



Measures for managing the adverse impacts of agriculture

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Overview of the applicable environmental legislation

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Overview of the presentation

-Legislation relying on Environmental assessments: EIA, SEA, Natura 2000 (AA), IED

-Other legislation relying on plans and measures: WFD, Nitrates Directives, Nature Directives, SUD

LEGISLATION RELYING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Environmental Assessment

=Procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before the decisions are made.

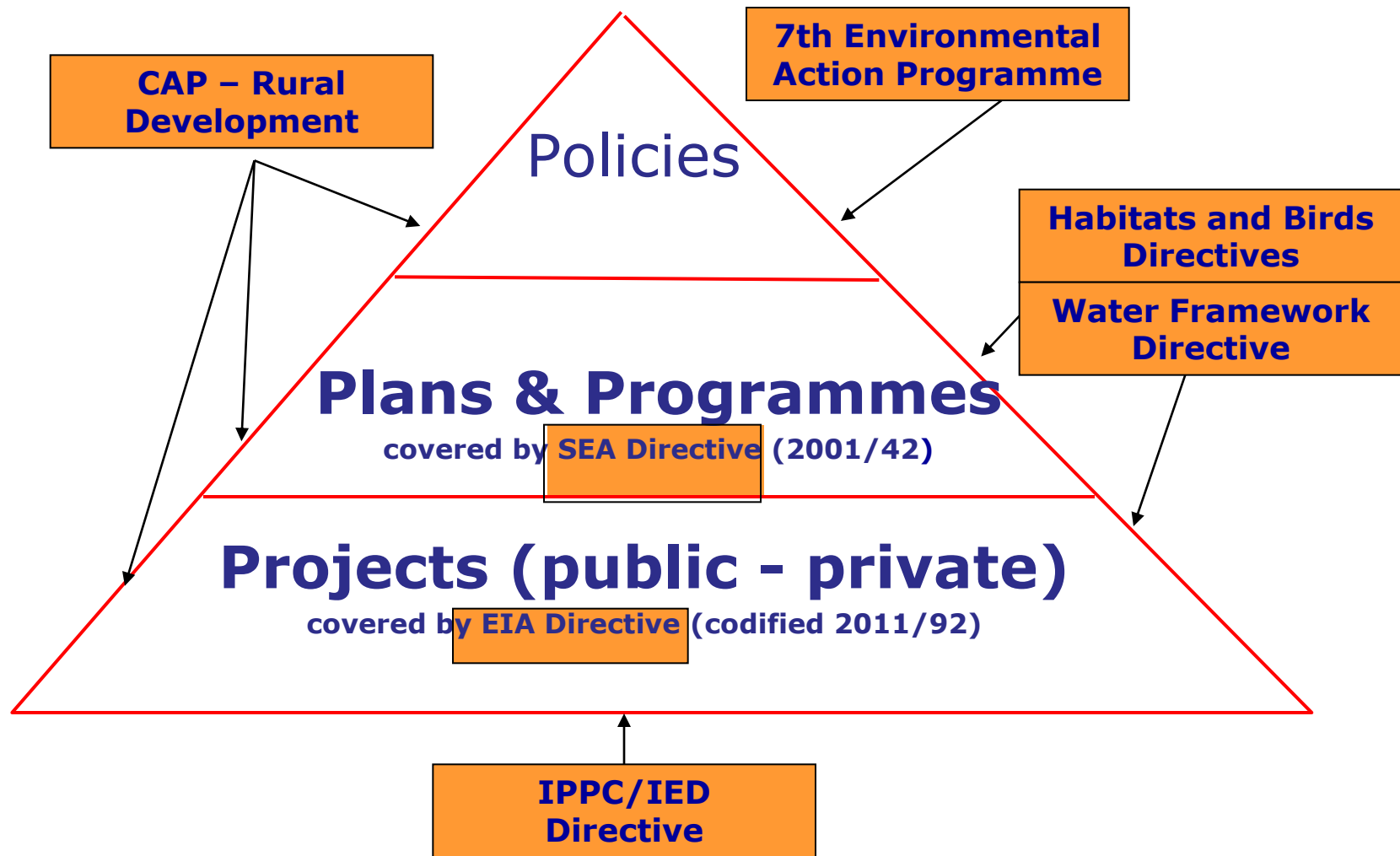
=Environmental assessment can be undertaken for individual projects, E.g: drainage, afforestation, irrigation, factories, on the basis of Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' -EIA Directive),

