



**Legal issues pertaining waste water
treatment and reuse**

- EU perspective on priority and emerging
substances**

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Water Framework Directive

Taking Water Policy into the 21st Century

Coordination of all measures

drinking

landfills

water

waste

bathing

water

water

urban

nitrates

IPPC &

biocides

other

pesticides

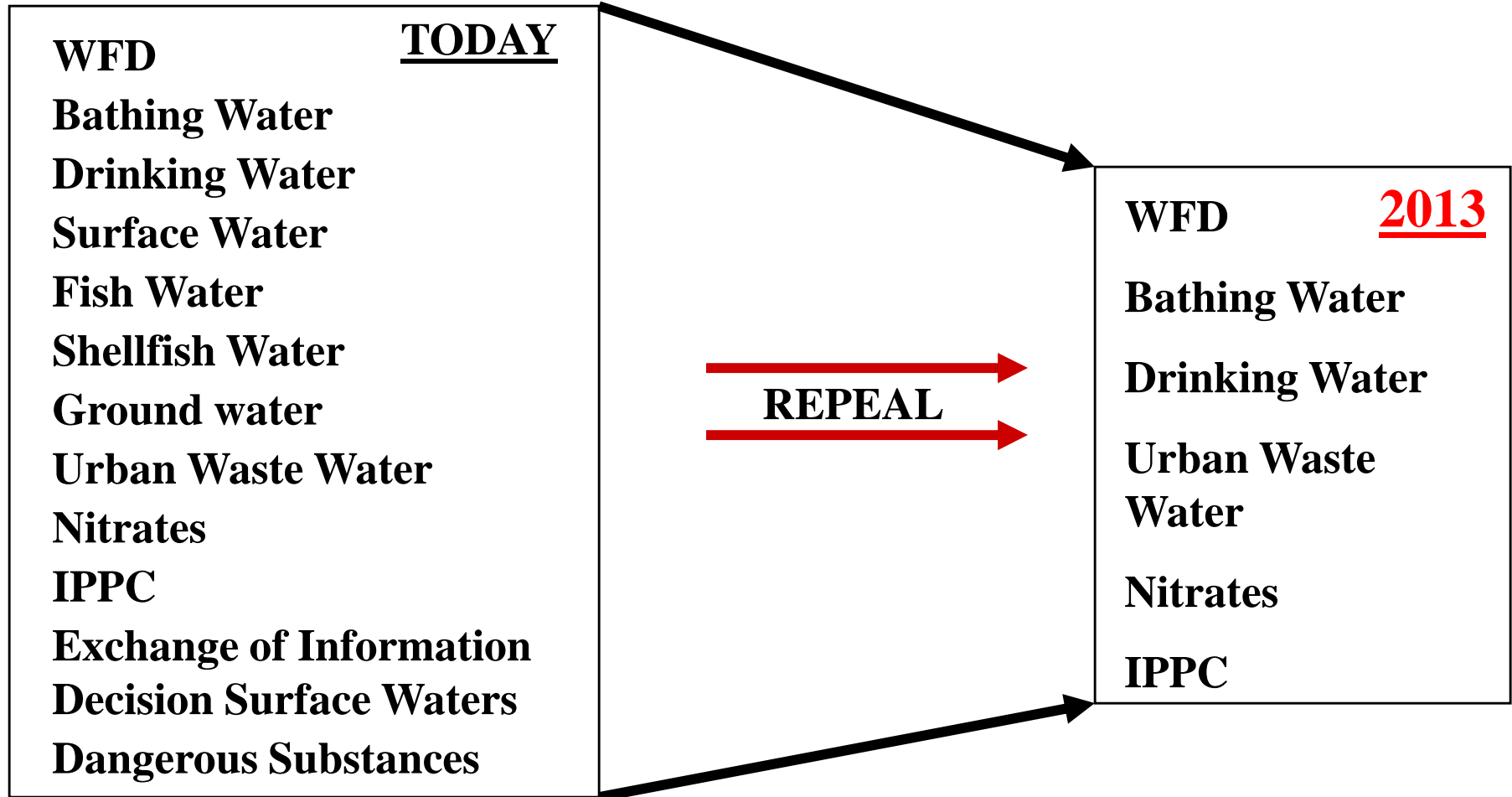
industry

discharges

Water Framework Directive

- Sustainable water use into the 21st century
- Implement the polluter pays principle
- A coherent structure for water policy

Evolution of Water Legislation



Research and Water

EU Water Framework Directive

GLOBAL VISIONS, LOCAL ACTIONS

- **Expands the scope of Water Protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater - INTEGRATED APPROACHES**
- **Achieving good status for all waters by a set deadline**
- **Water management based on River basin**
- **“Combined approach of Emission limit” values and Quality standards, including common ecological objectives**
- **Monitoring and data collection**

Common ecological objectives

Good status of all waters within 15 years

Surface water

- Chemical
- Ecological
- Phase out hazardous substances

Groundwater

- Chemical
- Quantitative
- Trend reversal

What is Good Status?

Surface water bodies

- Defined by poorer of chemical and ecological status.
- Ecological Status includes the elements of:
 - *morphology,*
 - *water quality,*
 - *biology,*
 - *hydrology.*
- Status is measured relative to undisturbed reference conditions.
 - *Defined by monitoring of pristine sites, modelling or expert judgement*

Groundwater

- Objectives apply to “Groundwater Bodies” not groundwater per-se.
- Define by poorer of chemical & quantitative status but in essence:
 - *Abstraction must not exceed long term recharge.*
 - *No significant damage to terrestrial ecosystems (wetlands) from abstraction or pollution.*
 - *Associated surface waters do not deteriorate and achieve good status.*
 - *No saline intrusion*

Delivering “Good Status”

The Programme of Measures

- Split into compulsory “*Basic Measures*” and additional “*Further Measures*”.
- Basic Measures include:
 - Implementation of existing European legislation.
 - Protection and improvement of water bodies used for drinking water.
 - Controls on abstraction & impoundment of surface and groundwaters.
 - Controls on point sources of pollution including prior authorisation.
- Measures to prevent or control diffuse pollution.
- Controls on aquifer recharge for geothermal, engineering or water resource purposes.
- Measures to eliminate discharges of priority substances and progressively reduce other pollutants.
- Measures to reduce accidental pollution.

Staged implementation schedule

Obligations for Member States

Transposition into national legislation	Dec 2003
Analysis of impacts and pressures	Dec 2004
Economic analysis of water use	Dec 2004
Monitoring programmes operational	Dec 2006
Latest date for starting public participation	Dec 2006
River basin management plans	Dec 2009

Obligations for the Commission

Daughter Directive Groundwater (Proposal)	Dec 2002
List of Priority Substances	✓ adopted
Daughter Directive emission controls - Proposal	Dec 2003
Daughter Directive quality standards - Proposal	Dec 2003
Inter-calibration of quality classification	Dec 2004

Recent legislation (after WFD)

Directive 2455/2001/EC

List of priority substances in the field of water policy
(dynamic list of 33 substances, revision every 4 years)

Directive 2006/118/CE, prevention and control of groundwater

Proposal of **Directive (COM(2006) 397 final)** → *maximum admissible concentration and average annual concentration* for priority substances

Water Framework Directive

List of priority substances in the field of water policy

Priority hazardous substances	Priority hazardous substances under review	Priority substances not proposed as priority hazardous substances
<p> Brominated diphenyl ethers (penta) Cadmium Mercury C₁₀-C₁₃ Chloroalkanes Hexachlorobenzene Hexachlorocyclohexane Tributhyltin Hexachlorobutadiene Nonylphenols PAH Pentachlorobenzene </p>	<p> Anthracene Atrazine Chlorpyrifos Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) Endosulfan Lead Naphthalene Octylphenols Pentachlorophenol Trichlorobenzenes Trifuralin </p>	<p> Alachlor Benzene Chlorfenvinphos Dichloromethane 1,2-Dichloroethane Diuron Isoproturon Nickel Simazine Trichloromethane </p>
<p>Subject to phase-out or under consideration for phase-out (or severe restriction) on the international level</p>	<p>Shows properties similar to those identified as “Priority Hazardous” (group 1) Subject to a review for identification as possible priority hazardous substances by 31 December 2003.</p>	<p>Do not fulfil the criteria for being “toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate” Classified as dangerous Subject to emission controls and quality standards</p>

COM(2006) 397 final

Normas de calidad ambiental (NCA) para las sustancias prioritarias

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
N°	Nombre de la sustancia	N° CAS	NCA-MA ²¹ Aguas superficiales continentales	NCA-MA ²¹ Otras aguas superficiales	NCA-CMA ²² Aguas superficiales continentales	NCA-CMA ²² Otras aguas superficiales
(1)	Alacloro	15972-60-8	0,3	0,3	0,7	0,7
(2)	Antraceno	120-12-7	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,4
(3)	Atrazina	1912-24-9	0,6	0,6	2,0	2,0
(4)	Benceno	71-43-2	10	8	50	50
(5)	Pentabromodifeniléter ²³	32534-81-9	0,0005	0,0002	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(6)	Cadmio y sus compuestos <i>(en función de las clases de dureza del agua²⁴)</i>	7440-43-9	≤ 0,08 (Clase 1) 0,08 (Clase 2) 0,09 (Clase 3) 0,15 (Clase 4) 0,25 (Clase 5)	0,2	≤ 0,45 (Clase 1) 0,45 (Clase 2) 0,6 (Clase 3) 0,9 (Clase 4) 1,5 (Clase 5)	
(7)	Cloroalcanos C10-13	85535-84-8	0,4	0,4	1,4	1,4

MA: media anual; CMA: concentración máxima admisible, unidades: [µg/l] ([µg/kg] para columna 8).

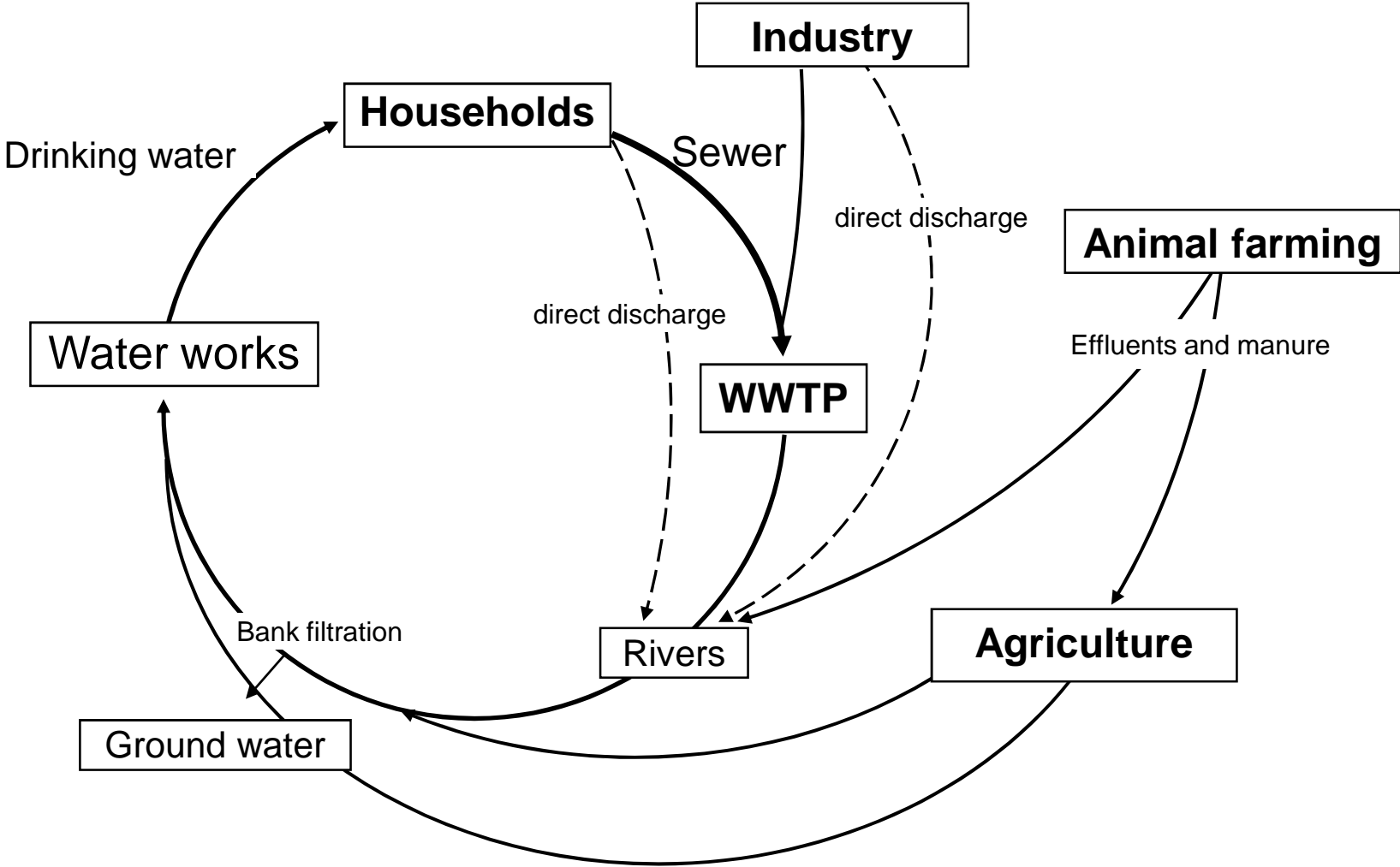
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(9)	Clorpirifós	2921-88-2	0,03	0,03	0,1	0,1
(10)	1,2-dicloroetano	107-06-2	10	10	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(11)	Diclorometano	75-09-2	20	20	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(12)	Di(2-etilhexil)ftalato (DEHP)	117-81-7	1,3	1,3	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(13)	Diurón	330-54-1	0,2	0,2	1,8	1,8
(14)	Endosulfán	115-29-7	0,005	0,0005	0,01	0,004
(15)	Fluoranteno	206-44-0	0,1	0,1	1	1
(16)	Hexaclorobenceno	118-74-1	0,01	0,01	0,05	0,05
(17)	Hexaclorobutadieno	87-68-3	0,1	0,1	0,6	0,6
(18)	Hexaclorociclohexano	608-73-1	0,02	0,002	0,04	0,02
(19)	Isoproturón	34123-59-6	0,3	0,3	1,0	1,0
(20)	Plomo y sus compuestos	7439-92-1	7,2	7,2	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(21)	Mercurio y sus compuestos	7439-97-6	0,05	0,05	0,07	0,07
(22)	Naftaleno	91-20-3	2,4	1,2	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(23)	Níquel y sus compuestos	7440-02-0	20	20	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>
(24)	Nonilfenol	25154-52-3	0,3	0,3	2,0	2,0
(25)	Octilfenol	1806-26-4	0,1	0,01	<i>no aplicable</i>	<i>no aplicable</i>

MA: media anual; CMA: concentración máxima admisible, unidades: [µg/l] ([µg/kg] para columna 8).

