

■ REPORT 3.1

IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE EC POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER



1 WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC), establishes a legal framework to protect and restore clean water across Europe and ensure its long-term and sustainable use. The directive aims "at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment, through specific measures for the progressive reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances and the cessation or phasing-out of discharges, emissions and losses of the priority hazardous substances".

Regarding discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment of the Community, WFD in Article 16, requires the establishment of a list of priority substances and a procedure for the identification of priority substances/priority hazardous substances as well as the adoption of the specific measures against pollution with these substances. There is currently a transitional period until the year 2013 from the "old" framework of Directive 76/464/EEC (now codified as 2006/11/EC) to the new Water Framework Directive. More information at WFD-page web site.

Moreover, WFD establishes an innovative approach for water management based on river basins, the natural geographical and hydrological units, and sets specific deadlines for Member States to achieve ambitious environmental objectives for aquatic ecosystems.

Article 10 details the directive's "combined approach for point and diffuse sources" and refers to several related directives. The list in Annex VI, Part A includes the directives on:

- *Bathing Water (76/160) (now replaced by 2006/7)*
- *Drinking Water (80/778, as amended by 98/83)*
- *Urban Wastewater Treatment (91/271)*
- *Nitrates (91/676)*
- *Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (96/61, codified as Directive 2008/1/EC).*
- *Sewage Sludge (86/278)*

The directive regards implementation of these other directives as a minimum requirement.

2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The directive 2006/12/EC which promoted the development of novel forms of "waste management to protect human health and environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, treatment, storage and tipping of waste". The directive regards all measures to be applied to all substances or objects which the holder disposes of or is obliged to dispose of pursuant to the national provisions in force in the Member States, with exclusion of gaseous effluents, radioactive waste, mineral waste, animal carcasses and agricultural waste, waste water, and decommissioned explosives where these types of waste are subject to specific Community rules.

3 GROUNDWATER

The new Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC establishes a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.

3 OLIVE MILL WASTEWATER (OMW): STINNO STUDY CASE

Italy is the only olive oil producing country with a special legislation for the disposal and/or recycling of olive processing waste. Land spreading of wastes, wastewater and/or wet husk, is specifically regulated under the Law 574/1996. The prescriptions of the law are quite severe excluding area in which the OMW spreading represent an actual risk of pollution (i.e. spreading is forbidden on mostly of Italian hill olive-growing regions).

Other European countries, such as Spain and Portugal, have laws that control the use of wastewater for irrigation applying a general law on water use to olive mill effluents.

In Greece there is no specific regulation regarding the discharge of Waste Water. The olive oil producing Prefectures have own environmental requirements and they encourage different waste management approaches. Each Prefecture is therefore responsible for the adoption of various OMW management practices (Greece is divided into 52 Prefectures, region of Western Greece is separated in 3 Prefectures: Aitolokarnania, Achaia, Elia). However there is a general intention to prohibit uncontrolled disposal into water bodies and forced olive mill owners to construct treatment units (obligatory since 1987) and evaporation lagoons (obligatory since 1993).

More information on the European national legislations on OMW can be found on the web site of project LIFE OLEICO+ LIFE07INF/IT/438.

Regarding application of European laws, when no specific national legislation exist, the management of OMW have to be regulated following general rules indicated in WFD.



Report written by Alessandro Esposito, IAMAW, July 2010

WWW.STINNO.EU

