



“Eco-TIRAS”  
International  
Association of River  
Keepers

Международная  
ассоциация  
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**Speech of Ilya Trombitsky, Executive Director of Eco-TIRAS, at the Dniester River Treaty signature ceremony, Rome, November 29, 2012**

Excellencies,

The history of implementation of the Art. 9 of the Water Convention for transboundary Dniester River basin occupied 16 years of our life. We, the European ECO-Forum and the NGO community of the Dniester River basin, organised in ECOs association Eco-TIRAS on the basin principle, very much welcome the progress achieved and note that such event was totally impossible without permanent long-term and insistent pressure of the NGO community. We have to be sure that the phenomenon of political will, expressed today by our governments today, is not sporadic, and will be transformed to coordinated joint efforts to the treaty implementation.

For all participants of the MOP, and especially to EECCA region, I like to stress, that the Dniester treaty is a really good quality document, which could be used by others as an example of a transboundary river basin agreement to multiply it for other basins. We, the NGOs, like to thank the ministers of Moldova and Ukraine, their staff, water agencies, ministries of foreign affairs as well as other people who during long time supported this movement. We also thank the water friendly conventions – Aarhus and Ramsar – for their permanent attention to our joint river.

Especially I like to thank the UNECE and Water Convention Secretariat, such brilliant experts like Bo Libert (UNECE) who shuttled between sometime reluctant partners, Francesca, Sonja, as well as OSCE people in Vienna and in our countries – Raul Daussa, in Moldova – Finnish Matti Sidoroff and English – Kenneth Pickles, Tamara Kutonova, Hanna Plotnykova. And our brilliant lawyers - Sergey Vinogradov and Serhiy Vykhryst. For them this treaty also became an important step in their lives.

I like to thank the governments of Sweden, the Netherlands and of Finland as well as UNEP which supported these developments and helped to establish the functional working groups capable to start and realise the implementation. Full role provided for NGOs in this treaty is also unprecedented and reflects the real situation with public participation in the basin.

Thank you for attention.