Important issue: Wastewater treatment and reuse





EU Directives relevant to Waste Water

- **Directive on pollution caused by Dangerous Substances discharged into the aquatic environment (2006/11/CE)**
- **Directives daughters: 86/280/EEC, 88/347/EEC and 90/415/EEC**
 - **Quality objectives are fixed, sampling points, frequency**
 - **Emission limits and Quality Objectives for certain substances like HCB, Chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, dichloroethane, trichloroethylenes,**
 - **Emission at 1-2 ppm, chloroform and Quality objectives at 10 ppb**
 - **Spain, RD 995/2000 fixed 1 ppb for atrazine, metolachlor, simazine and terbuthylazine and 20-30 ppb for chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene**
- **Directive on Urban Waste Water Treatment (91/271/EEC) to reduce pollution by municipal waste (relevant to endocrines)**

Directive 91/271/EEC (98/15/EEC)

Urban Waste Water Treatment

- Till year 2000, urban centres >15.000 inhabitants and till year 2005 urban centres >2000 inhabitants should have treatment of wastewaters
- Construction of 40.000 treatment plants in EU (till year 2005)
- N & West Europe, 80-90 % of wastewater treated, S & East Europe, only 40-50 %
- More treatment plants \Rightarrow higher production of sludge (increase from 5.5 to 8.3 millions tons from 1992 to 2005)
- It is necessary to increase the capacity of collection systems and treatment 22% and 69%, respectively (from 1992 to 2005)
- 37 cities of more than 150.000 inhabitants do not have treatment of wastewaters (Brighton, Portsmouth, Brussels, Milan, Taranto, Coruña, Cadiz, Oporto, Costa Estoril)

Wate Water Treatment at the EU year 2000

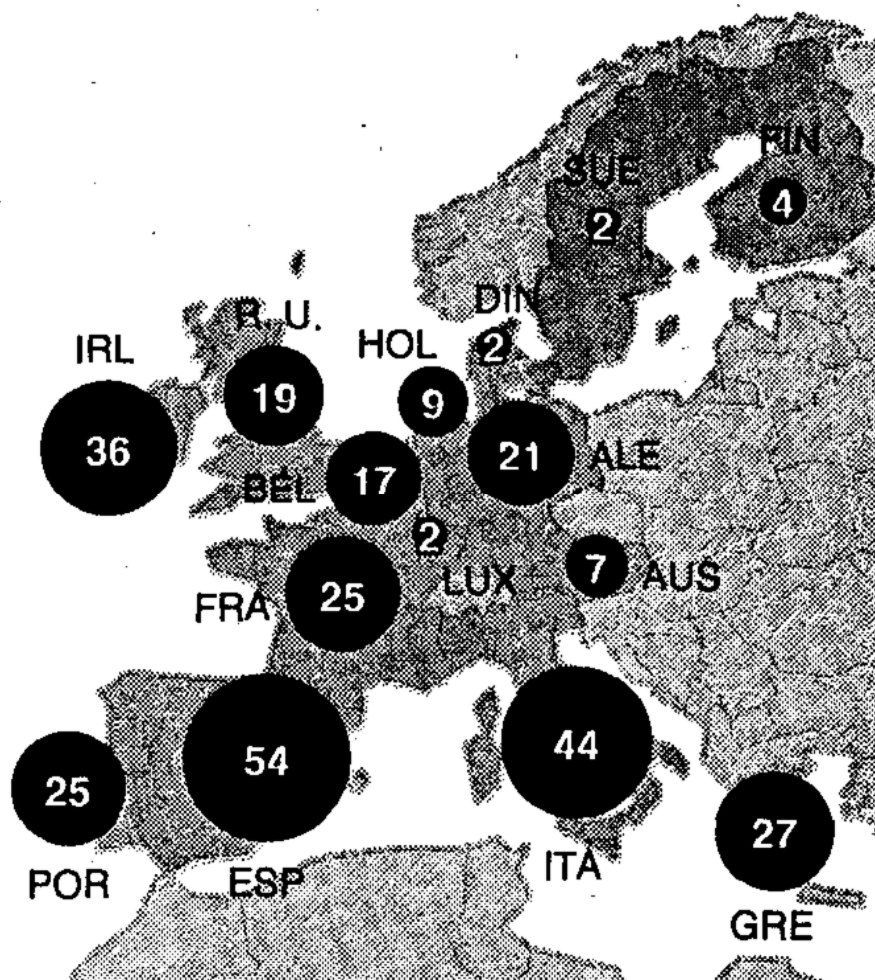
Zonas urbanas que vierten aguas residuales sin depurar



Fuente: Comisión Europea

* Franca y Alemania no han facilitado datos

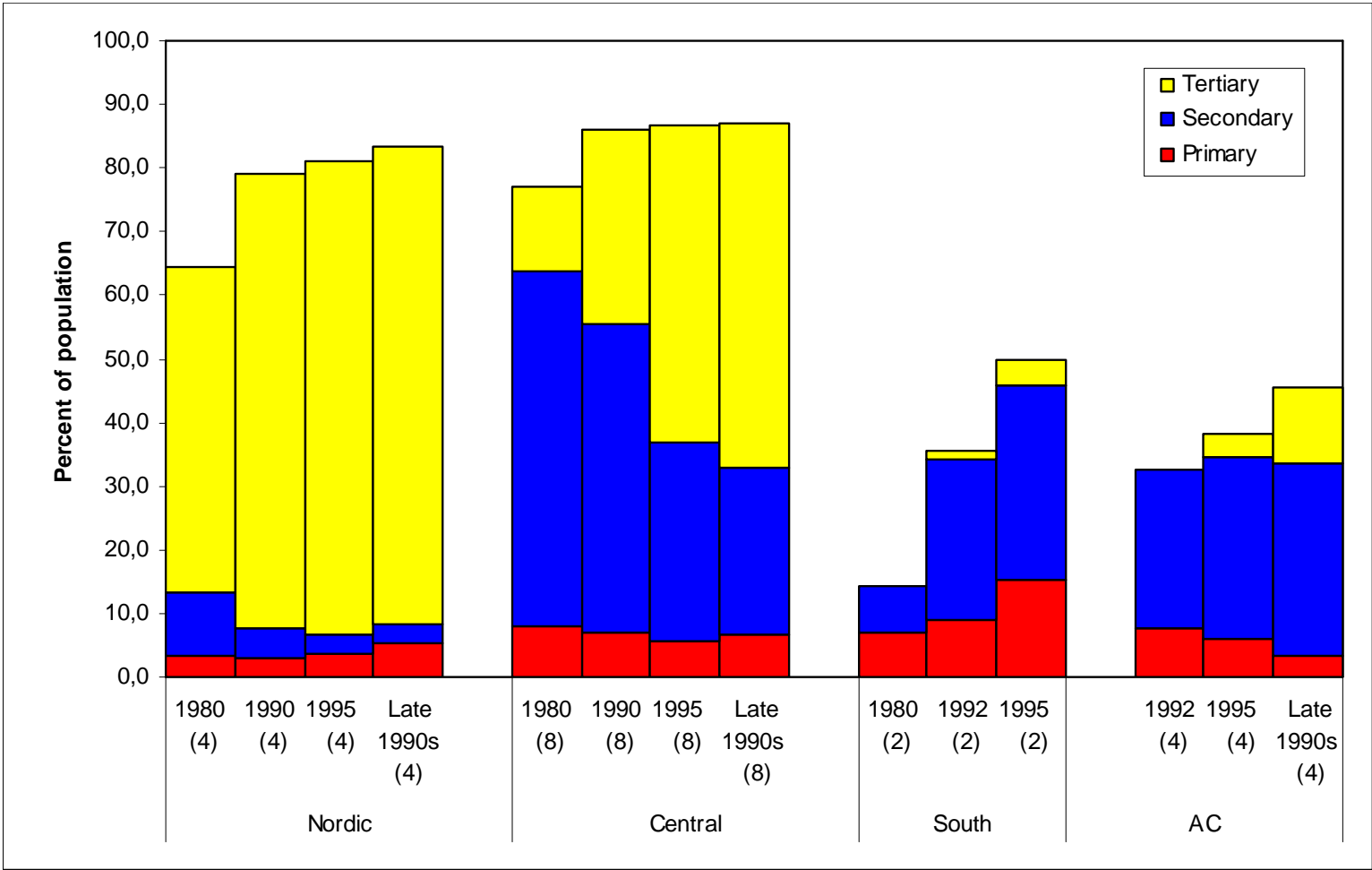
Infracciones a Directives de la UE



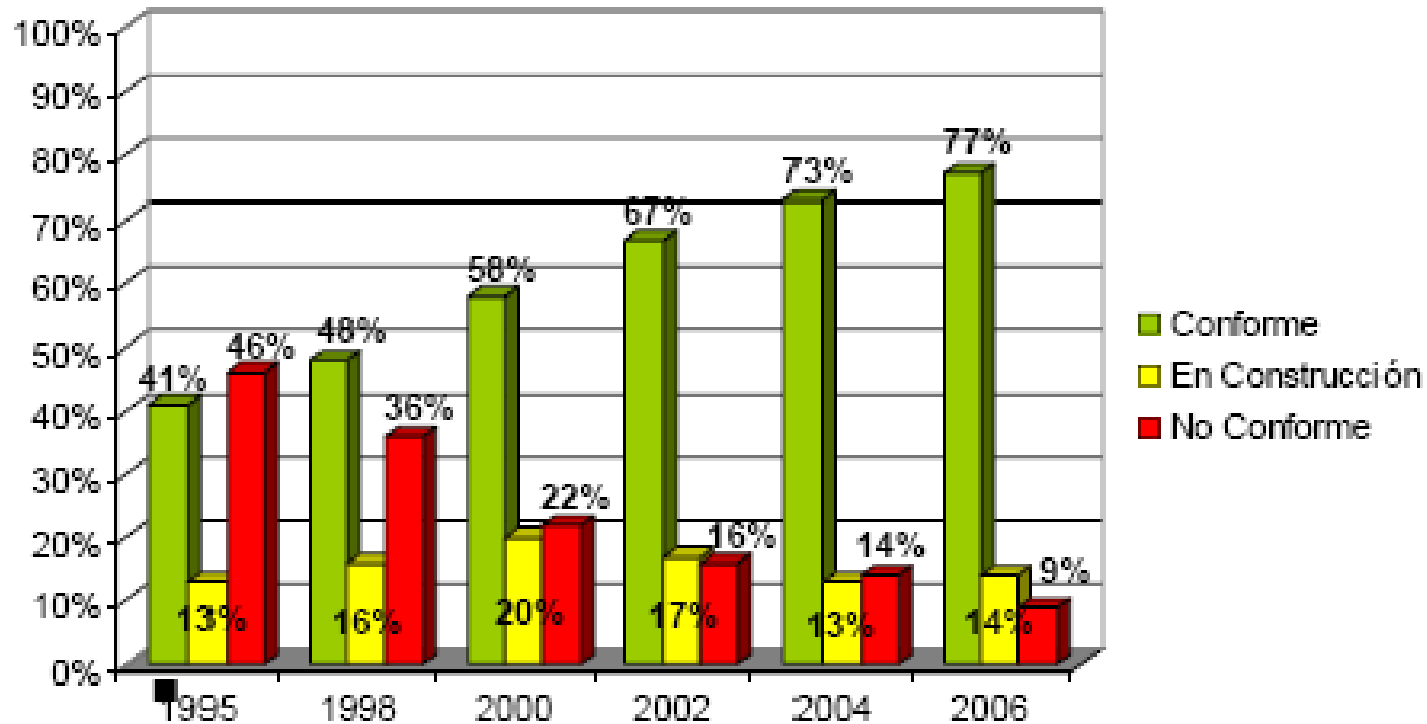
Total EU 15 – 294 nonfulfillments
Year 2005

Pais	Aigua
Spain	9
Italy	4
Irland	8
Greece	8
France	7
Portugal	6
Germany	0
UK	7
Belgium	2
The Netherlands	3
Austria	0
Finland	1
Denmark	0
Luxembourg	1
Sweden	1
Total EU - 15	57

Treatment of wastewaters in Europe



Plan Nacional de Saneamiento y Depuración (1995 – 2005)



Grau de conformitat amb la Directiva 91/271/CEE

The sludge problem

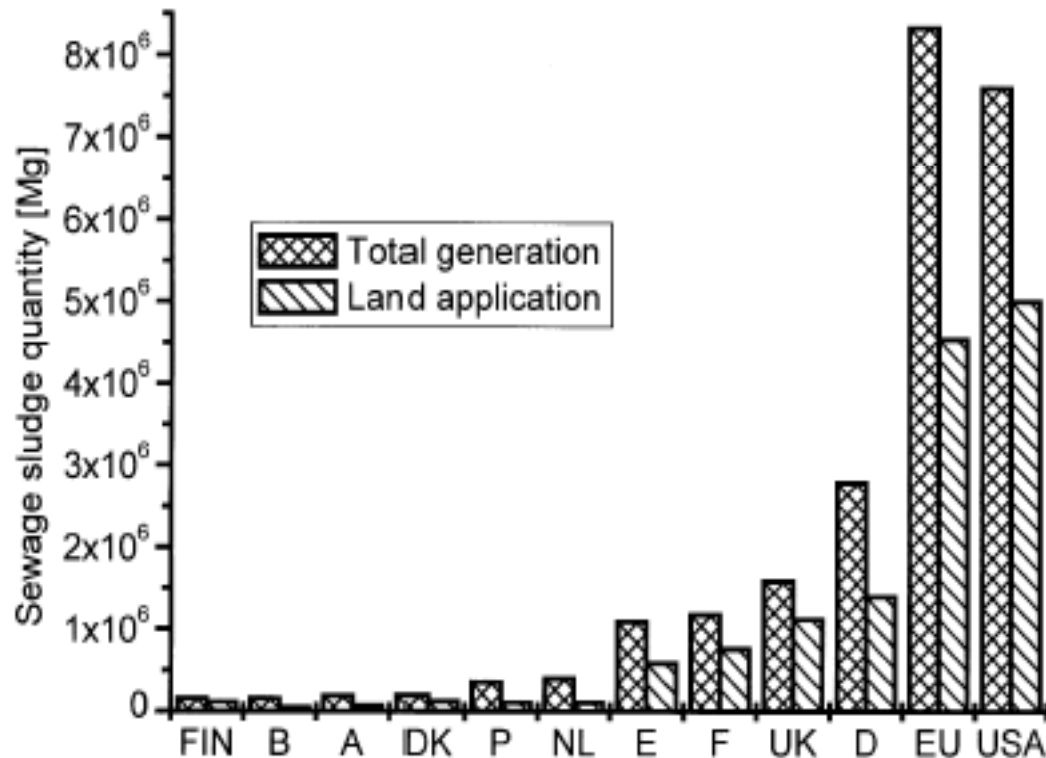
Policy in the European Union: Fact and Figures

- Production of sewage sludge in European Union: 8 million tons/year
- **Increasing amounts** of sludge due to obligation to subject sewage to biological treatment prior to discharge (Directive 91/271/EEC)
- Aim to **enhance agricultural use** of sewage sludge (favorable properties as soil conditioner and fertilizer)
- **Agricultural application** regulated in terms of sludge quality, loading rate and crop type (Directive 86/278/EEC)
- Draft Directive (2000) setting **cut-off limits** for sludge contaminants: NP/NPEO, phthalates, PAH, PCB and PCDD/F



