

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
UNECE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES (WATER CONVENTION)**

10-12 November 2009, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair : Ms Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

Tuesday, 10 November

10 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.: Opening of the session

Including speeches by:

Mr. Willy Geiger, Deputy Director of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Mr. Marco Keiner, Director of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division

Representatives of the Parties to the Convention will report on the steps they have taken to implement relevant provisions of the Convention

12.30 – 1 p.m. Opening the Convention to countries outside the region

1.15 -2.45 p.m.: Side event: The work of European transboundary water commissions

3.00- 4.10 pm: Implementation and Compliance with the Convention

Mr. Attila Tanzi, Italy, Chairperson of the Legal Board: The draft Guide to Implementing the Convention

Discussion and adoption of the draft Guide by the Meeting

Discussion and decision on reviewing and promoting implementation and compliance

4.10 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.: Ecosystem services and payments for such services in integrated water resources management

4.30 – 5.30 p.m.: Water and climate adaptation in transboundary basins, including flood and drought risk management

Mr. Joost Buntsma, Chairperson of the Task Force on Water and Climate, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Netherlands: the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change and next steps

Discussion and adoption of the Guidance and debate on future work in this area

Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Co-Chairperson of the Task Force on Water and Climate, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety: Transboundary Flood Risk Management: the workshop held in April 2009 and future work

5.30 – 6 p.m.: European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

10 – 10.45 a.m., Water and industrial accidents

Mr. Peter Kovacs, Co-Chairperson of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary: The Safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities

Discussion on the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)

Discussion on the Protocol on Civil Liability

10.45 – 11 a.m. “Capacity for Water Cooperation” project

11.10 a.m. – 12.10 p.m.: Assessment of the status of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

Ms. Lea Kauppi, Chairperson of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, Director of the Finnish Environment Institute: the First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters

Mr. Michael Scoullios, GWP-Mediterranean: The results of the second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in South-Eastern Europe.

Discussion

12.10- 12.30 Strengthening capacity for data administration and exchange for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

12.30 – 1 p.m.: Proposed programme of pilot projects

1.15- 2.45 p.m. - Side event : The National Policy Dialogue process under the EU Water Initiative: learning from experience – shaping the future

3 – 3.30 p.m.: International Water Assessment Centre

3.30 – 4 p.m.: Technical assistance and implementation projects

Thursday, 12 November:

10.a.m.- 1 p.m. High-level segment on transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia (detailed programme below)

1.15 -2.45p.m. - Side event: the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

1.15-2.45 p.m.- Side event: the Petersberg II/ Athens Declaration Process

3 – 3.15 p.m.: Cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health

3.15 – 3.45 p.m.: Partners in cooperation

3.45 – 4.15 p.m.: Promotion of the Convention and the role of focal points

4.15 – 5 p.m.: Workplan for 2010–2012 and resources needed for its implementation

6 p.m. Closing

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE ROLE OF THE WATER CONVENTION

10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Thursday 12 November 2009, room VII, Palais des Nations

The segment will be divided in two sessions: the first one focusing on institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and the second on emerging issues for water management in Central Asia, such as links between water management and environmental aspects, and climate change.

The segment will allow exchange of views between high level representatives of the five Central Asian countries, other Parties to the Convention and a variety of actors engaged in transboundary water cooperation.

10.00-10.20 Opening

- Opening by Ms. Hannele Pokka, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, the Chairperson of the segment. (10 minutes)
- “The role of the UNECE Water Convention in Central Asia: achievements, challenges and future perspectives”, Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE (10 minutes)

10.20-11.45 Session 1: Institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation

The session will discuss options of institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and possibilities for future developments in Central Asia, building on the experience from Convention’s Parties in other parts of the UNECE region. Representatives from countries in Central Asia will be invited to share their views on how do they see the future transboundary water cooperation in that region and what would be the best model to make it work effectively.

(a) Key note address “Strengthening the regional water cooperation: the role of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea”. Mr. Sagit Ibatullin, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (10 minutes)

(b) Statements by panelists (5 minutes per statement)

- H.E. Mr. Saidi Yoqubzod, Minister of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan
- H.E. Mr. Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Shavkat Khamraev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzbekistan
- Mr. Laszlo Kothay, State Secretary for Water, Hungary

- Ms. Marina Seliverstova, Head, Federal Agency of the Water Resources, Russian Federation
- Mr. Bulat Yessekin, Advisor to the Minister of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan
- Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, Deputy Director General of the Water Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industries, Kyrgyzstan

(c) General discussion (interventions and questions to speakers from the floor)

11.45- 12.55 Session 2: Water management and environmental aspects: challenges and opportunities for transboundary water cooperation

The session will focus on emerging issues in Central Asia: links between water management and environmental aspects, and climate change, including, the challenges it poses and opportunities it offers for transboundary water cooperation.

(a) Statements by panellists (5 minutes per statement)

- H.E. Mr. Saidi Yoqubzod, Minister of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan
- Mr. Kakadurdy Ataliyev, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Water Economy, Turkmenistan–*to be confirmed*
- Mr. Dan Cărlan, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Romania
- Mr. Nariman Umarov, Chairman, State Committee for Nature Protection, Uzbekistan
- Mr. Mukhtar Tultabayev, Deputy Director, Department of Ecology, Policy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan
- Ms. Taisia Neronova, Deputy Chief of Department, State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Victor Dukhovny, Director, Scientific Information Center, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia
- Mr. Yusup Kamalov, Coordinator of the Energy and Climate Issue Group, European ECO-Forum; Chairman, Union for the Defence of the Aral Sea and Amu Darya

(b) General discussion (interventions and questions to speakers from the floor)

12.55-13.00 Closing

- Concluding remarks by the Chairperson (5 minutes)