=Or for public plans or programmes on the basis of Directive 2001/42/EC (known as 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' - SEA Directive). E.g : RDPs

=A Specific Assessment applies in Natura 2000 sites : (known as Appropriate Assessment (AA) under the habitats directive

=The projects and programmes co-financed by the EU (Cohesion, Agricultural and Fisheries Policies) have to comply with the EIA and SEA Directives to receive approval for financial assistance

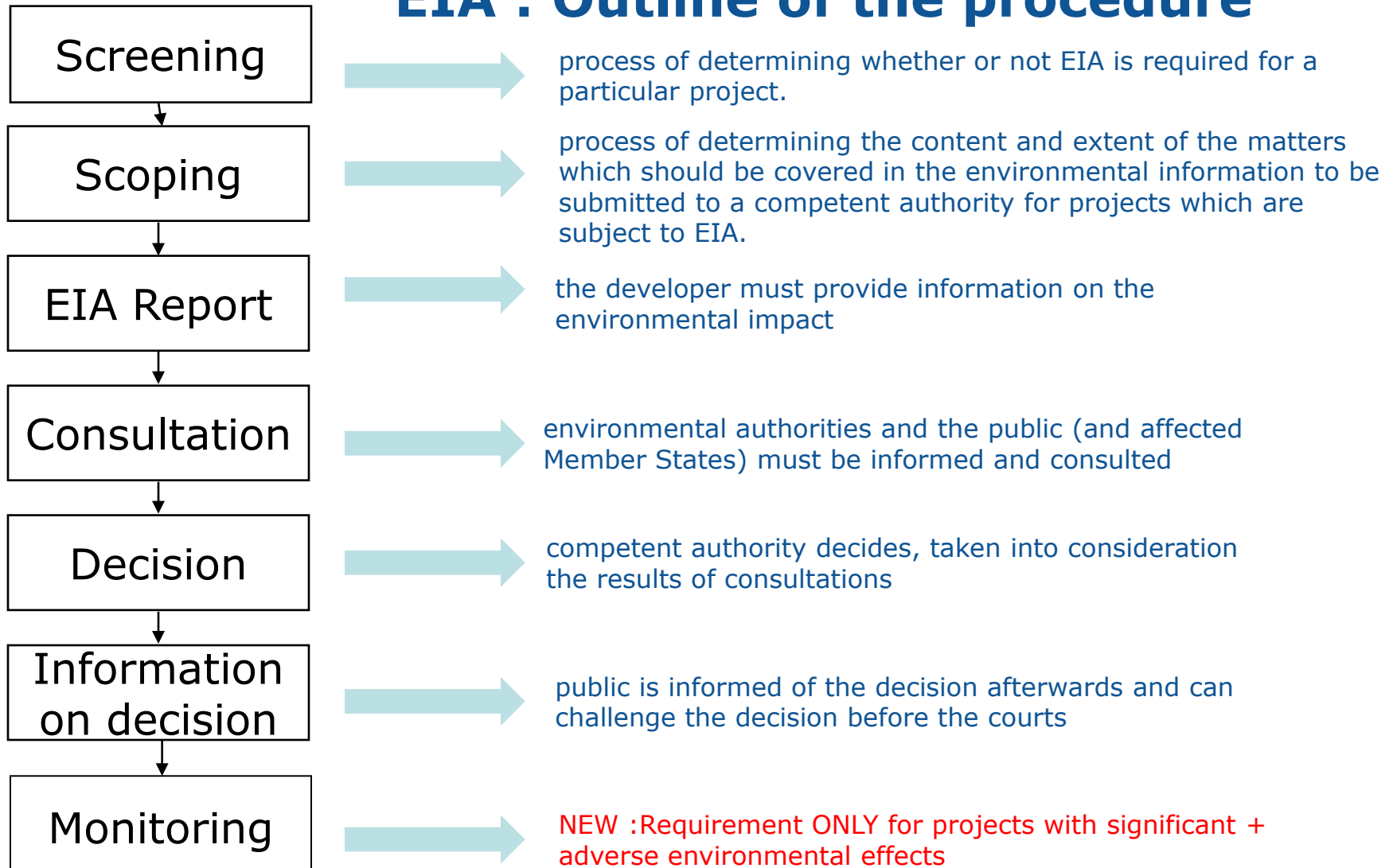
Environmental Assessments relevant to agriculture