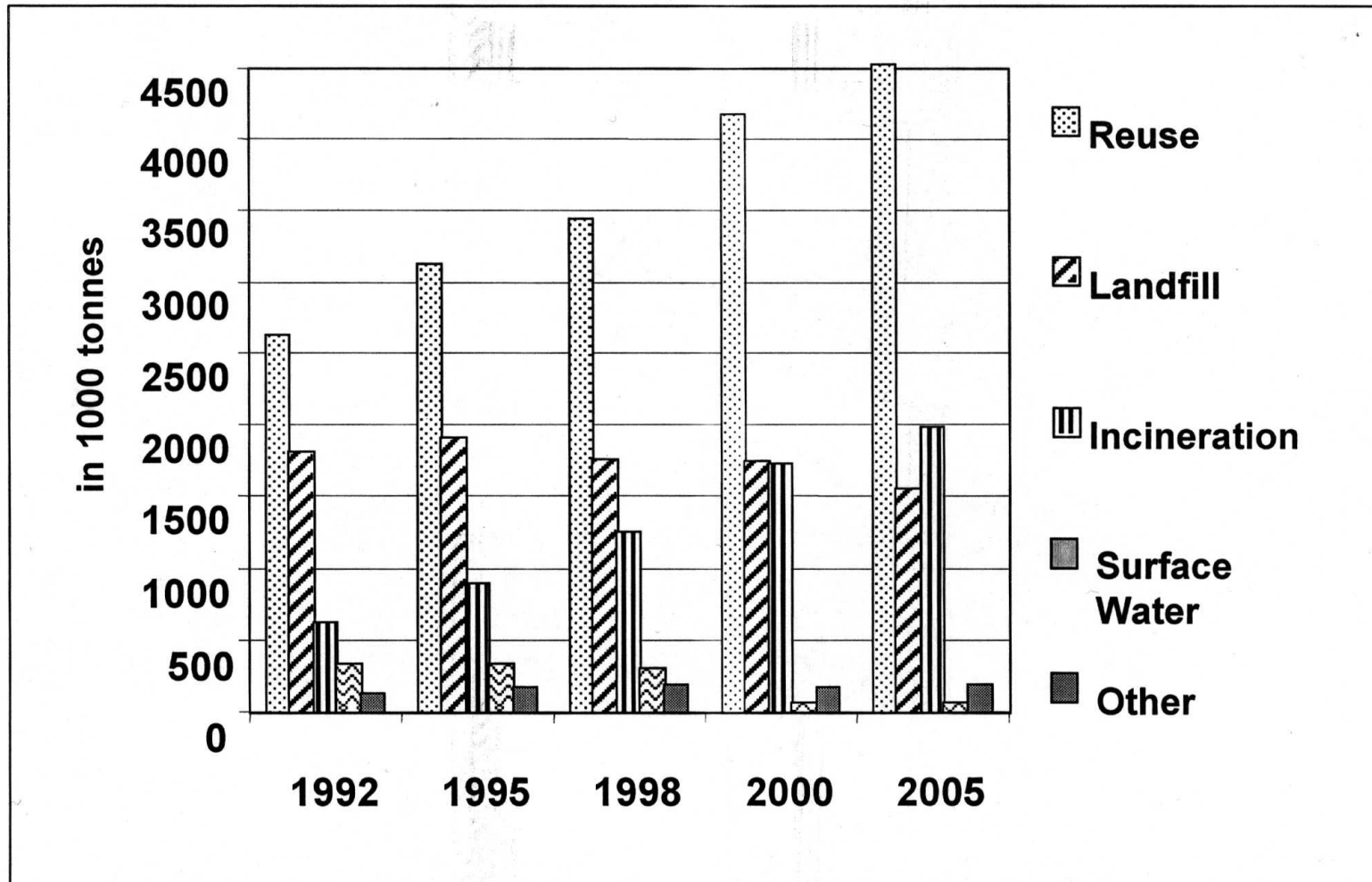
Sludge production and utilization

Expected sewage sludge production and utilization rates of EU member states compared to respective data of the USA in the year 2005

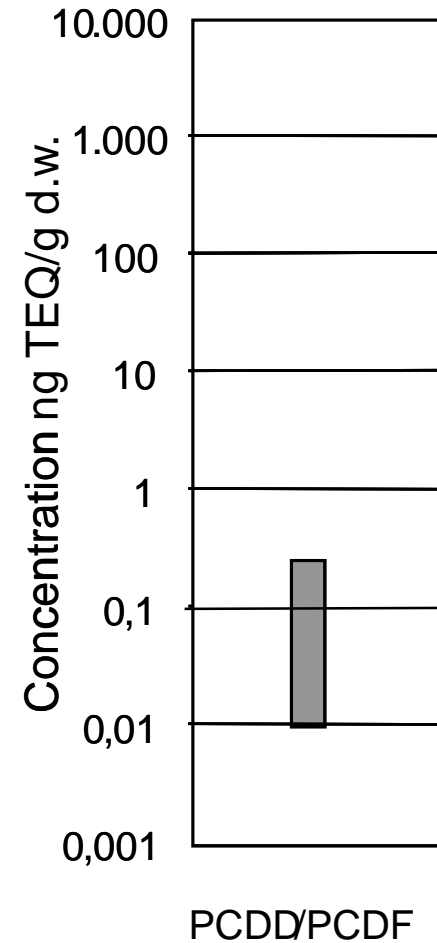
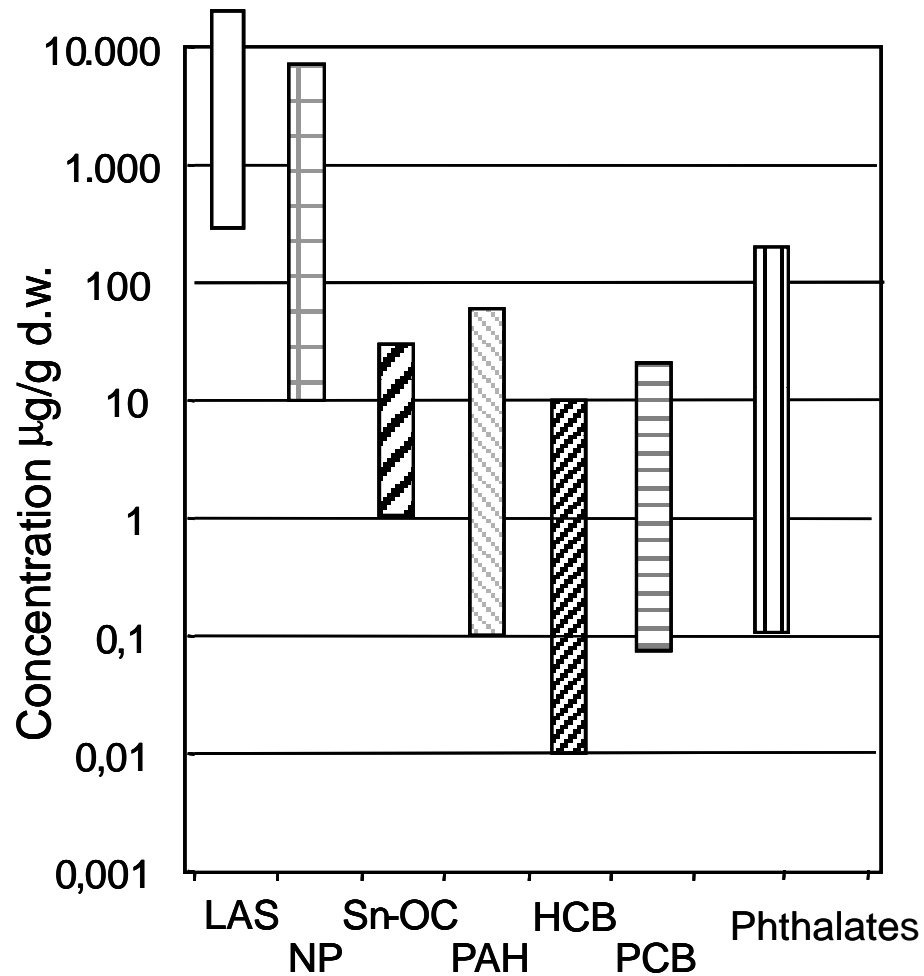


Source: Düring and Gäth, J. Plant Nutr. Soil. Sci (2002) 165, 544

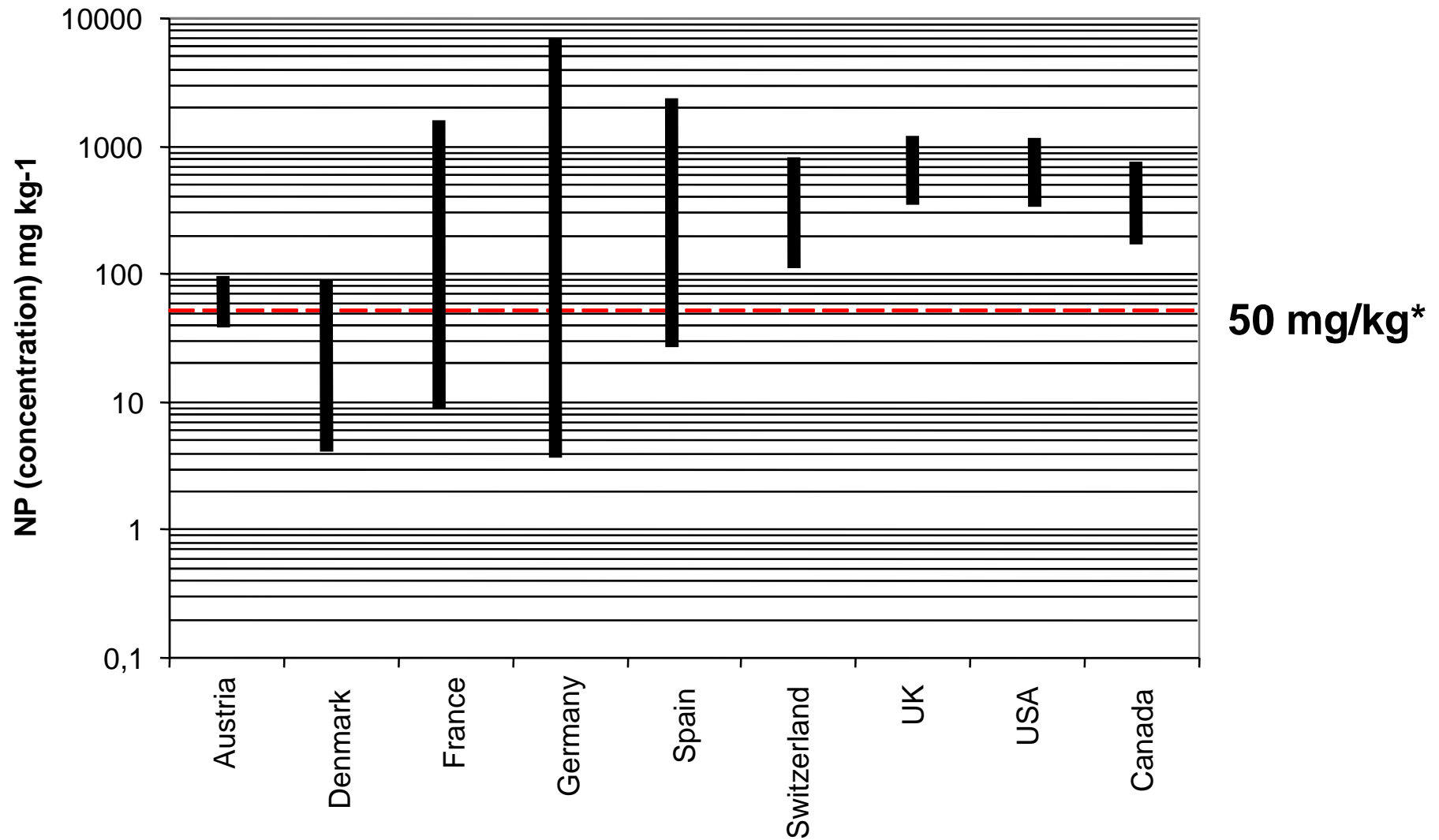
Sludge destination (sea disposal prohibited in 1998)



Levels of organic contaminants in sludge



Concentrations of NP in sewage sludge



* Anex IV of the Working Document on Sludge, 3rd Draft, ENV E3/LM, 27 April 2000

Water Framework Directive

Precautionary Principle

Dynamic list – update every 4 years (2004)

Upcoming Priorities – Emerging Contaminants
(Future Candidates for Monitoring)

‘Substances that are not part of routine monitoring programmes but have been shown to occur in the environment and may be candidate for **future regulations**, depending on research on their (eco)toxicity, potential health effects, public perception and on monitoring data regarding their occurrence in the various environmental compartments’

Emerging contaminants: Facts

- The issue of emerging contaminants is closely tied to **analytical capabilities**.
- **Increased sensitivity in mass spectrometry** (more efficient ionisation techniques and better detectors) has allowed detection of virtually any new and potentially harmful contaminant at a very low level.
- Consequently, a number of **new or previously ignored and/or unrecognized** contaminants have been brought under scrutiny.
- Widely expanded use of industrial chemicals in domestic and commercial applications – **multiple pathways to sanitary sewer**
- Potential impacts to organisms at low concentrations – **lack of data**
 - Endocrine disruption
 - Persistence in the environment
 - Bioaccumulation
 - Synergistic effects
 - Possible toxicity
 - Potential generational effects
- STPs seen as a point source although sources are actually diffuse

Case studies of Emerging Contaminants

**Estrogens, Pharmaceuticals and Illicit drugs
in wastewaters (Spain)**

Pharmaceutical and Illicit drugs pollution

B. Halford at C & EN, February 25, 2008

- People and animals excrete pharmaceuticals and their metabolites, which then find their way into the environment through a variety of sources.
- “If you’re a fish, it’s really bad”,
- Fish population (fathead minnow) exposed to an estrogen concentration of 5 ppt - freshwater equivalent of a canary in a coal mine”

Only in US, flushing of medications of deceased people adds 19.7 tons active ingredient per year

Endocrine disrupting compounds

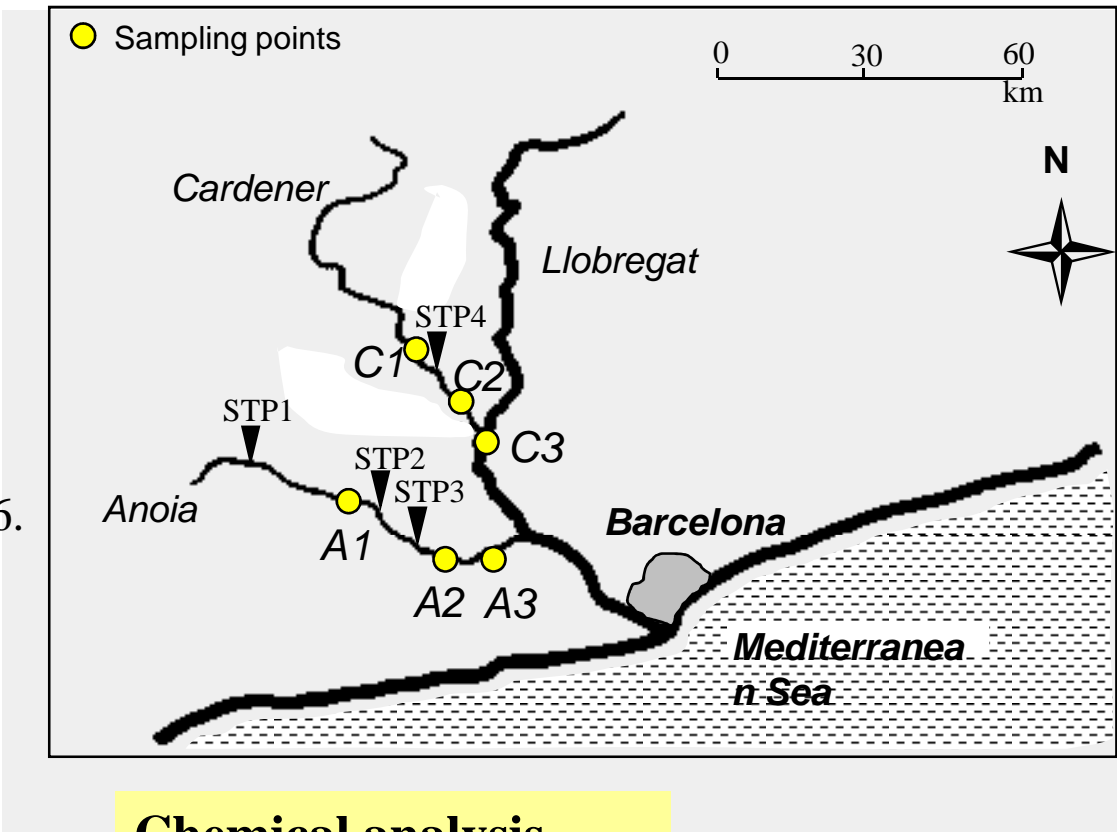
Monitoring campaigns:

-1999: monthly (April-June)
Solé y col. (2000) *EST* 34, 5076.

