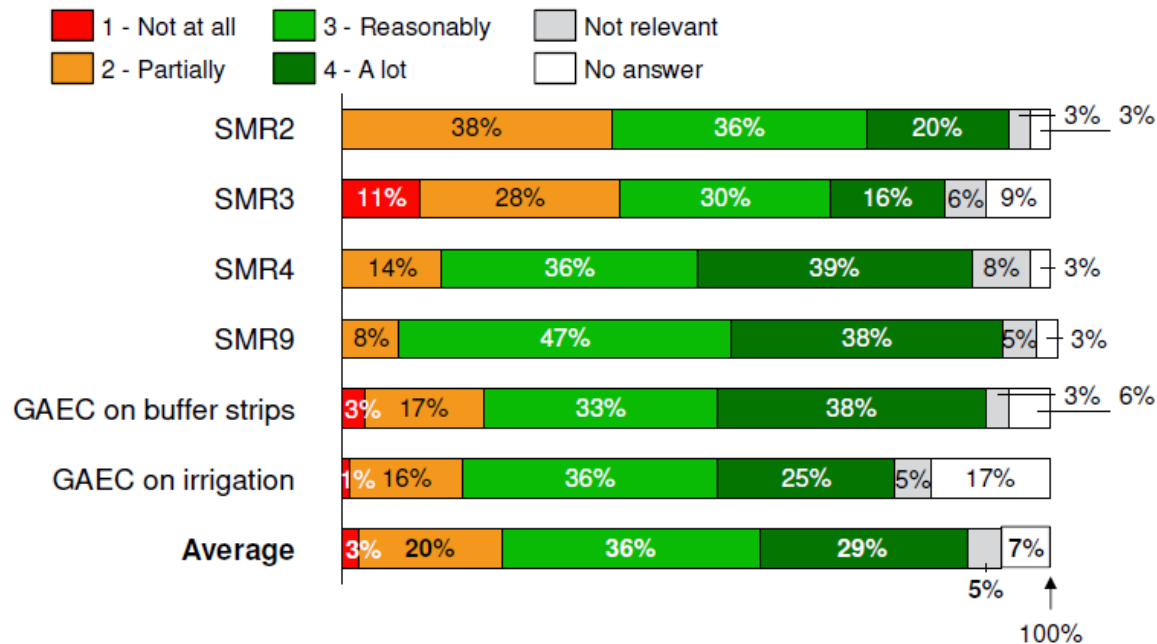


# Survey replies

- Replies were requested for each legislative requirement and per individual rural development programme measure.
- Survey replies enabled auditors to obtain evidence in respect of:
  - awareness of the water issues and regulation;

**Example:** On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 4 (a lot), how much do you consider that the introduction of cross-compliance increased farmers' awareness regarding the impact of agriculture on water?

