

AGENDA

International Workshop on Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southeastern Europe

**organized jointly by the:
Regional Cooperation Council
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**in cooperation with the
Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
International Sava River Basin Commission**

**within the framework of the
UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
18-20 May 2009**

DAY 1 – Monday, 18 May 2009

13:30–15:00 Opening session

Welcome address and opening speeches

- *Mr. Reuf Hadzibegic, Assistant Minister for Sector for Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

-*Mr. Hidajet Bišćević, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council*
Transboundary Water Cooperation in Southeastern Europe - A Regional Stability and Prosperity Process Component.

-*Mr. Patrice Robineau, Senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*
The role of UNECE in supporting transboundary water cooperation in Southeastern Europe.

- *Mr. Fritz Holzwarth, Water Director, German Ministry for the Environment, Natural Conservation and Nuclear Energy*
Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process: supporting the creation of conditions for action.

- *Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Sava Commission*
Sava Commission: Creating the conditions for action at the sub-regional level.

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-18:00 Session 1: Creating the Enabling environment - legal and institutional basis for cooperation

This session will focus on the legal and institutional aspects of transboundary water cooperation. It will illustrate the relevant provisions of the UNECE Water Convention and the EU WFD as a solid basis for transboundary water management, discuss gaps in the existing legal and institutional framework for transboundary cooperation and identify further needed action.

Facilitator: *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean*

15:30 Keynote presentation

- *Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary, UNECE Water Convention*
Advancing transboundary cooperation for the management of shared water bodies through the UNECE Water Convention.

15:50 Case study presentation

- *Ms. Jadranka Ivanova, Head of Department for EU affairs, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

The international water law and the EU *acquis communautaire* as instruments for advancing transboundary cooperation – Lessons learned and Challenges.

16:05 **Table dialogues** - *Groups of up to 10 people will discuss the framing questions set in the keynote presentation and will identify key challenges in creating the enabling environment for cooperation through the application of the UNECE Water Convention and the EU WFD. Each table will report key findings and recommendations made by the group.*

16:35 **Presentation of the outcome of the table dialogues - Discussion in plenary.**

19:30 Reception, Holiday Inn Hotel, “Casino hall”

DAY 2 – Tuesday, 19 May 2009

09:00-11:00 Session 2: Adapting management of transboundary basins to meet climate change challenges – Identifying fields for action

This session will discuss how the necessary collective action to adapt to climate change can be fostered through cooperation processes and transboundary water resources management and vice - versa. The discussion aims to feed the on-going preparation process of relevant pilot actions planned upon the initiative and in coordination with the World Bank as well as to identify possible future activities under the Water Convention.

Facilitator: *Mr. Ron Hoffer, Environment and Water Advisor, ECA Region, World Bank*

09:00 Keynote presentation

- *Mr. Ron Hoffer, Environment and Water Advisor, ECA Region, World Bank*
Mainstreaming adaptation in World Bank-financed investments in the water sector; a status report.

09.20 Case study – Sava River Basin

- *Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, Sava River Basin Commission*
Status of river basin planning and investments in navigation improvements in the Sava River Basin.

- *Mr. Janusz Kindler, World Bank Hydrology Expert Consultant*
Implications of climate change on Sava Basin hydrology

10:00 **Discussion in plenary.**

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:30 Session 3: Multipurpose management of water resources in shared basins of SEE

This session will focus on the water competing uses within a shared basin and the combination of different managerial responses required for achieving both sustainable development and preservation of natural values. Discussion will also aim to identify the implementable steps and mechanisms, within the framework of IWRM.

Facilitator: *Mr. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, GWP-Med*

11.30 Keynote presentation

- Mr. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, GWP-Med

Transboundary cooperation for balancing conflicting water uses in shared basins.

11.50 Case study presentation

- Mr. Mitja Bricelj, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Slovenian experience of multipurpose management of shared water bodies.

12.10 Discussion in plenary.

13:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-18:00 Session 4: Status of transboundary water in SEE – second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters under the UNECE Water Convention

This session will identify developments regarding the status of transboundary water resources since the first UNECE Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater (2007) in the shared sub-basins and aquifers of (respectively) in Southeastern Europe (see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.htm>).

After an introduction in plenary on the objectives and working arrangements of session 4, participants will be split in three working group (Black Sea, Adriatic Sea and Aegean Sea basins). Each of the parallel working sessions will start with a presentation on the different transboundary basins by a representative of one riparian country illustrating the basin characteristics, the main pressures and problems, the current status and trends including the transboundary impacts and the measures taken or needed. The participants will further break into sub-groups, one for each shared basin and aquifer, and work together to develop an accurate picture of all transboundary waters in SEE, both surface and groundwater. Data sheets partly filled already by UNECE for each basin will provide the background for the discussions. The information gathered during the discussion will be used for the preparation of the second assessment of transboundary waters under the UNECE Water Convention, currently being prepared upon request by the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007).

A coffee break will be made at 16:30.

14:30 Plenary keynote presentations

- Ms. Sonja Koepfel, UNECE Water Convention Secretariat

Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater – the Southeastern Europe Sub-Region.

- Ms. Nadia Alexeeva, secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
The assessment of Ramsar sites within the second Assessment of transboundary waters: rationale and objectives.

- Mr. Neno Kukuric, UNESCO - ISARM
Transboundary groundwaters within the second assessment: the case of the Dinaric Karst System.

15:00 **Parallel working groups**

20:00: *Dinner*

DAY 3 – Wednesday, 20 May 2009

09:00-11:00 Session 4: Status of transboundary water management in SEE – second assessment of transboundary waters under the UNECE Water Convention (parallel working groups continue)

11:00 – 11.30: *Coffee break*

11:30-13:30 Session 5: The way forward – facilitating action for the management of the transboundary basins in the SEE region. The role of the international community.
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11:30-12:10 Interventions

11:30 *Mr. Vladimir Mamaev, GEF Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP, Europe and the CIS Bratislava Regional Centre*

11:40 *Mr. Ron Hoffer, Environment and Water Advisor, ECA Region, World Bank*

12:10 Plenary session

Questions: What are the key issues in advancing cooperation for the management of transboundary basins in the SEE region? How and up to what level the involvement of the international community can facilitate action?

13:00 Summary of the workshop

Presented by the Rapporteur, Mr. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, GWP-Med

13:15 Concluding remarks

Mr. Hidajet Bišćević, RCC, Secretary General

13:30 Closing of the international workshop and lunch