-2000: bi-monthly (Jan.-July)
Petrovic y col. (2002) *ETC* 21, 2146.

Samples:

- Wastewater
- River water
- Sediment
- Sludge
- Fish (carp)
(130 males, 116 females)



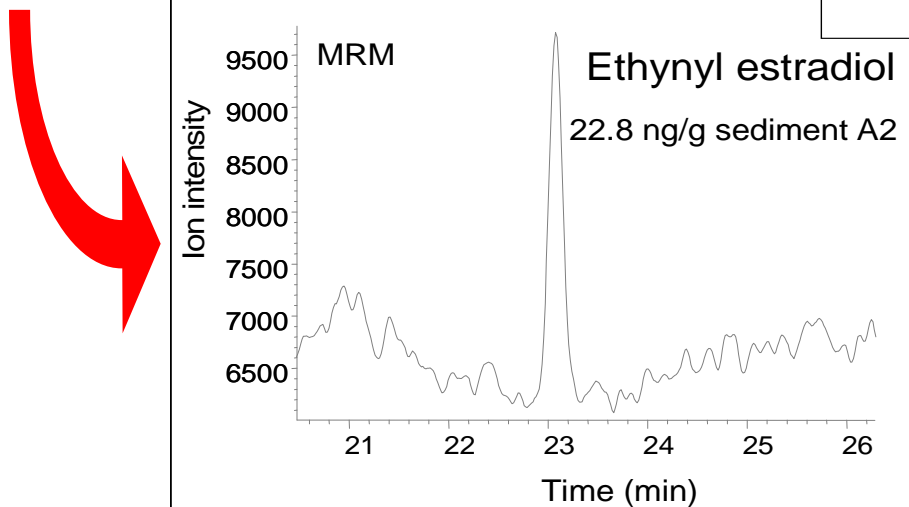
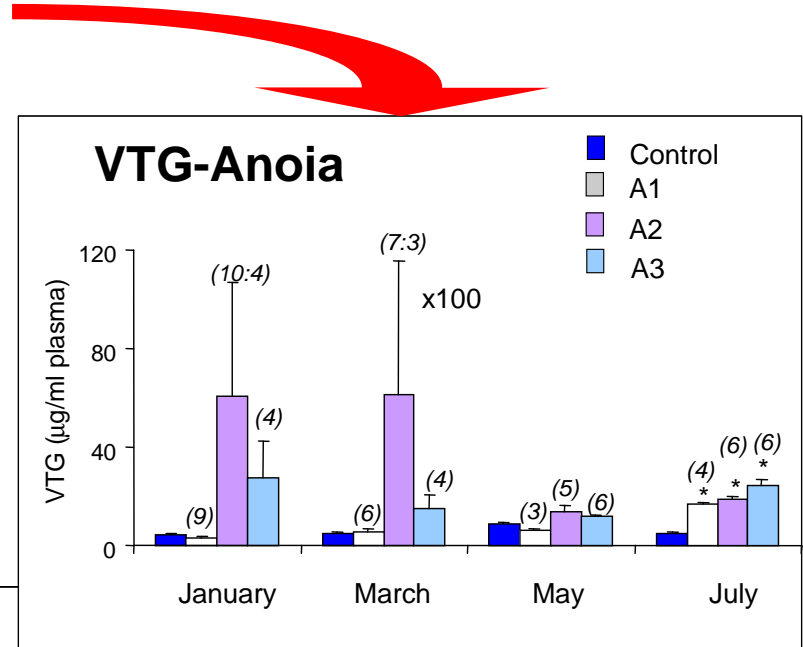
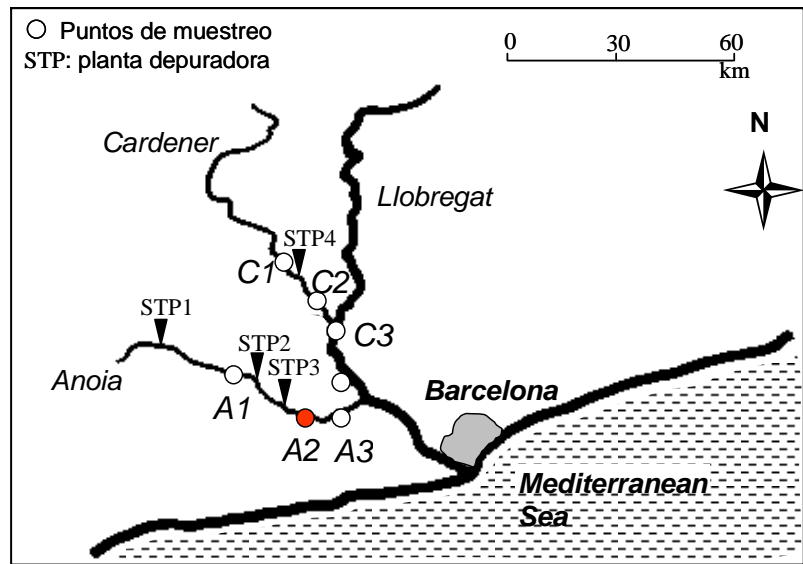
Chemical analysis

- APEOs, APs y APECs
- **Estrogens**
- Progestogens

Biological anal.

- VTG

Correlation between EDC levels and plasma VTG



↑↑ **intersex** (3 of 7 fish)
 ↑↑ **VTG** (61.09 µg/mL)
 ⇕
 ↑↑ **EE** 22.8 ng/g

Endocrine disruptors at Llobregat

Dimecres 26
Octubre del 2005
 Número 3964, Any XXVIII
 Telèfon 93 227 00 00
 Fax 93 227 00 00
 barcelona@elpunt.com
 www.elpunt.com

EL PUNT

EDIICIÓ
BARCELONA
 Número 591, Any III
 1.000 unitats E19

DIARI INDEPENDENT, CATALÀ, COMARCAL I DEMOCRÀTIC

El tripartit obliga Maragall a tancar la crisi sense canviar cap conseller

- Els departaments es coordinaran en quatre comissions de govern: social, econòmica, territorial i política
- El PSC, ERC i ICV es mostren satisfets i donen per culminada la remodelació de l'executiu
- CIU considera que el President ha quedat «inhabilitat» per les formacions que li donen suport



Confirmats de manera indefinida. Els consellers que en els últims onze dies s'han vist fora del govern van veure com el president de la Generalitat els ratificava per sorpresa en el càrrec. En la fotografia apareixen alguns dels fins ahir candidats a ser destituïts, com Salvador Milà (Medi Ambient i Habitatge), Joan Carretero (Governació i Administracions Públiques), Maria Cid (Educació) i Anna Simó (Benestar i Família). (ANDREU PUIG)

El PP insta el Constitucional a aturar el debat de l'Estatut

- Rodríguez Zapatero es reuneix amb Artur Mas per preparar el debat d'admissió del projecte al Congrés dels Diputats
- ERC elabora un contrainforme al dictamen dels juristes del PSOE qüestionant punts essencials de la reforma estatutària

• El PP va reaccionar ahir a la decisió de la junta de portaveus del Congrés de convocar per al 2 de novembre vinent la presa en consideració de l'Estatut amb l'annunci que presentarà un recurs d'empara al Tribunal Constitucional per evitar que es faci el debat. Per contra, Rodríguez Zapatero va continuar els contactes preparant de la sessió a la cambra baixa amb una reunió amb el líder de CIU, Artur Mas.

EL 9 Cent partits del brasiler Ronaldinho amb el Barça
 Jugarà el partit 100 com a blaugrana avui al Camp Nou contra el Màlaga (2/4 de 9)
 Trauen la targeta vermella a Beckham per haver protestat i marxen l'escaudolosa groga a Miesli

Els científics troben al riu Llobregat nivells molt alts d'un contaminant que «feminitza» els peixos

Un investigador del CSIC afirma que és greu utilitzar aquesta aigua per regar, però la Generalitat defensa que no representa cap perill

• Un estudi del Consell Superior d'Investigacions Científiques (CSIC) ha detectat nivells molt elevats de contaminants estrògens al riu Llobregat, uns partícules que provoquen la «feminització» de peixos i alteracions en el seu sistema reproductor. Danià Barceló, investigador del CSIC que ha participat en el treball, troba «molt greu» que s'utilitzi aquesta aigua per regar. Medi Ambient, en canvi, afirma que no representa cap problema.

Cent mil objectes desborden els dipòsits de proves judicials

• Als dipòsits judicials de Barcelona s'hi acumulen peces des del 1986, unes 100.000, i la jutgesa degana, Maria Sanjaume, ha fet una crida als jutges perquè facin neteja.

El periódico, 26-10-2005

Contaminación en el Llobregat

Aspecto, ayer, de la Riera de Rubí

Presencia de residuos industriales: octilfenol (OP) y nonilfenol (NP)

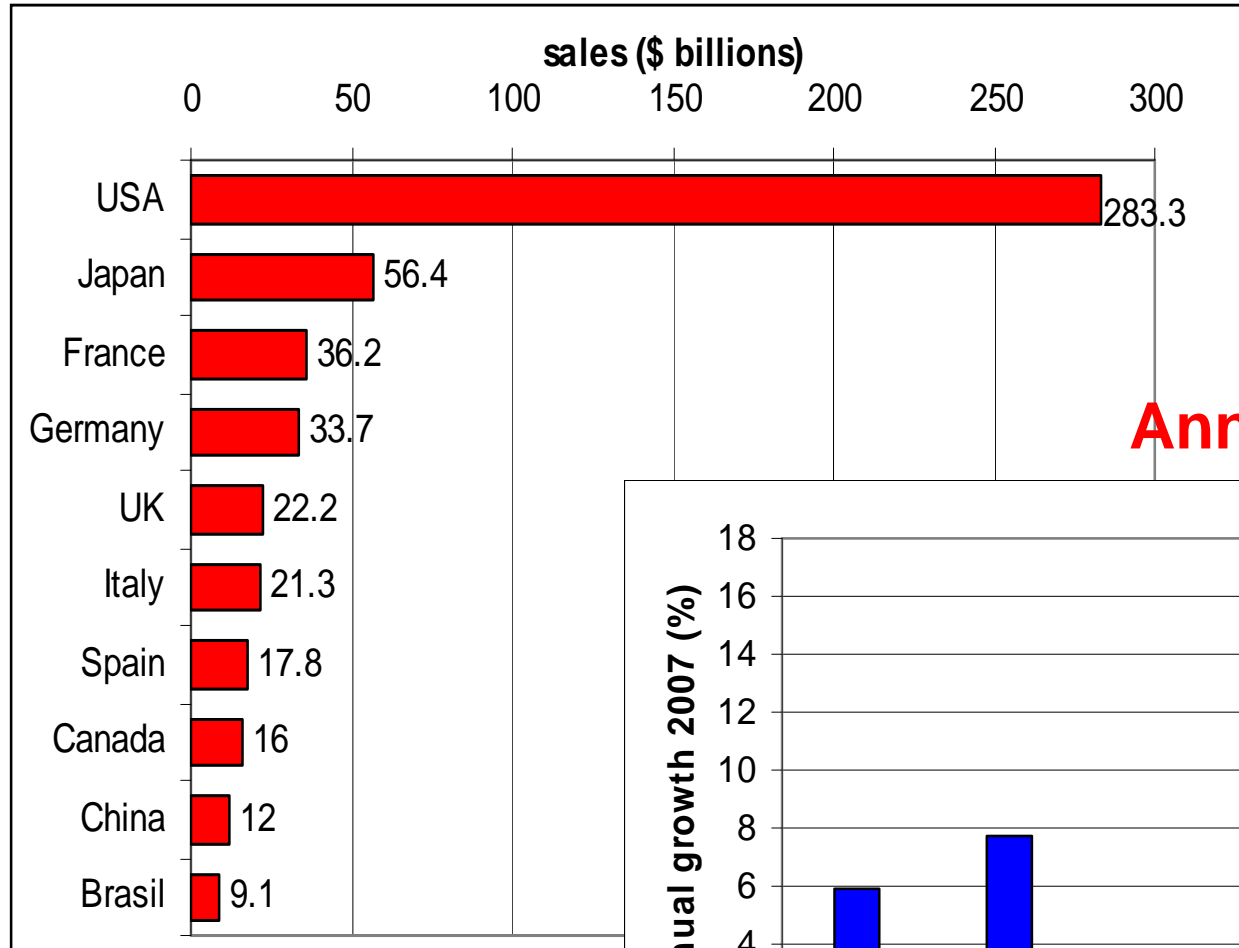
EN MICROGRAMOS POR LITRO DE AGUA. SE CONSIDERA QUE A PARTIR DE 10 MICROGRAMOS PUEDE TENER EFECTOS NOCIVOS SOBRE ORGANISMOS ACUÁTICOS

	OP	NP
1 Llobregat	2,57	13,90
2 Riera de Rubí	21,90	37,30
3 Llobregat	0,26	2,57
4 Anoia	MENOS DE 0,1	1,23
5 Llobregat	MENOS DE 0,1	0,26
6 Cardener	MENOS DE 0,1	0,39

