



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate D - Water, Marine Environment & Chemicals
ENV.D.1 - Protection of Water Resources
Head of Unit

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Ms Susanne Jervelund
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Subject: Directive 2000/60/EC and the protection of historical mills

Dear Ms Jervelund,

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2011 to Ms Catherine Sustek, member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Vassiliou, about the subject. She has forwarded it to the Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Potočnik, who has asked me to reply to you.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD, 2000/60/EC)¹ promotes the sustainable use of water based on the long-term protection of available water resources and therefore provides a framework for integration of water use and the protection of natural resources.

The WFD's main objective is to reach good ecological status for water. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity it is up to the Member State to decide which measures it implements to reach the objectives. Where existing weirs and dams are the cause for not reaching good ecological status appropriate measures are often related to restoring the continuity of the river, e.g. for fish migration and sediment transport. The WFD does not give preference to any particular measures.

The WFD allows Member States to find solutions that make compatible the achievement of the environmental objectives of the Directive with legitimate uses of the water environment. We therefore believe that the legislative framework provides the adequate tools to address your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gammeltoft

¹ OJ L 357, 22.12.2000, p.1.