



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes



SEMINAR ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS
IN THE UNECE REGION
Geneva, 16–17 June 2008

To be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Monday, 16 June at 11 a.m

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The Seminar on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region is organized under the auspices of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

The seminar will assess the state of the art, recent progress and the outcomes of transboundary projects on monitoring and assessment of transboundary surface and groundwaters, with the aim of exchanging experience among EU and non-EU countries.

The event will provide a forum for: (a) exchanging experience among EU countries with the implementation of monitoring programmes according to the EU Water Framework Directive; (b) sharing applicable lessons learned with non-EU countries; and (c) learning about experience, good practices and challenges in non-EU countries and considering possible ways forward.

The seminar will address the institutional, financial and technical aspects of monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters within the context of integrated water management, taking into account the approach promoted by the Water Convention's *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*.

Furthermore, the seminar is expected to discuss several challenging subjects identified by the first *Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*.

The Seminar is organized with the kind support of the Governments of Finland and of Germany.

MONDAY 16 JUNE

11:00- 13:00 and
15.00 – 15.30

Session 1: Introduction: the EU WFD and the Water Convention as a basis for monitoring and assessment in the UNECE region

Chairperson: Mr. Manuel Varela, Ministry of the Environment, Spain

Ms. Christina von Schweinichen, Acting-Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE, will open the meeting and introduce the background and objectives of the Seminar.

1. The UNECE Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment and the first Assessment of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE region: main results and lessons learned. *Ms. Lea Kauppi, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland.*
2. Monitoring and assessment according to the EU WFD and implications for transboundary waters. *Mr. Per Stålnacke, Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (Bioforsk), Norway.*
3. Challenges and opportunities to transfer EU experience in monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters to South Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. *Mr. John Chilton, British Geological Survey, United Kingdom.*
4. Monitoring and assessment of hazardous substances in surface water bodies, *Mr. Peter Roncak, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Slovakia.*
5. Monitoring and assessing transboundary basins in accordance with the EU WFD: the case of the Meuse River Basin. *Mr. Jean-Pierre Descy, Chairman of the Monitoring Working Group of the International Commission for the Protection of the Meuse, University of Namur, Belgium.*

15.30 – 18.00: Session 2: Experience with monitoring and assessing groundwaters and surface waters, their components and related ecosystems

Chairperson: Mr. Peter Roncak, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Slovakia

6. Georgia and EU Water Framework Directive: challenges and opportunities. *Ms Nino Sharashidze, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Georgia.*
7. Problems of drainage water monitoring in Central Asia. *Mr. Yusup Kamalov, Union for Defence of the Aral Sea and the Amudarya, Uzbekistan.*
8. Surface water bodies monitoring and assessment in Poland: implication for transboundary monitoring. *Mr. Przemyslaw Gruszecki, Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Inspection, Poland*
9. Monitoring changes in hydrological regime and water quality due to impact of tailing dams facilities. *Mr. Seyran Minosyan, Ministry of Nature Protection, Armenia.*
10. Lessons learnt using automatic monitoring stations in Moldova., *Mr. Gavril Gilca, State Hydrometeorological Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Moldova*

TUESDAY 17 JUNE

10.00-12.30 Session 3: Challenges and implementation of monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters - case studies

Chairperson: Ms. Lea Kauppi, Chairperson of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, Finland

11. Belarus experience with working groups on monitoring and assessment established under its transboundary waters agreements. *Ms. Natalya Siridovich, Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection, Belarus.*

12. Monitoring and assessment of waters shared by EU and non-EU countries: lessons-learned from the Trabant project and from the ecological assessment of the Vuoksi River. *Ms. Ansa Pilke, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland.*
13. Monitoring transboundary waters in the Russian Federation: current situation and proposals for improvement, the example of the Dniepr River Basin. *Ms. Ksenia Kalugina, Ved Ltd, Russian Federation.*
14. Monitoring and assessment of Hungarian-Slovakian transboundary groundwater bodies. *Mr. Juraj Michalko, State Geological Institute of Dionyz Stur, Slovakia.*
15. Main results and lessons learned from the Joint Danube Survey 2. *Mr. Igor Liska, Secretariat of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.*

12.30 – 13.00 Session 4: Conclusions

Chairpersons: Ms. Lea Kauppi and Mr. Peter Roncak

- Wrapping up of main outcome, conclusions and lessons learned.
- Discussion on the implications for the future work on monitoring and assessment under the Water Convention and its Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.