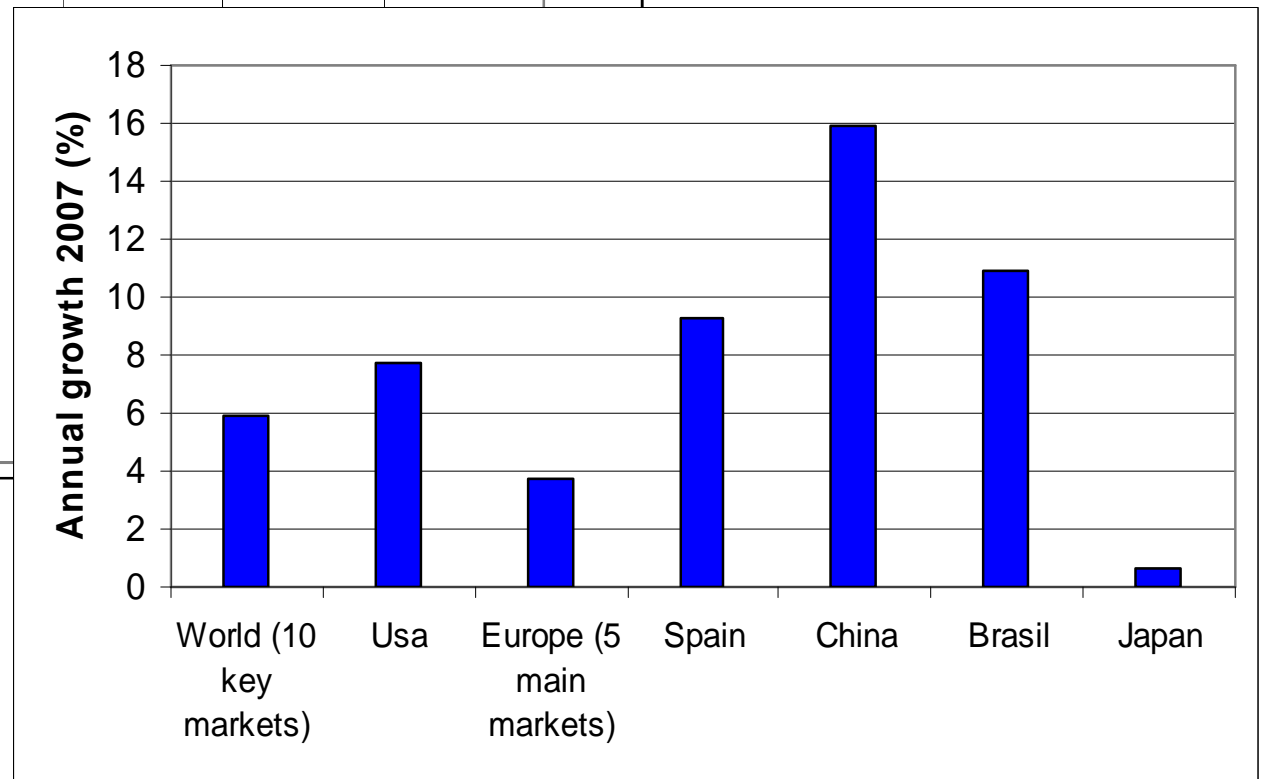
Fuente: CSIC

FOTOGRAFIA: RICARD OUGA/EL PERIÓDICO

Top ten markets (2007)



Annual growth (2007)



Characteristics of Pharmaceuticals

- Pharmaceuticals are often large, complex, ionic and hydrophilic compounds; these properties influence their environmental fate.
- These characteristics are not typical of most non-pharmaceutical chemicals evaluated for environmental fate and effects.
- Most pharmaceuticals enter the environment daily through patient use.
- Sources are geographically diffuse and may be influenced by regional use patterns.
- Pharmaceuticals in the environment may be parent, metabolites or conjugates.
- Pharmaceuticals vary in their potency; in general, highly potent compounds will be used at lower volumes resulting in lower environmental concentrations.
- Some more potent compounds may be of environmental concern at lower concentrations.
- Designed to be biologically active

Urinary excretion rates of unchanged active ingredient for selected pharmaceuticals.

Drug	Therapeutic class	Parent compound excreted (%)
Ibuprofen	Painkiller	10
Paracetamol	Painkiller	4
Amoxicillin	Antibacterial	60
Erythromycin	Antibacterial	25
Sulfamethoxazole	Antibacterial	15
Atenolol	β -Blocker	90
Metoprolol	β -Blocker	10
Carbamazepine	Antiepileptic	3
Felbamate	Antiepileptic	40–50
Cetirizine	Antihistamine	50
Bezafibrate	Lipid regulator	50

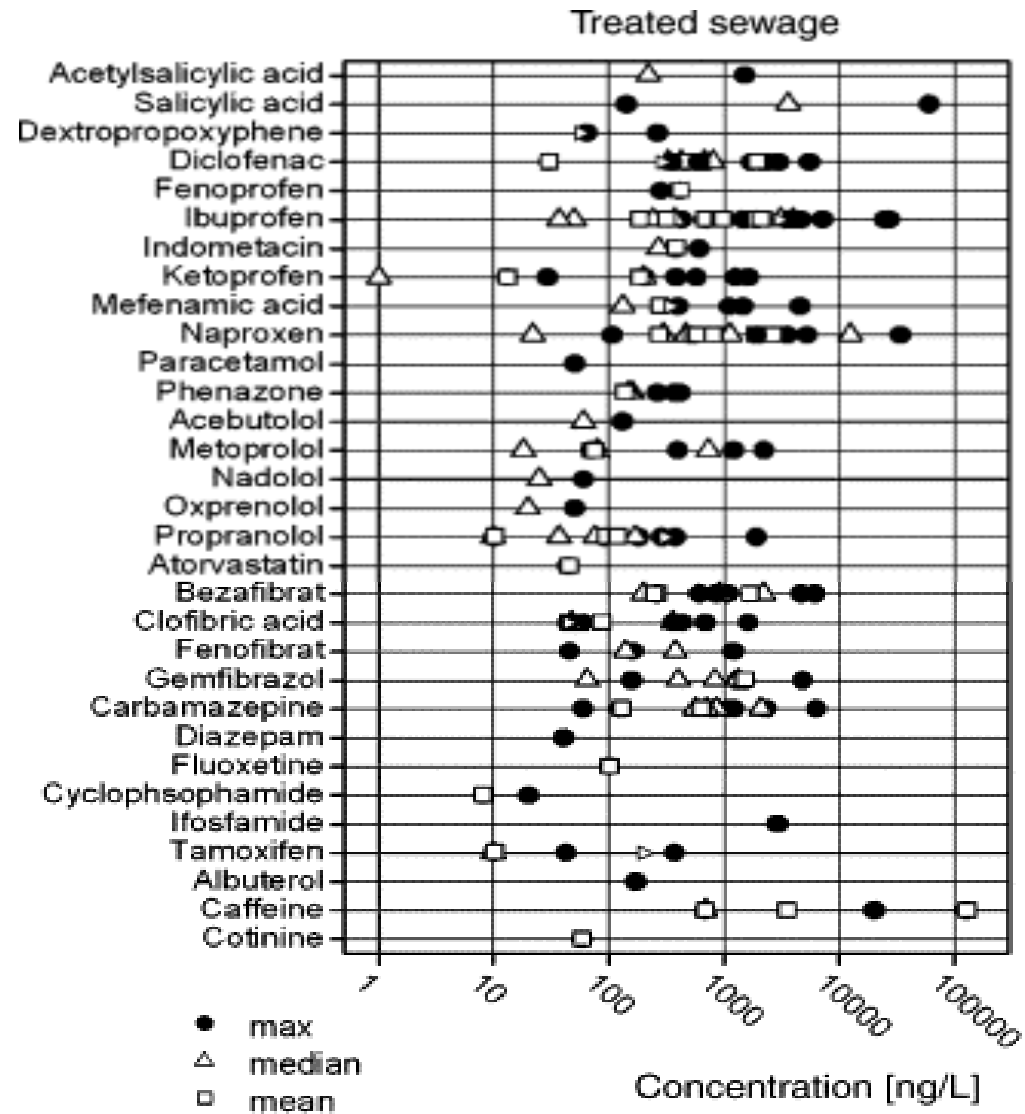
- **Portions of most ingested drugs are excreted in varying unmetabolized amounts (and undissolved states, primarily because of protection by excipients) primarily via the urine and feces.**
- **Other portions sometimes yield metabolites that are still bioactive. Still other portions are excreted as conjugates.**

Removal in Sewage Treatment Plants (STP)

Compound	Removal
Carbamezapine (anti-epileptic drug) Atenolol, Metoprolol (β -blockers) Trimethoprim (antibiotic)	< 10 % (no removal)
Diclofenac (anti-inflammatory)	10-39%
Methoxazole	50%
Gemfibrozil (lipid regulator)	43-71%
Naproxen (anti-inflammatory)	42-92%
Fluoroquinolones (antibiotics)	60%
Ibuprofen (anti-inflammatory)	> 90% Note: hydroxy and carboxy metabolites found in effluents)

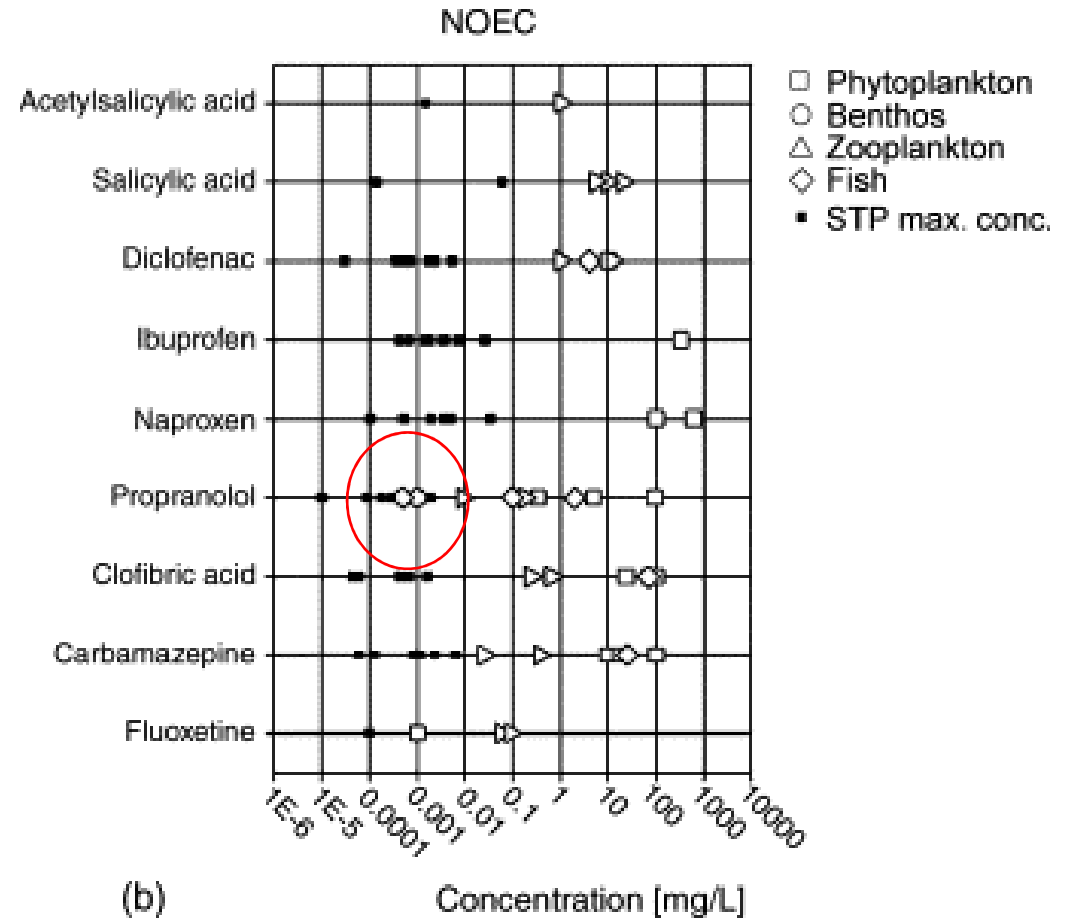
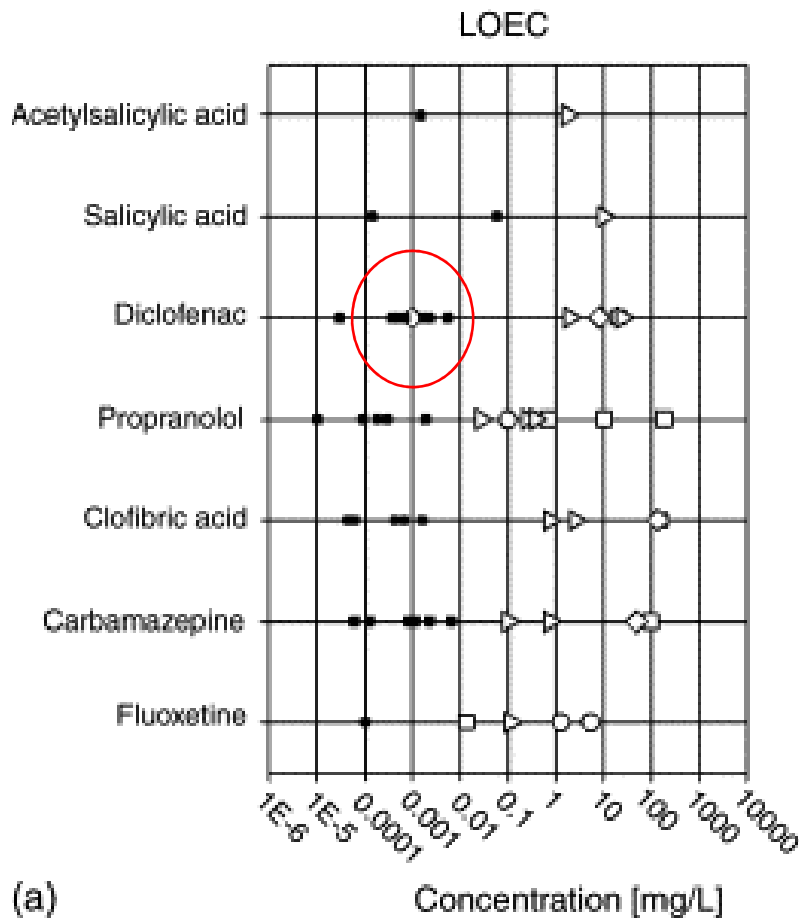
- In order to understand the process taking place in the WWTP and to increase the knowledge on biodegradation of contaminants in WWTP, **biodegradation studies of pharmaceuticals under laboratory controlled conditions** simulating WWTPs should be conducted.
- Free excreted drugs and derivatives can escape degradation in municipal sewage treatment facilities (removal efficiency is a function of the drug's structure and treatment technology employed); **the conjugates can be hydrolyzed back to the free parent drug.**
- Implementation of an **improved technology** – MBR, AOP

Concentrations of pharmaceutical residues in treated wastewater (secondary effluents)



Selected pharmaceutical groups and their **environmental risk indicators**.

