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**Murcia, Spain**

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## **PLENARY SESSION**

**Dra. MARIA TERESA FERREIRA, UNIVERSITY OF LISBON**

### **FISH AS BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS OF ECOLOGICAL STATUS, A PAN-EUROPEAN APPROACH**

This session will focus in an overall description and an assessment of the current situation of fish species and fish metrics as indicators of ecological status in Europe. A review about the building up process of these indicators in the last decade, and the comparability among different countries will be done. In addition, the results of the first two exercises of management, planning, and implementation in watersheds according to the Water Framework Directive will be presented and analyzed, and the main problems and pressures that still persist and how these affect fish communities, will be identified. Finally, the gaps still exist to complete a thorough assessment of ecological quality based on fish will be evaluated in all aquatic environments.