Programme

Anniversary Event to Celebrate 20 years of the Helsinki Convention and Debate its Future

3 - 4 September, 2012, Helsinki, Finland

The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland are pleased to invite you to celebrate the 20 years of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes — also known as Helsinki Convention or Water Convention. The Anniversary Event will take place from 3 to 4 September 2012 at the premises of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Laivastokatu 22 A 1, 00160 Helsinki, Finland.

3 September

12.00 – 13.00 Registration and sandwiches

Session 13.00 – 14.30

Opening and setting the stage
Chair: Ms Hannele Pokka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

- Opening and welcoming
  Ville Niinistö, Minister of the Environment, Finland

- 20 years of water cooperation in the pan-European region: lessons for the forthcoming globalization of the UNECE Water Convention
  Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

- Conflict management and water-related disputes
  Pekka Haavisto, Member of the Parliament, Finland

- Pressures of global change on shared waters — implications for transboundary cooperation
  Fred Pearce, Environmental Consultant, New Scientist Magazine/The Guardian

14.30 – 15.00 Coffee and tea
Session 15.00 – 16.30

Water Convention — past, present and future
Chair: Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Director/EU Cooperation, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

- **Historical review: the role of Finland towards the Helsinki Rules and the New York and Helsinki conventions**
  Erkki J. Hollo, Professor emeritus of Environmental Law, University of Helsinki, Finland

- **Towards global entry into force and implementation: how to find synergies between the New York and the Helsinki water conventions**
  Jean-Pierre Thebault, Ambassador for the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

- **The role of transboundary water cooperation in the context of the water-food-energy nexus**
  Johan Kuylenstierna, Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden

- **Transboundary challenges in Central Asia**
  Saghit Ibatullin, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), Kazakhstan

- **General debate: Where should the Water Convention be in 20 years from now?**

Session 16.30 – 17.30

Panel discussion
Facilitator: Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna, Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden

20 years of active implementation of the Helsinki Convention: main achievements, lessons learned and future challenges and objectives

- Sibylle Vermont, *Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland*

- Lea Kauppi, *former Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (1997-2000) and current Chairperson of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, Finnish Environment Institute*


- Carel de Villeneuve, *former Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (2000-2003), Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands*

- Manuel Varela, *former Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (2003-2006), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain (retired)*

- Massimo Cozzone, *Vice-chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy*

Reception 17.30 - 19.00
At the premises of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Dinner 20.00 – 22.30
At Restaurant Sipuli (address Kanavaranta 7, 00160 Helsinki)
Hosted by Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
4 September

Session 9.30 – 12.00

Challenges and solutions
Chair: Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Director, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland

- Dispute prevention and dispute solving under the Water Convention
  Antti Belinskij, Member of the Legal Board under the Water Convention, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

- Fostering implementation of the Water Convention
  Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Water Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

- Future perspectives of the New York and Helsinki water conventions
  Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Senior Lecturer in International Law, Dundee University, UK

- Beyond the UNECE region: Expectations of new potential Parties
  Zeneemyadar Batbayar, Deputy Director of Water Authority-Government Implementing Agency of Mongolia, Mongolia

- Sharing waters with many countries: how the UNECE Water Convention supports bilateral agreements
  Marina Seliverstova, Director General, Federal Agency of Water Resources Russian Federation

- The challenges of multilateral cooperation: the case of the Danube River
  Philip Weller, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

- Concluding discussion: Messages for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties

12.00 – 13.00 Coffee and sandwiches