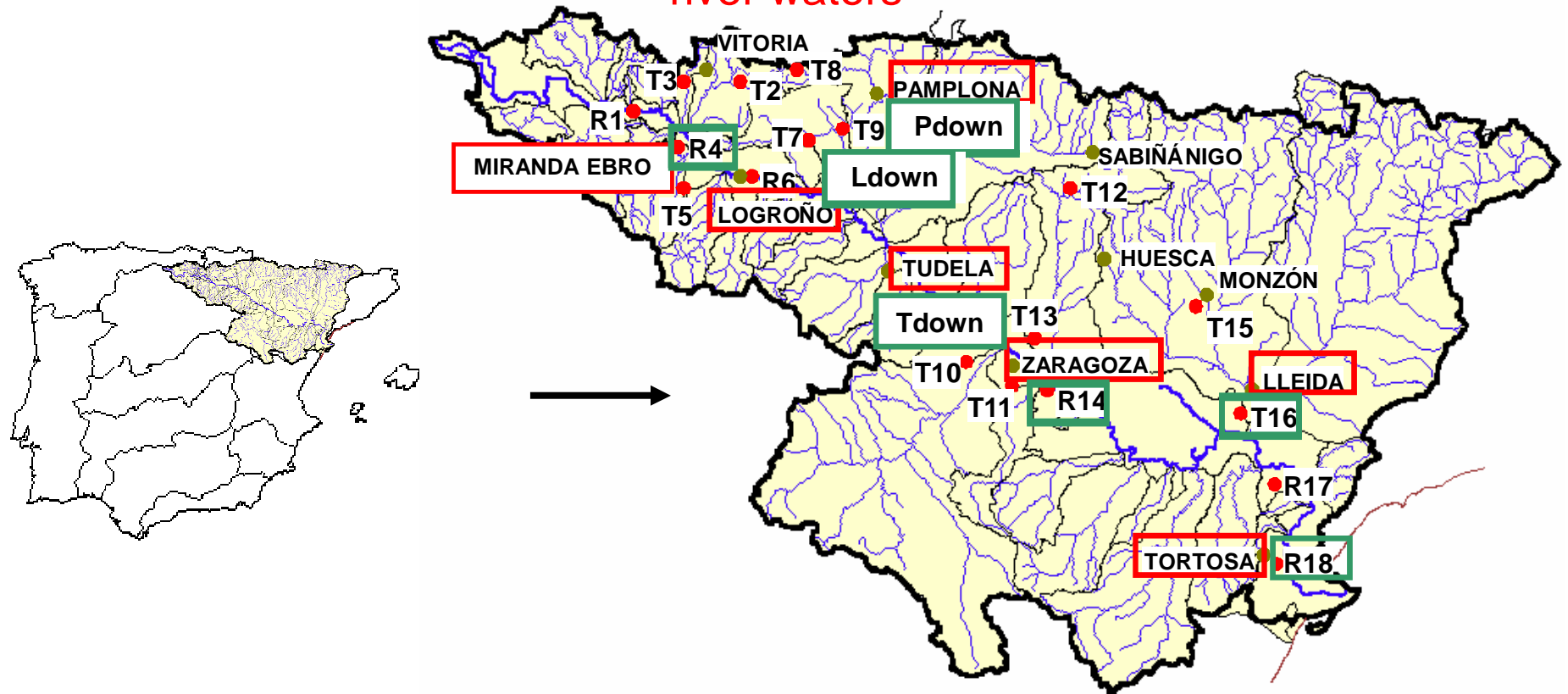
Drug	Examples	Risk indicator
Painkillers	NSAIDS (e.g., ibuprofen), other analgesics (e.g., acetaminophen)	Very high prescription and OTC volumes; detected in the environment
Antibiotics	Penicillins, sulfamethoxazole	High volumes; detected in the environment; concerns over toxicity and antibacterial resistance
β -Blockers	Propranolol, metoprolol	High volumes; detected in the environment
Antiepileptics	Carbamazepine, phenobarbital	High volumes; long-term prescriptions; persistent
Lipid regulators	Statins (e.g., atorvastatin), clofibrate	Long-term prescriptions; commonly detected
Antidepressants	Fluoxetine, risperidone	Subject of toxicity testing
Hormone treatments	Contraceptive pills, 17α - ethinyl estradiol, hormone replacement	Most extensively studied toxicologic properties; widely detected
Antihistamines	Loratadine, cetirizine	Commonly held nonprescription medicine



Comparison between maximal concentrations of pharmaceuticals in treated wastewater and their chronic toxicity in aquatic organisms. (a) Lowest observed effect concentrations (LOEC); (b) no observed effect concentrations (NOEC) for different aquatic organism, different endpoints and exposure times.

Example: pharmaceuticals in the Ebro river basin

Contribution of WWTP to the presence of pharmaceuticals in receiving river waters

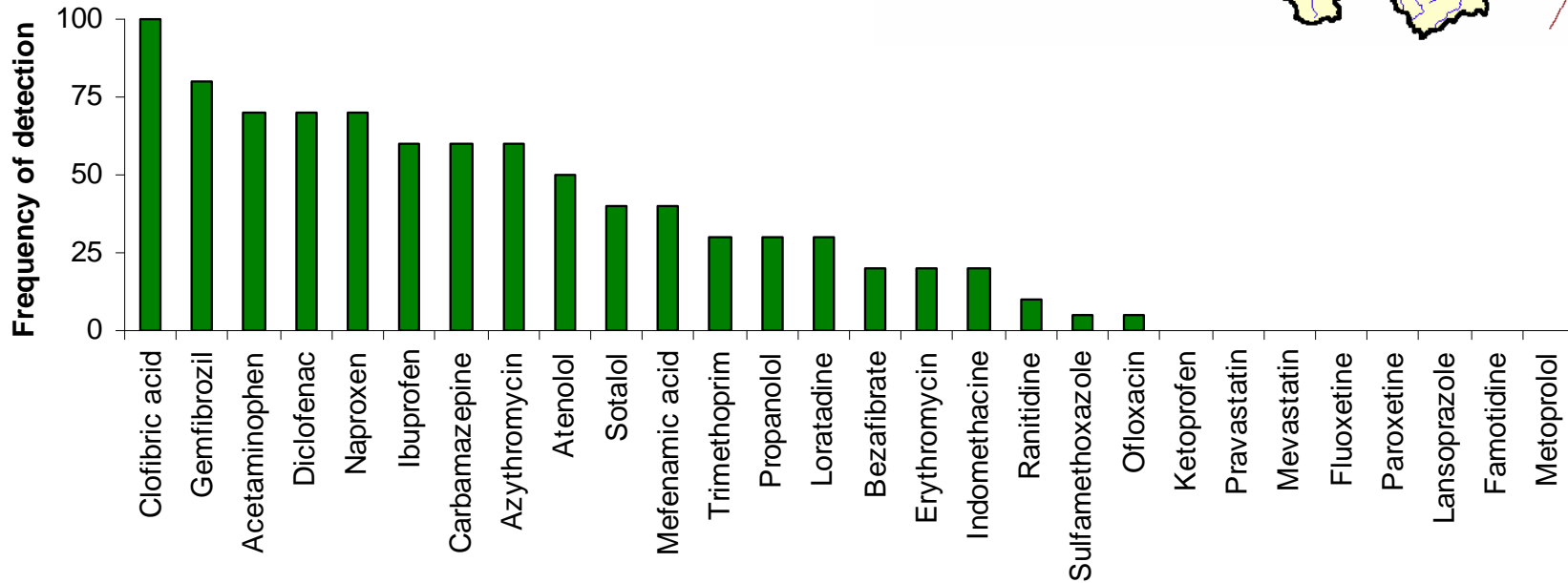
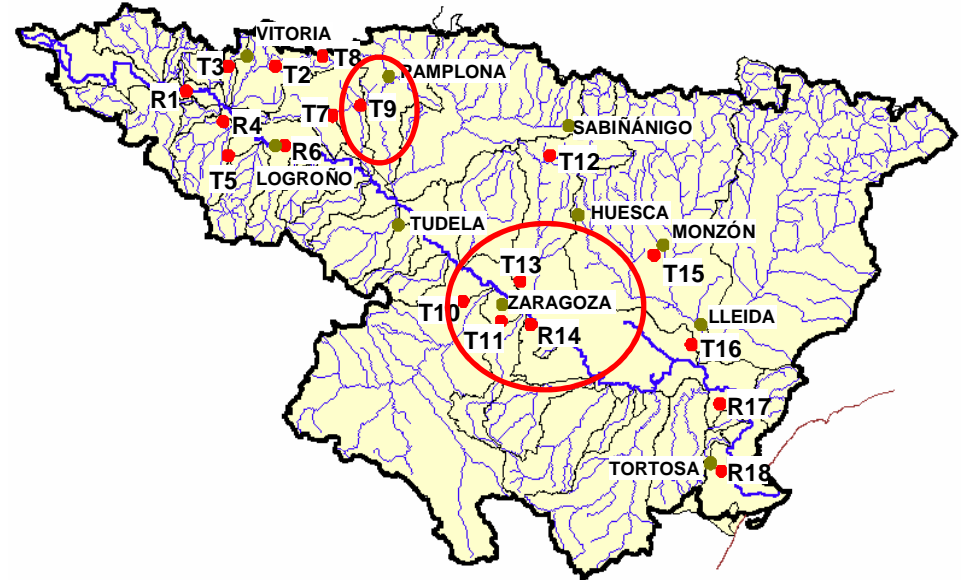
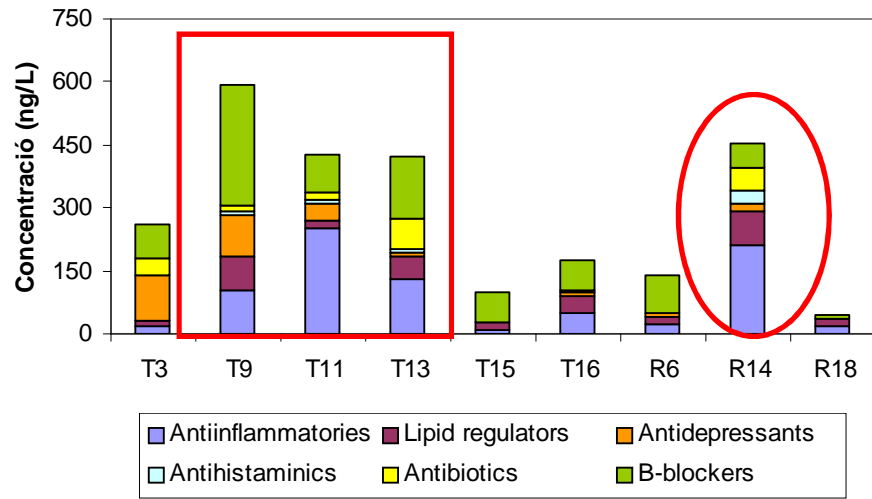


WWTP monitored: influent and effluent wastewaters



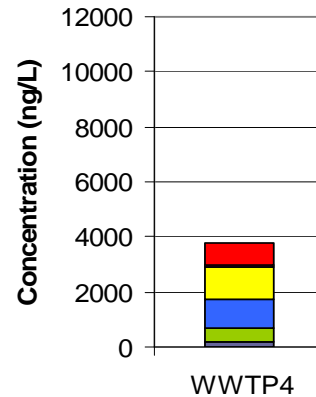
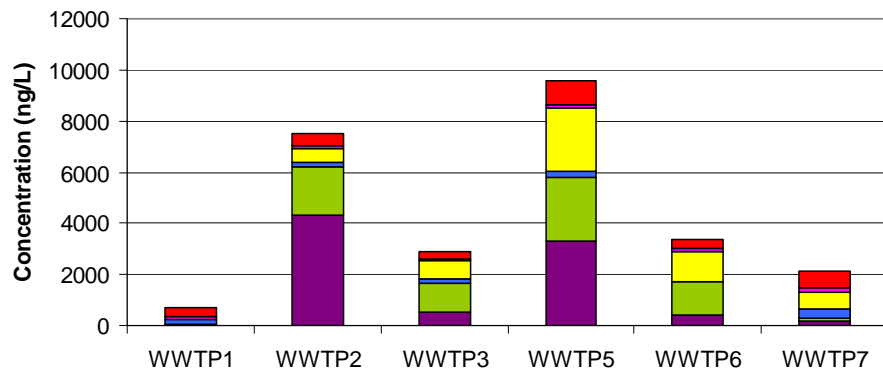
River water downstream the WWTP

River Ebro and its tributaries



Contribution of WWTP effluents

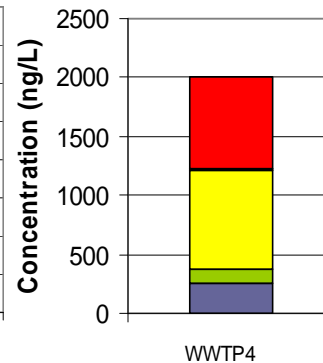
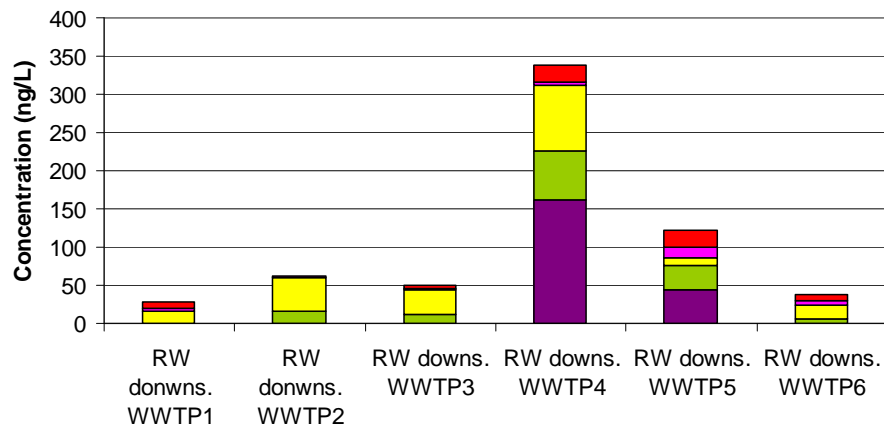
WWTP effluent



There is an important **dilution factor**: Levels found in surface waters downstream WWTP are in the low ng/range, whereas in WWTP effluent concentrations of target compounds are between low $\mu\text{g/L}$ -high ng/L range.