Environmental Impact Assessment Directive- EIA (1)

- The EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU) is in force since 1985 and applies to a wide range of defined public and private projects, which are defined in Annexes I and II
- Mandatory EIA: all projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA reflect on-going environmental and socio-economic priorities and challenges.
- Discretion of Member States (screening): for projects listed in Annex II, the national authorities have to decide whether an EIA is needed.
- Directive 2011/92/EU has been amended in 2014 by DIRECTIVE 2014/52/EU (EIA review)
- More info on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm>

EIA : Outline of the procedure

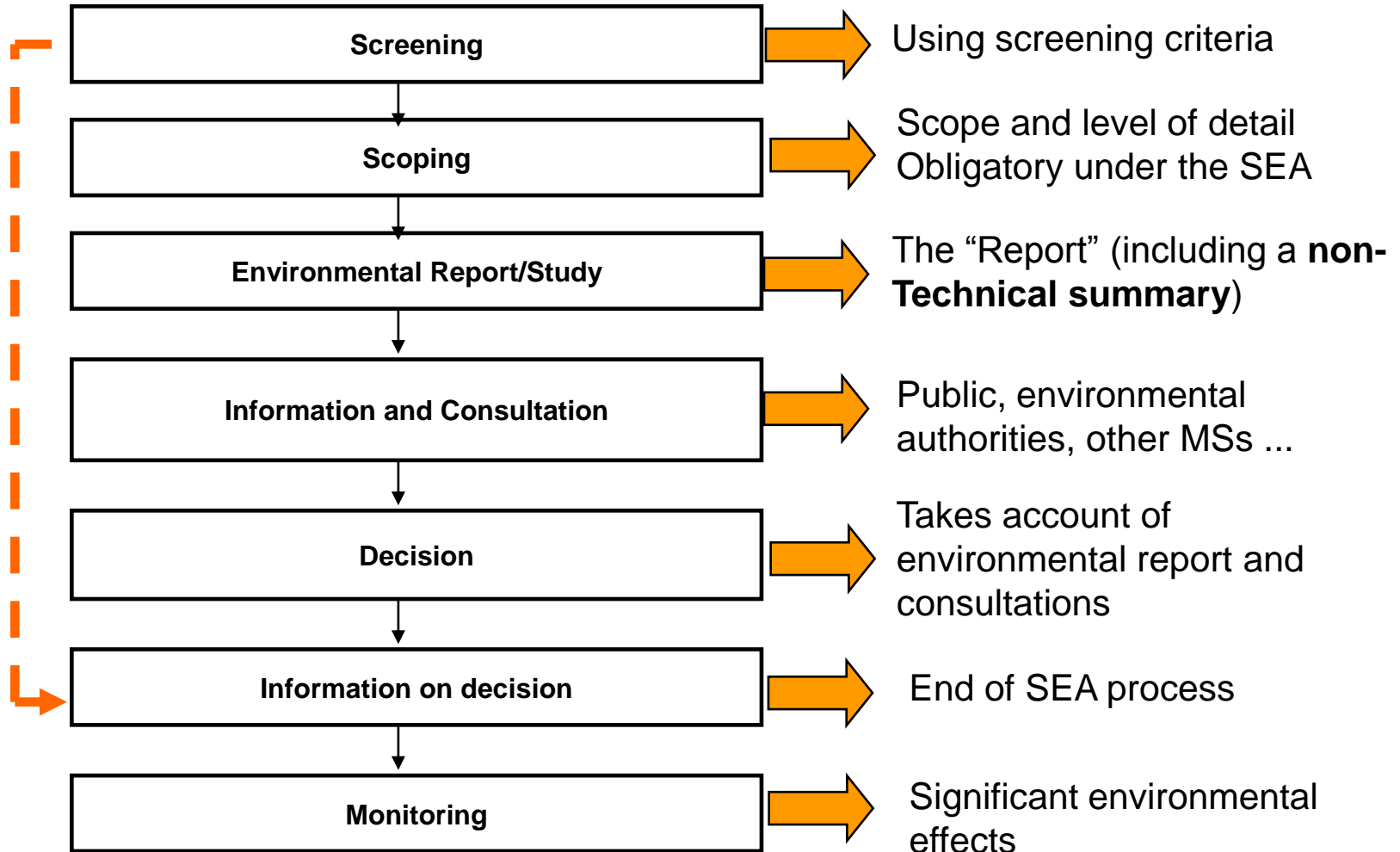


Strategic Environmental Assessment

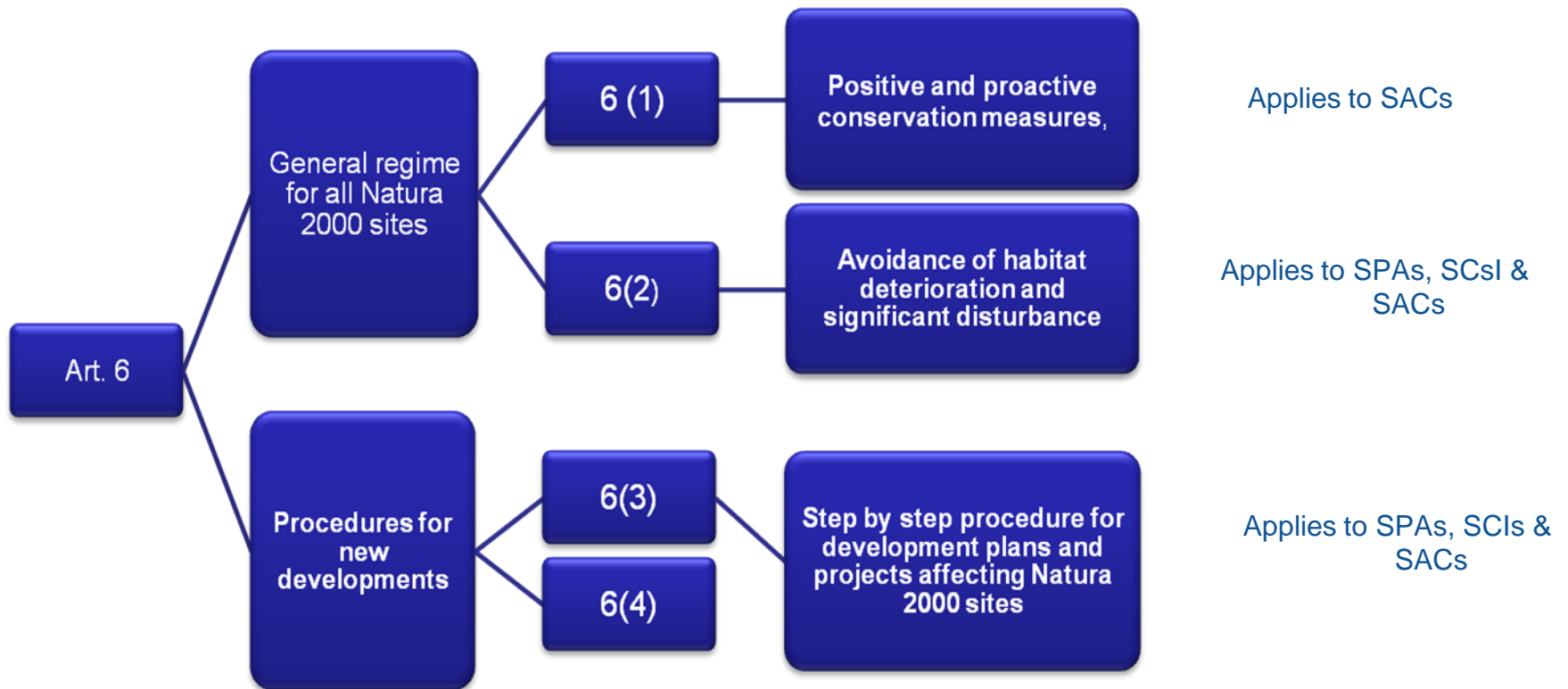
- To provide for a **high level of protection of the environment.**
- To contribute to the **integration of environmental considerations** into the preparation of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- Plans, programmes and projects which are **likely to have significant effects** on the environment are subject to an assessment.