Percentage of respondents

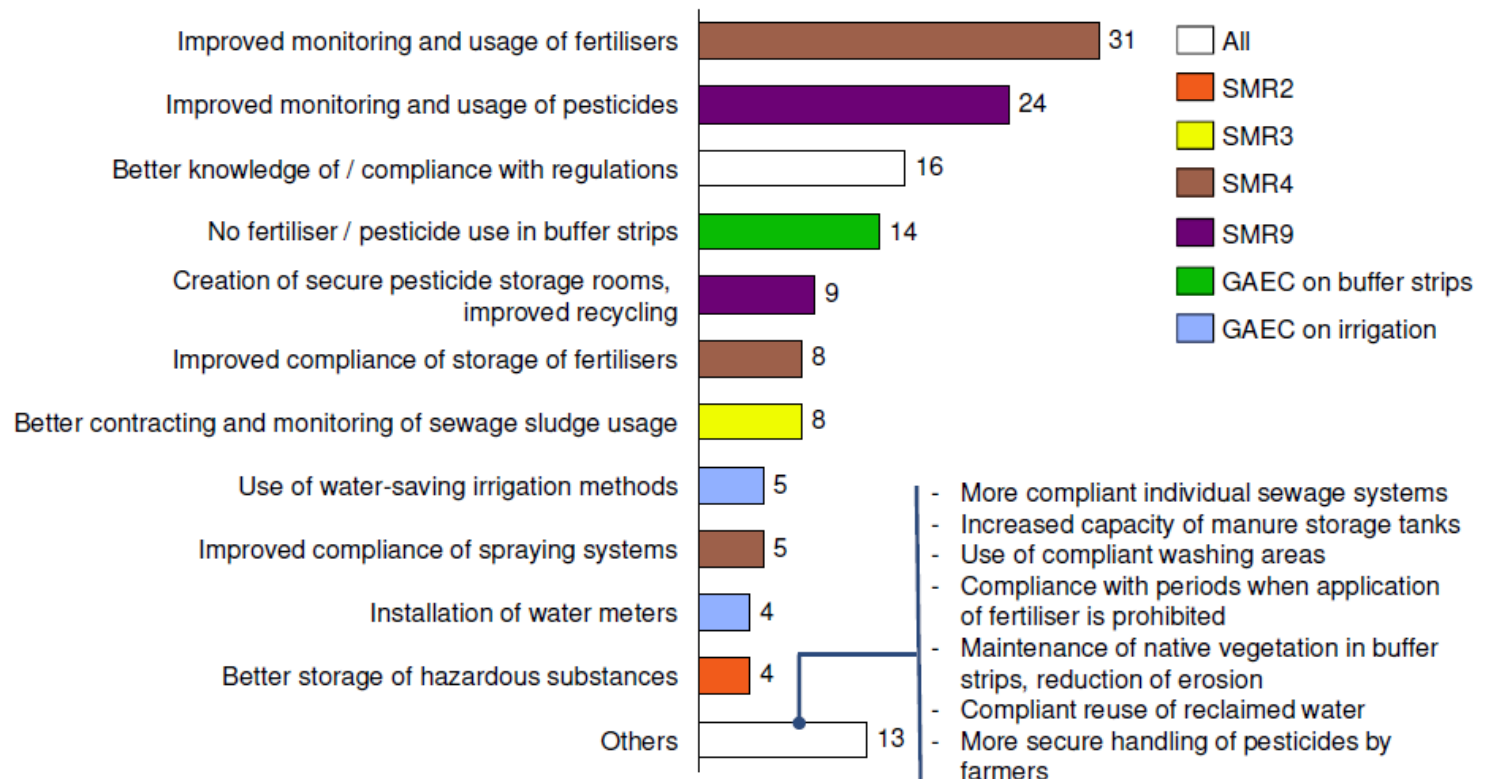




# Survey replies

- the change in farmers' behaviour in relation to water as a consequence of the introduction of cross compliance requirements;

**Example:** Please provide examples of changes in farm practices that you have observed, if any, since the introduction of cross compliance  
Number of quotes

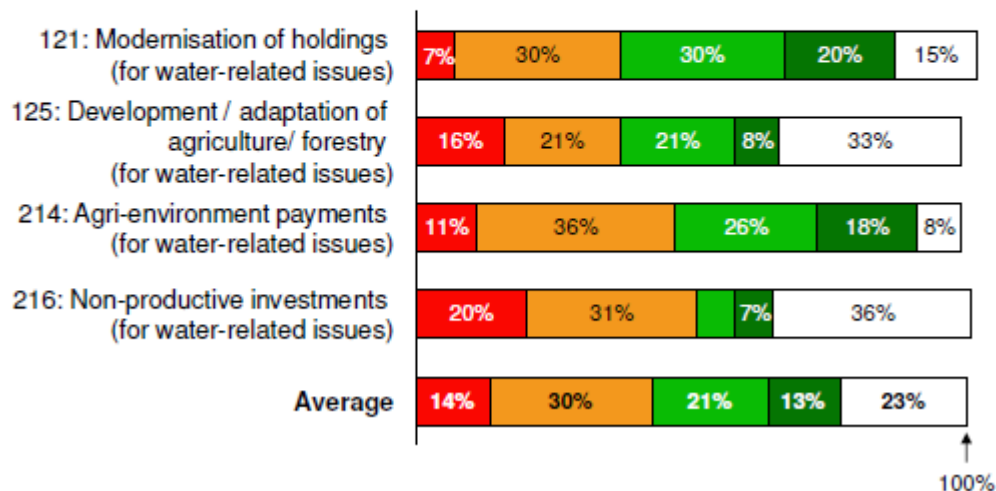


# Survey replies

- attractiveness of the rural development measures.

**Example:** On a scale from 1 (Not at all) to 4 (Very), how attractive do you consider that the water-related rural development measures are for the farmers you advise?

Percentage of respondents



- Detailed questions and analysis of the replies are in an Annex I to this presentation.
- Annex II provides statistics on response timeline, completion rates and other data.

# Lessons learned

- The survey has been successful and contributed to the report mainly due:
  - careful design in terms of questions and length;
  - piloting survey with two farm advisory bodies;
  - careful selection of population – farmers vs farm advisory bodies;
  - knowing limitations from the start – additional evidence on behavioural changes rather than replacement of case studies, on-the-spot visits;
  - strong follow-up – majority of replies received after the reminder.

## The Court reached the following **OVERALL CONCLUSION**

### Overall conclusion

#### Mismatch between ambitious policy targets and CAP instruments

- The impact of cross-compliance on water issues has so far been limited and some important water-related issues are not covered by cross-compliance
- The potential of rural development to address water concerns is not fully exploited
- The polluter pays principle is not integrated in the CAP

### Overall recommendation

#### *The Commission should*

- propose to the EU legislator the necessary modifications to the current instruments (cross-compliance and rural development) or, where appropriate, new instruments capable of meeting the more ambitious goals with respect to the integration of water policy objectives into the CAP.