River water downstream WWTP

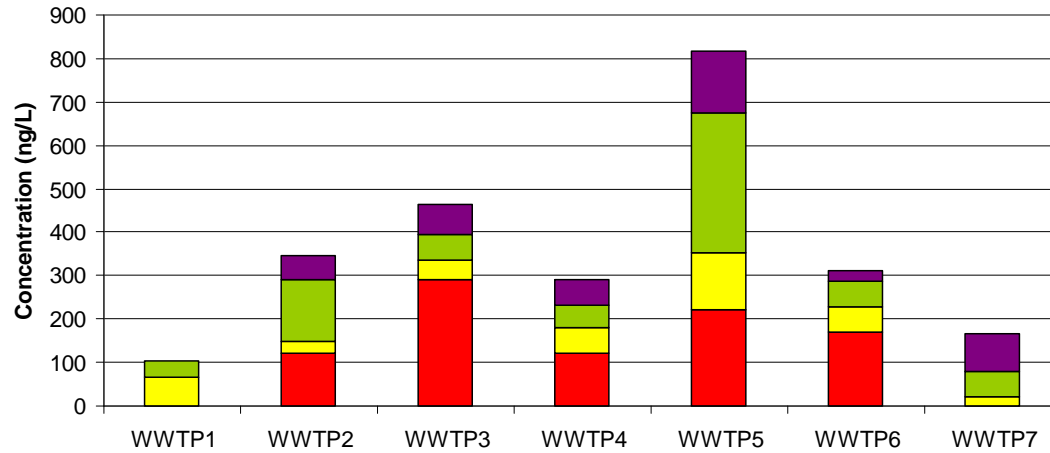


Environmental risks are reduced in river water due to the important dilution

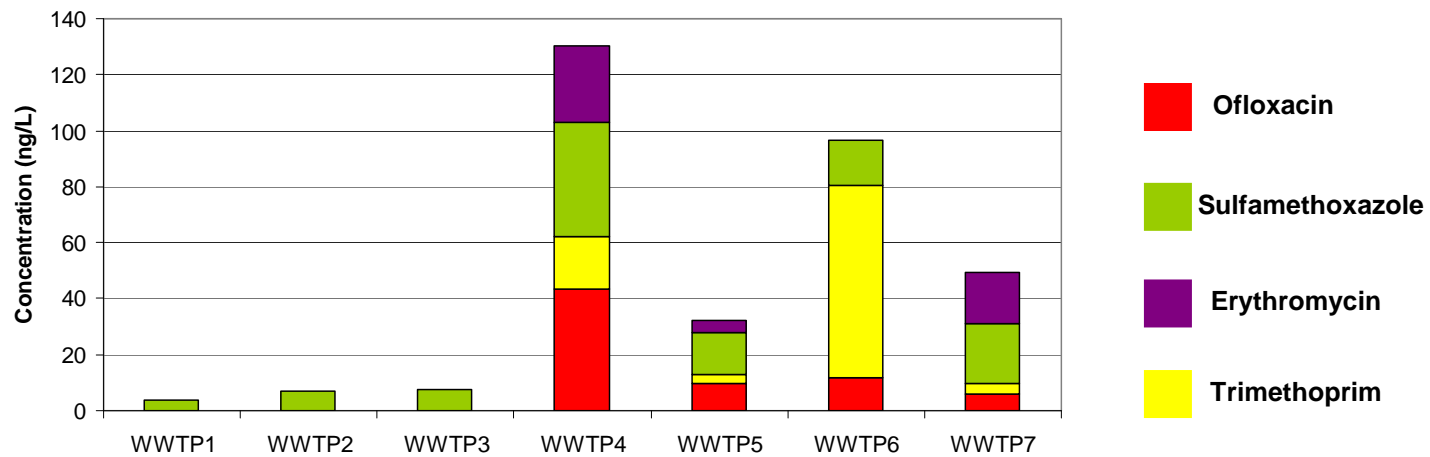


Contribution of WWTP effluents

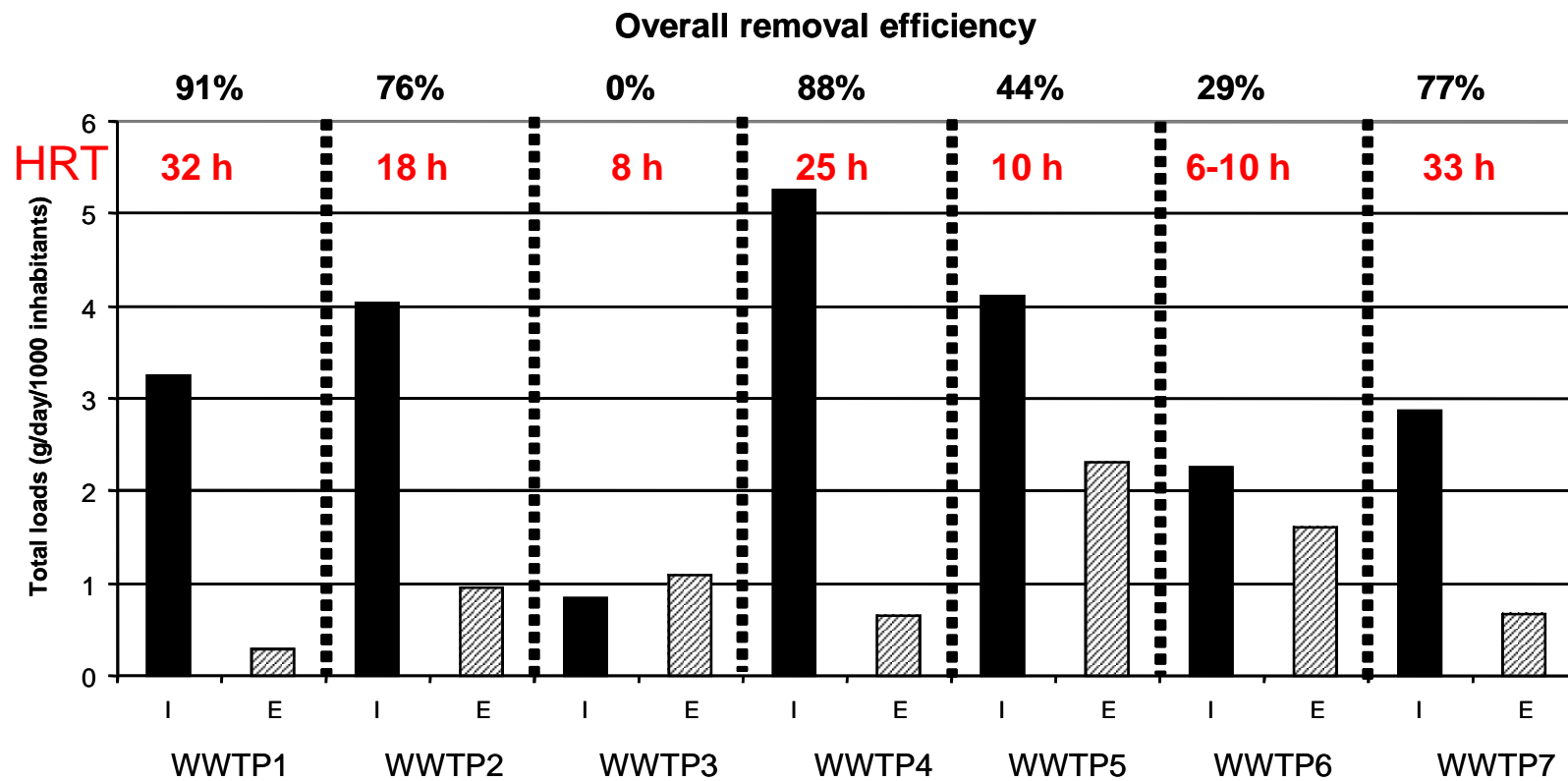
WWTP effluent



River water downstream WWTP

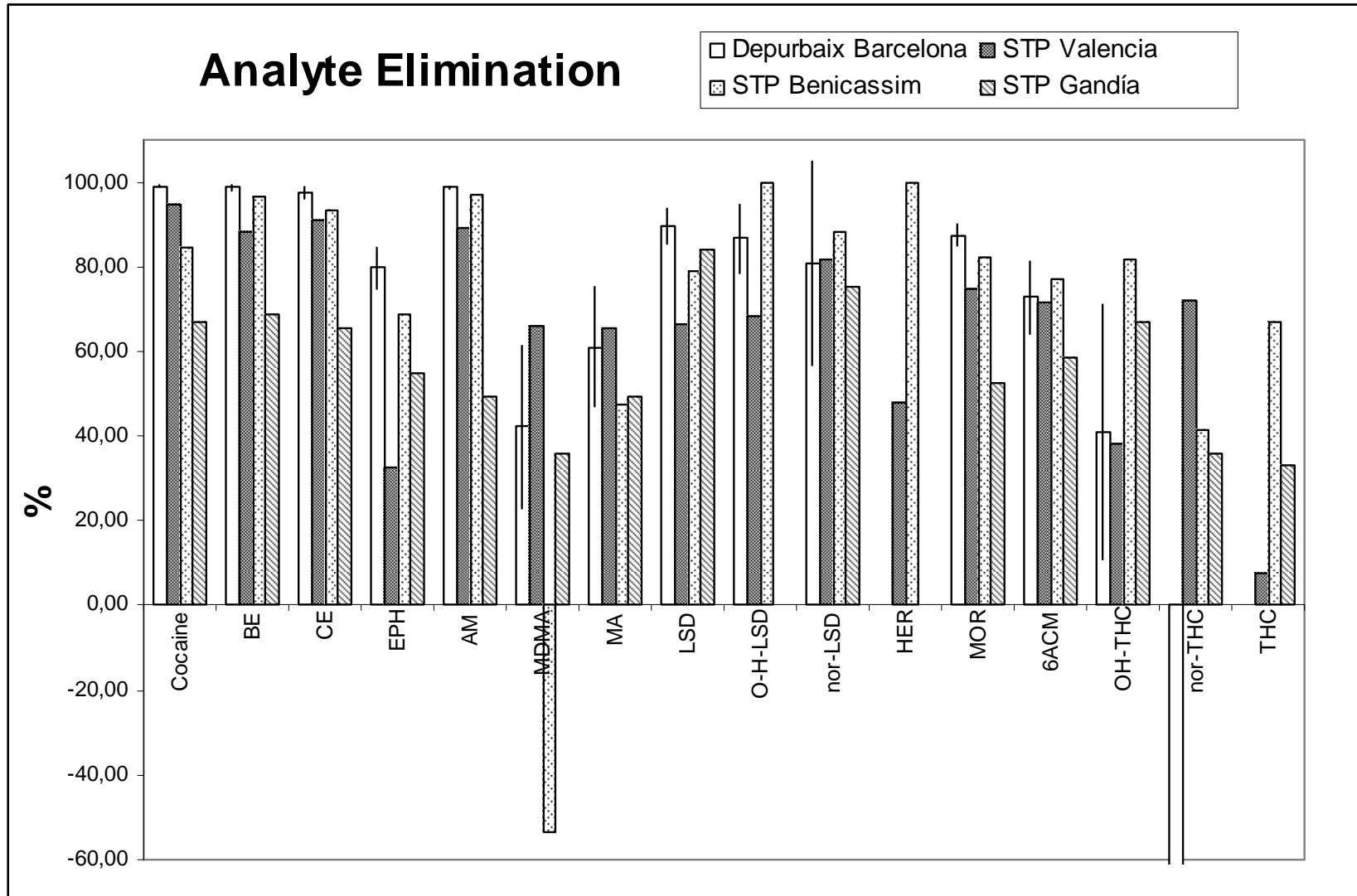


Total load and removal efficiency



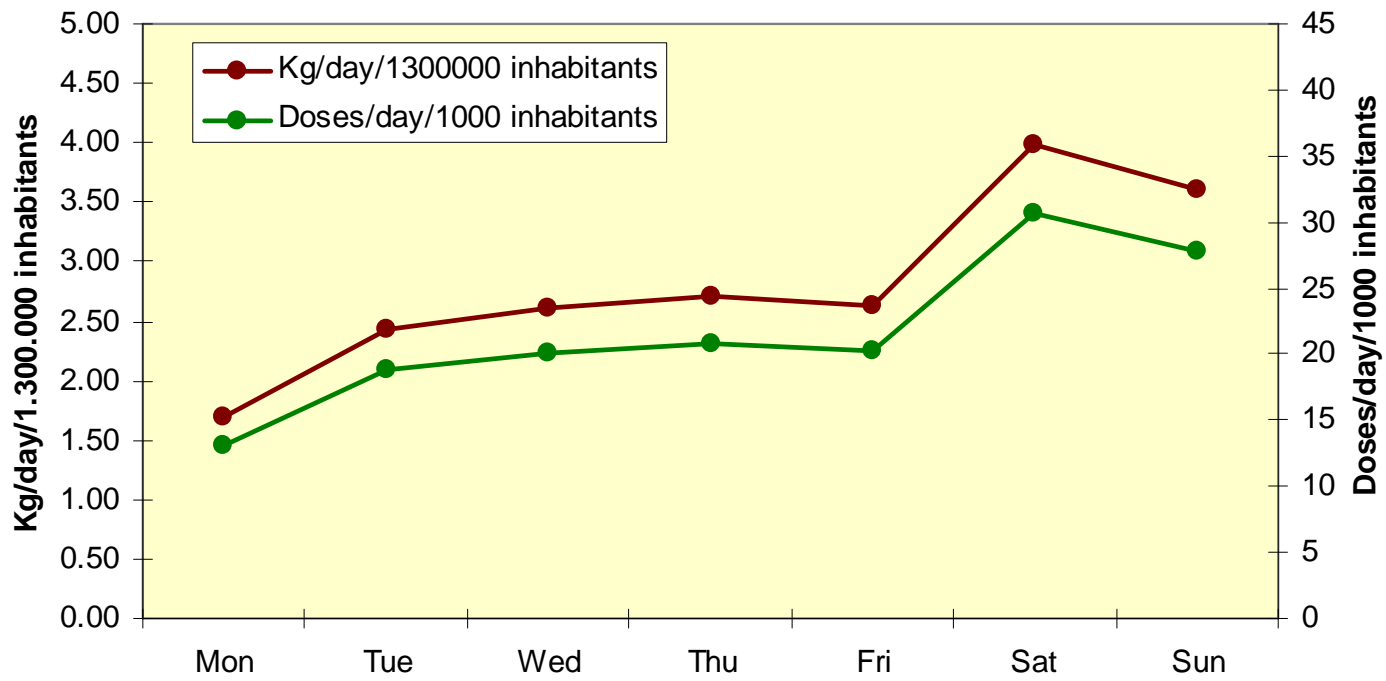
Loads expressed as g/day/1000 inhabitants

STPs removal



cocainics (95%) > opiates (78%) > LSD (72%) > AM-like (67%) > cannabinoids (32%)

Day-by-day pattern of cocaine consumption (estimate from influent sewage water)



França: La imatge de Sarkozy cau en picat per la pèrdua del poder adquisitiu **P11**

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Diàleg, P20

Salvador Cardús:

Tots seran vots en blanc

'Sortim'

Ja és el temps per a la ruta del xató ■ **Suplement**



Cultura

Najat El Hachmi guanya el Lull de novel·la ■ **P34**



Barcelona esnifa cada dia 70.000 dosis de cocaïna

INFORME • Les aigües residuals porten les restes de droga a la depuradora del Baix Llobregat



AUGMENT • Els caps de setmana l'arribada dels residus es dobla respecte als altres dies ■ **P23**

Advanced treatment options

- **Membrane technology**

 - Membrane bioreactors (MBR)
 - nanofiltration/ultrafiltration
 - reverse osmosis

- **Advanced oxidation** or reduction technologies (mainly catalytic or photocatalytic)

- Advanced bioactive technologies (aerobic or anaerobic)

- New solutions such as electrolysis/electro-dialysis, electromagnetic treatment, pulsed UV or arc discharge, ultra-sound, cold plasma, and new type of permeable reactive barriers.

Why MBR?

Technical aspects

- (i) adsorption, improved physical sludge characteristics, with higher biomass concentration and more effective surface;
- ii) biodegradation, cultivation of metabolic speciation, with high sludge age, low mass organic load favouring biological synthesis of broader substrate spectrum
- iii) direct and complete separation through membrane with entire removal of all contaminants bound to colloids and particulate matter.