More info on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

The SEA procedure



Assesments within the Habitats Directive : The appropriate assessment in the context of plans and projects



Purpose and scope of Art.6(3)-(4):

Balance

All projects/plans



not connected
with the
management



Excluded



likely to have
significant effect



Industrial Emissions Directive

= Directive 2010/75/EU: main EU instrument regulating pollutant emissions from industrial installations

=Aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU,

=in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).

=the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). This permit should contain conditions set in accordance with the principles and provisions of the IED.

More info :<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/stationary/ied/legislation.htm>

OTHER LEGISLATION RELYING ON PLANS AND MEASURES

Water Framework Directive - key aspects

=Adopted 2000

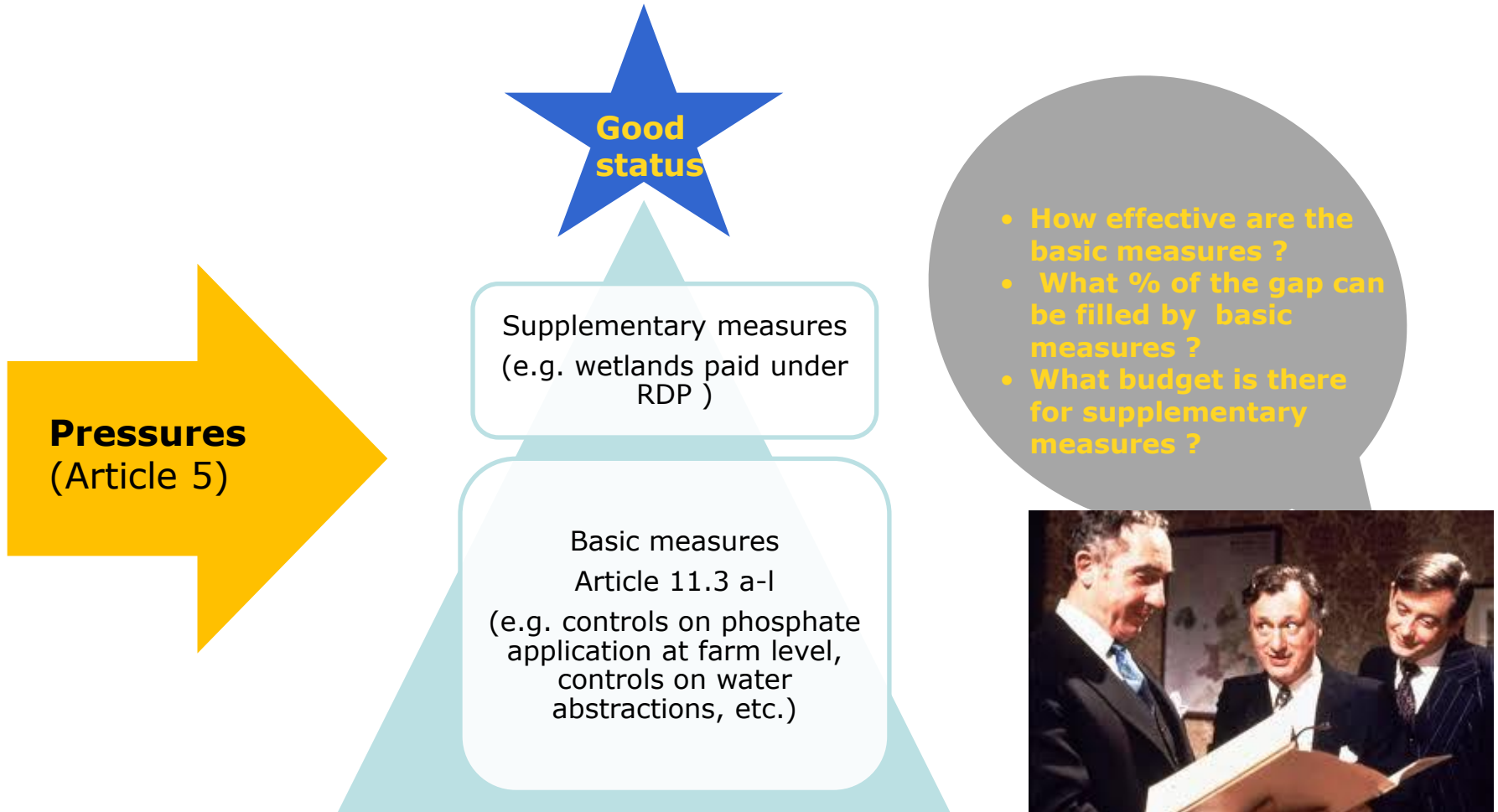
=Objective: "Good status" (Good ecological and good chemical status) by 2015 (article 4)

*=How will good status be achieved? -
Identifying pressures (article 5) and putting in place measures (Article 11) in a River Basin Management Plan, which is revised every 6 years*

=Why a framework directive?

