



Audit of the French water pollution control policy

**Audit of the French SAI : 2008
- 2009**



Audit scope

- **Assess the results of the French water pollution control policy**
 - Neither water quantity...
 - nor water and health...
 - nor water supply

- **Audit of the three main policy tools**
 - Water charges
 - Incentives, grants
 - Regulation, water police

Audit scope

■ Compliance with the European directives on water quality

- Nitrates from agriculture sources (91/676/EEC)
- Urban waste water (91/271/EEC)

■ First investigations on the water framework directive

- Characterisation of river bassin
- Draft river bassin management plan and programme of measures

Methodology

■ Parallel audit of the six French water agencies

- A methodological audit guide
- 11 auditors

■ Audit of the water police

- 1 auditor
- National reports

Methodology

■ European Benchmark

- Difficulty to assess, *in abstracto*, the effectivity of the French implementation of the European directives
- 1 intern + 2 auditors (supervision)

■ Ressources used for the benchmark

- European Commission implementation reports
- Infringement processes
- OCDE reports

Results

■ Quality

- Concern about the water quality in France
- Difficulty to implement the European directives : two important infringement cases (art. 228 EC)

■ Incentive, grants

- Difficulty to subsidize actions with the main environmental impact
- Inefficiency in the decision making process

■ Water policy

- Lack of sanctions
- Many actors, little coordination



Focus on the results concerning the WFD

■ Characterisation of river bassin

- Lack of data on many issues
- Need to strengthen monitoring programmes

■ River bassin management plan

- Main concepts were not defined by the EC: good ecological status, extensions
- Difficulties with the definition of objectives (Grenelle de l'environnement)

■ Programme of measures

- Inconsistency between the rivers' basins
- Costly measures without fundings (diffuse agricultural pollutions)