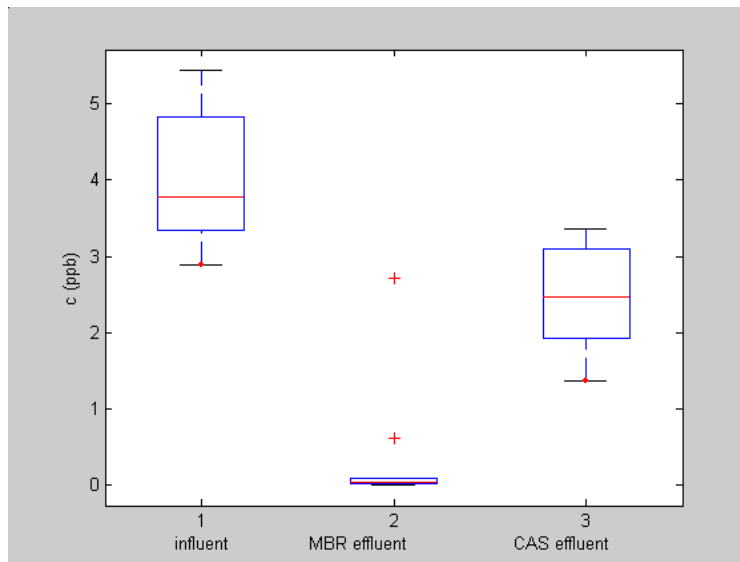
Financial aspect

- the cost of MBR drop from 2001 to 2004 and is estimated to be from 0.8 \$ m⁻³ to 0.5 \$ m⁻³

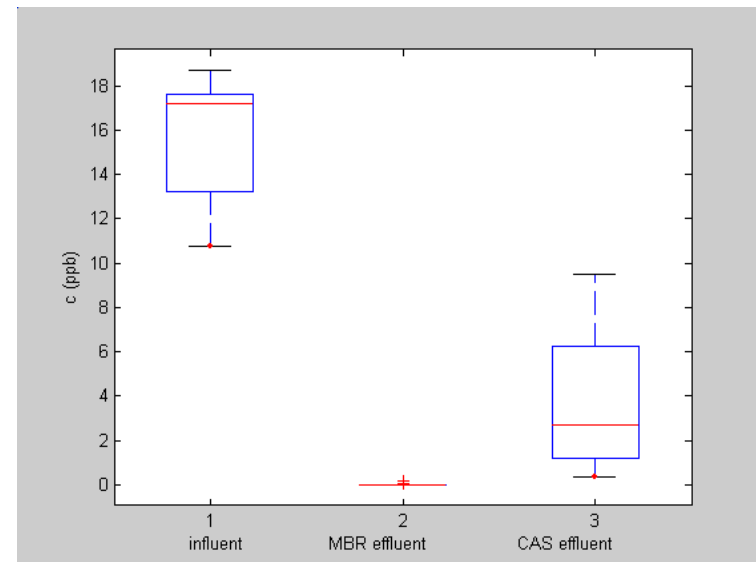
MBR vs. CAS treatment

For most of the investigated compounds MBR treatment had better performance (removal rates >80%) and steadier effluent concentrations than the conventional system (e.g. diclofenac, ketoprofen, gemfibrozil, bezafibrate, ranitidine, pravastatin, ofloxacin).

gemfibrozil



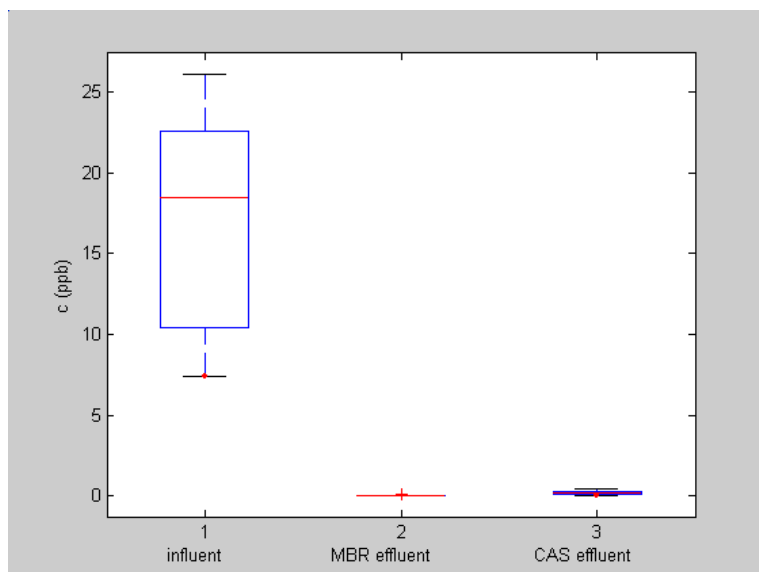
diclofenac



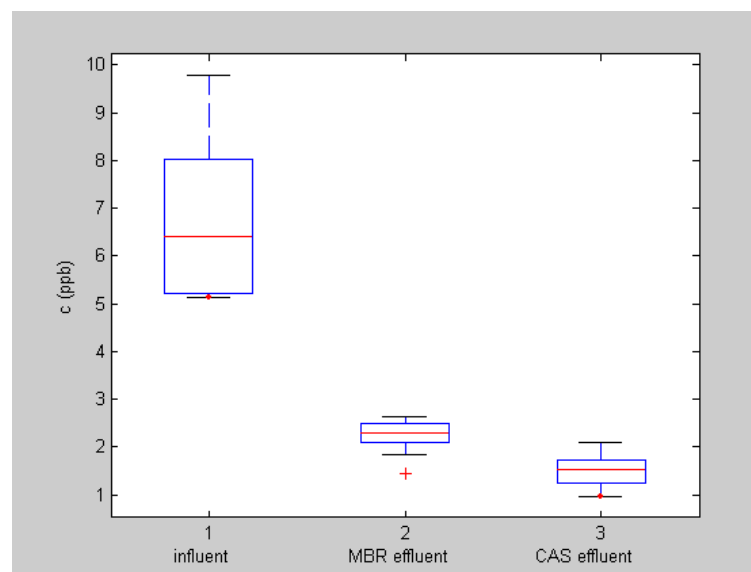
MBR vs. CAS treatment

In some cases the removal efficiencies were very similar and high for both treatments (e.g. ibuprofen, naproxen, acetaminophen, hydrochlorothiazide, paroxetine).

acetaminophen



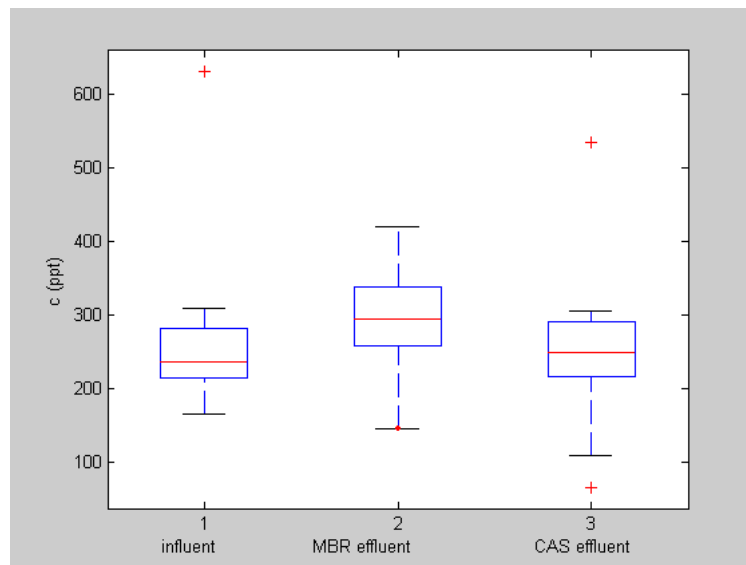
hydrochlorothiazide



MBR vs. CAS treatment

The antiepileptic drug carbamazepine turned out to be the most persistent pharmaceutical as it passed both through MBR and CAS system untransformed.

carbamazepine

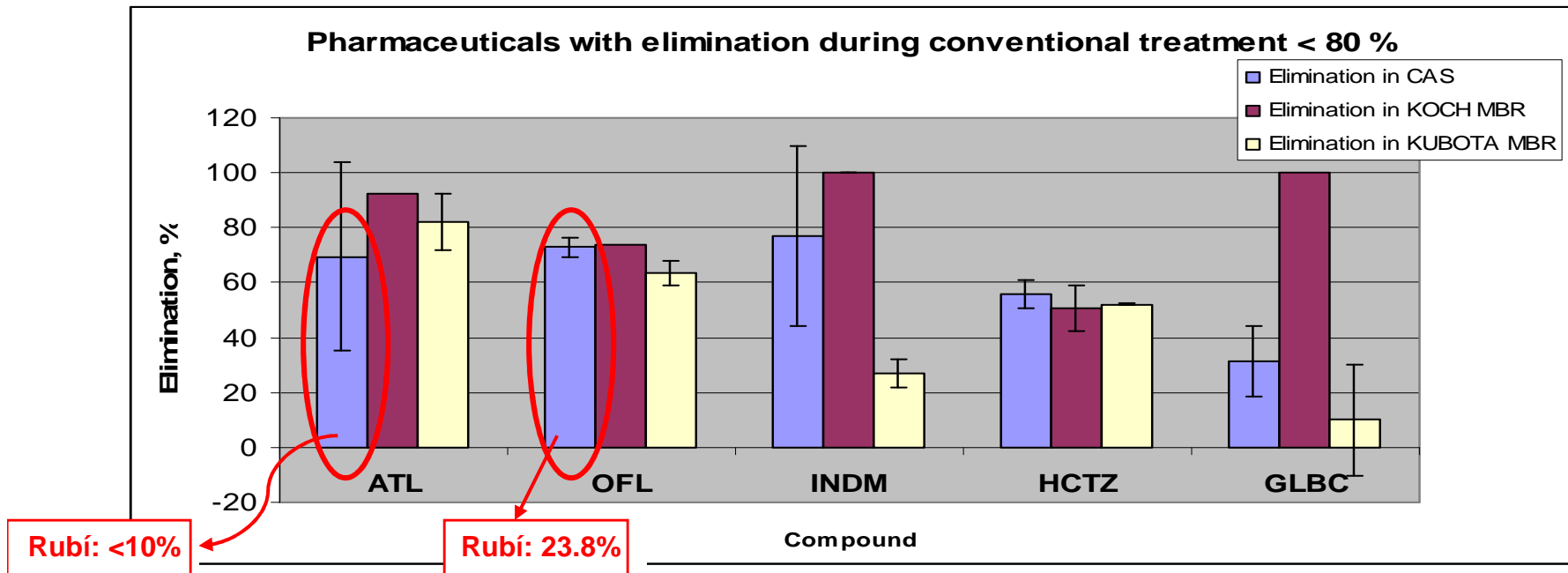


Wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) Terrassa

- Influent type: industrial (mostly pharmaceutical and textile industry)/ municipal wastewater
- Equivalent inhabitants: 277 000
- Average daily flow: 2 000 m³/h
- Maximum daily flow: 2 500 m³/h
- Hydraulic retention time: 11.5 h
- Solids retention time: 12 days
- Treatment:
 1. **Preliminary treatment**
 2. **Primary treatment**
 3. **Secondary treatment** (pre-denitrification and nitrification).



Elimination of target compounds in CAS and two pilot-plant MBRs in WWTP Terrassa



ATL: Atenolol, Influent conc. range=1.2-1.6 $\mu\text{g/ L}$.

OFL: Ofloxacin, Influent conc. range= 2.1-3.0 $\mu\text{g/ L}$.

INDM: Indomethacin, Influent conc. range= 42-98 ng/ L.

HCTZ: Hydrochlorothiazide, Influent conc. range= 2.9-5.0 $\mu\text{g/ L}$.

GLBC: Glibenclamide, Influent conc. range= 130-295 ng/ L.

Research needs

Occurance and behaviour

- There is a need to increase the knowledge about the fate of pharmaceuticals during sewage treatment for implementation of **better removal techniques**.
- Future work on WWTP **treatment optimization** will show to what extent pharmaceuticals can be removed from wastewater and to what extent the implementation of an improved technology is feasible, taking into account other macro- and micro-pollutants as well as the broad variety of complex wastewater matrices.
- Current monitoring programmes focus on therapeutic form of the drug (What about **Conjugates**, Metabolites, Transformation products?)
- Lack of studies concerning the formation of **transformation products** in the environment following natural degradation or water treatment.
- Biotic vs abiotic transformation?
- An important question that should be addressed is whether pharmaceutical residues are **bioavailable** and, if so, what the environmental impact will be.

Research needs

Effects/Chronic toxicity

- There is a general **lack of chronic toxicity data** on pharmaceuticals, in particular in fish.
- Need to find a **biomarker** for specific pharmaceutical classes (like vitelogenin for EDCs)
- Many pharmaceuticals need more investigation about potential long-term ecotoxicological effects, particularly with respect to potential disturbances in hormonal homeostasis (endocrine disruption), immunological status, or gene activation and silencing during long-term exposure.
- For better understanding of possible effects, a mechanism-based approach focused on target molecules, tissues and organs should yield more meaningful results and insights than traditional acute toxicity testing.
- Moreover, the potential of **combined effects** of pharmaceutical mixtures should be addressed. In the ecological context, subtle changes and disturbances may have negative consequences for the organism's fitness.

Minimizing Pharmaceuticals' Environmental Disposition

Drug Disposal/Recycling/Pollution Prevention

- Responsible disposal and product stewardship – “smart disposal” USEPA, SIGRE (Spain)
- Mix with kitty litter, coffee grounds sawdust put them in cans or plastic bags before tossing it in the trash or incinerate them.
- Source separation for domestic wastes. Advancement in, and implementation of, new technologies for dealing with waste at the source (e.g., urine separation)
- Sewage recycling. Upgrading sewage to potable water. By use of advanced water treatment technology such as reverse osmosis, nearly complete removal of all PPCPs can be achieved. However, all the solutes removed by reverse osmosis are concentrated in the rejected "brine"--a waste stream that must be disposed itself.
- Improvements to sewage infrastructure. Straight-piping of sewage to surface waters should continue to be identified and eliminated on an ongoing basis
- Recycling (reclamation). "Drug mining," such as hospital reclamation of highly toxic drugs from excreta and other wastes, could be pursued and expanded
- Responsible reuse, recycling, and donation.
- Public outreach/education--heightening public awareness.

Reducing pharmaceutical loads to STPs

- Separate treatment of “hot spots”: hospital wastewaters (drugs)
- Recommended actions are: **Labelling** (Sweden), **urine separation**, more **environmental education** : still 25-33% of drug disposal as household waste or directly to toilet. Only in US, flushing of medications of deceased people adds 19.7 tons active ingredient per year
- *But still 1 dollar spent on drugs can save 6 dollars in hospital costs*



KEY ISSUE= Treating Sewage for Drinking Water

- Perhaps you have seen: “ This property is irrigated with reclaimed water. Do not drink”
- Requires Advanced Environmental Technologies (like the one in Advanced Water Purification Facility, California)
 - Micro-filtration
 - Reverse Osmosis Membranes
 - Hydrogen peroxide and UV light,
 - Aquifer recharge by Injection to wells (travels up to six month to drinking water well)
- “ As waters supplies tighten, perhaps more communities will be asked *to put their faith in chemistry and accept recycled water into drinking water supply*”
- 2009. Additional water resources in Catalonia 180 hm³ desalinization plants (60+ 60+ 20), 40 hm³ aquifer recharge and water reuse

Acknowledgements

This work has been supported by:



EU project **EMCO** (INCO CT 2004-509188)
(Reduction of environmental risks, posed by Emerging Contaminants, through advanced treatment of municipal and industrial wastes)



EU project AquaTerra (GOCE-CT-505428)
Integrated modelling of the river-sediment-soil-groundwater system; Advanced tools for the management of catchment areas and river basins in the context of global change



Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología
Project CTM2004-06255-CO3-01