Proper planning and decision making at river basin scale should identify cost-effective solutions

WFD - POMS to achieve Good Status



Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)

OBJECTIVE: reduce water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources and **prevent** further such pollution



The Nitrates Directive : how does it work?

1) Water monitoring

Water courses, lakes, saline waters, groundwaters

2) Identification of polluted waters or waters at risk of pollution

Criteria: nitrates concentrations (50 mg/l nitrates) and trophic status

3) Designation of nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZ) or "whole territory approach"

Obligatory measures will apply to NVZ (land draining into waters identified in (2)) or to the whole territory, based on the MS' choice

4) Elaboration of codes of good agricultural practices

Voluntary, applying to whole territory

5) Elaboration of Action Programmes (AP)

Obligatory, applying to NVZ or to the whole territory. Reviewed/revised at least every 4 years

6) Reporting

MSs → Commission (NVZ, AP, CGAP)

Commission → Parliament, Council, general public (implementation of Directive)

The EU Nature Directives: Habitats Dir. (1992) & Birds Dir. (1979)



Aims at **favourable conservation status**

Both directives have a **site protection (Natura 2000)** & a **species protection pillar**

57 habitat types, 193 species, 62 bird species are dependent on or associated with extensive agricultural practices:

Actions needed:

Define Conservation Objectives

Establish Conservation Measures

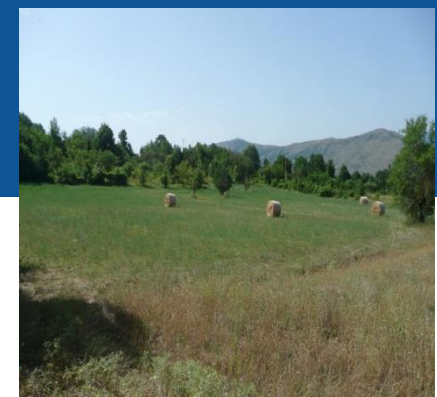
Develop Management Plans, Legal, statutory or contractual arrangements

Guidance (eg farming, forestry)

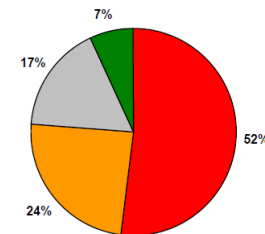
Full stakeholder engagement

More info :

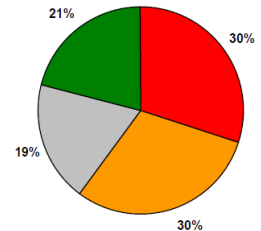
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm



Habitat types associated with agriculture
(204 assessments)



Habitat types not associated with agriculture
(497 assessments)



Source: Composite Report on the Conservation Status of Habitat Types and Species as required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. European Commission, 2009. COM(2009) 358 final

Populations of grassland butterflies decline almost 50 % over two decades

Published : 23 Jul 2013 Last modified : 22 Jul 2013, 03:13 PM

Grassland butterflies have declined dramatically between 1990 and 2011. This has been caused by intensifying agriculture and a failure to properly manage grassland ecosystems, according to a report from the European Environment Agency (EEA).

The Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) Image © Dominik Hofer

SUSTAINABLE USE DIRECTIVE in a Nutshell

Reducing risks
and impacts of the
use of pesticides
on human health
And on the
environment

Promoting
The use of Integrated
Pest Management and
The use of alternative
techniques

1

Training

2

Sales

3

Awareness raising

4

Equipment

5

Aerial spraying

6

**Aquatic
environment**

7

Protected areas

8

**Handling, storage,
disposal**

9

IPM

**NATIONAL
ACTION
PLANS**



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- **IPM ≠ no pesticides**
- **IPM =**
 - **low pesticides input *management***
 - ***pests and diseases kept at levels which are economically and ecologically justifiable***
 - ***healthy crops with least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems***



European
Commission

THANK YOU!