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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY  
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
HELD FROM 20 TO 22 NOVEMBER 2006 IN BONN, GERMANY**

Addendum

**Part Three: Programme of work for 2007–2009<sup>1</sup>**

**PROGRAMME AREA I: PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION AND  
ADVISORY SERVICE**

Responsible body: The Bureau with the assistance of all other Parties and the secretariat.

Rationale: The focus of programme area I is the promotion of the Convention and its achievements in order to encourage new Parties to ratify it and Parties to ratify its amendment to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region. Activities in this programme area also aim to develop new partnerships and synergies.

The advisory service will provide legal and technical advice to countries to help them comply with the provisions of the Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering and formatting in this workplan are consistent with that of past Convention workplans.

## **1.1 PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will disseminate information on activities carried out under the Convention or related to it, raise the profile of the Convention and its protocols, and provide Parties and non-Parties with information to help them implement the Convention. Efforts will be devoted to promoting the Convention and its success in all possible contexts, including meetings and workshops organized under the workplan. Activities will also support compliance with Decision III/1 on the amendment to the Convention and promote the Convention's achievements outside the UNECE region.

Work to be undertaken: Activities will include:

(a) Presentations of the Convention and its achievements at high-level meetings in UNECE countries and at international meetings. In particular, special events will be organized at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, October 2007) focusing on the assessment report on the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region, the Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management and/or the Protocol on Civil Liability. The Convention and its achievements will also be promoted at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council meeting in 2007; at the International Conference for the fifteenth anniversary of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (spring 2007); at the fifth Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (November 2007), through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and its activities, including the Economic and Environmental Forum process which in 2007 comes under the chairmanship of Spain and includes a preparatory conference in Zaragoza (12–13 March 2007) and the Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague (21–23 May 2007); in the water segment of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2008; at the Expo Zaragoza 2008 on Water and Sustainable Development; at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Conference on Transboundary Groundwater Management in 2008, at the fifth World Water Forum in 2009; and during the annual World Water Week in Stockholm and meetings organized by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO);

(b) Development of a communication plan and relevant tools to raise the profile of the Convention (e.g. informative leaflets, website);

(c) Promotion of the Convention, its Protocols and its soft-law tools outside the UNECE region. Regional workshops will be organized in Latin America, Asia and North Africa on the usefulness of the Convention in those regions to implement the international principles of water law and support transboundary water cooperation; and

(d) Support to Parties' ratification of the amendment to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention for accession to countries outside the UNECE region, in particular by disseminating the results of the workshops organized outside the UNECE region.

Lead Party: For activities under (c) and (d), lead Party to be defined. The Legal Board will prepare the necessary background studies for the workshops.

The other activities will be implemented by the Bureau with the assistance of all other Parties and the secretariat.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with other United Nations regional commissions, UNESCO (for organization of regional workshops), UN-Water, INBO, the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), the Global Water Partnership (GWP, for promotion of the Convention in Latin America, Asia and North Africa and in particular GWP- Med for the organization of regional workshop in North Africa), the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (ICWC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF, for assessment of use of the Convention in East Africa and organization of regional workshop in Latin America).

**Resource requirements:**<sup>2</sup>

- Secretariat travel, production/printing of communication material for the Convention's promotion, other costs: US\$ 30,000.
- Organization of workshops to promote the Convention outside the UNECE region (including travel and accommodation for participants, preparation of background material and the final report, interpretation, translation, etc.): \$70,000 per workshop.

## 1.2 ADVISORY SERVICE

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in ratifying and implementing the Convention. Assistance will include legal and technical assistance. For example, assistance will be provided for drawing up, revising and/or adapting agreements on transboundary waters and for strengthening national and transboundary water institutions. The Meeting will provide guidance to joint bodies in the region to strengthen their capacity in integrated river basin management and water protection in line with article 9, paragraph 2, and other relevant articles of the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: With the assistance of the UNECE Regional Advisor for the Environment, the Bureau will make ad hoc arrangements – at the request of the Meeting of the Parties, its Working Groups and/or UNECE countries – following the terms of reference of the Advisory Service. To assist the Bureau, the Parties to the Convention will nominate experts to form a network to provide assistance on request to countries and joint bodies.

In the period 2007–2009, the Meeting of the Parties will help countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) to improve transboundary water cooperation by defining needs and bottle-necks in the region – with a special focus on Albania, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – and by raising awareness in the region and among donors on the steps needed to

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<sup>2</sup> The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions, either through the Convention's trust fund or in kind. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. The estimate will vary according to the further definition of the activities by the Meeting of the Parties. The resources requirements are not mentioned for activities for which the lead Party has already agreed to cover all related costs.

develop transboundary water cooperation. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties will provide assistance to Serbia to draw up a new bilateral agreement with Romania.<sup>3</sup> Work in the region will be done in cooperation with the Petersberg Process and Athens Declaration, including the organization of a roundtable in 2007.

In the period 2007–2009, the Meeting of the Parties will support the implementation of the Convention's provisions in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) through a number of projects (e.g. revision of the legal and institutional framework for cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester River, dam safety in Central Asia, environmental impact assessment in the Chu-Talas basin, and Ilis-Balkash basin shared by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and China). Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties will help Azerbaijan and Georgia to draw up a new bilateral agreement.

The Legal Board will provide legal assistance to Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in drawing up new agreements or adapting existing ones on transboundary waters in line with article 9, paragraph 1, as well as other relevant articles of the Convention.

Lead Parties: Sweden has expressed interest in work in SEE.

Finland supports the dam safety project in Central Asia and Norway the environmental impact assessment project on the Chu-Talas basin.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with the UNECE regional advisors, UNEP, UNESCO and its Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, OSCE and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Ramsar Convention<sup>4</sup>, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE), the EECCA RECs, the Petersberg Process and the Athens Declaration, and GWP.

**Resource requirements:**

- Advisory service activities will be carried out depending on the availability of donors, and funding needs will depend on the project proposal.

**PROGRAMME AREA II: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER  
AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS**

Responsible body: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with Switzerland as lead Party, assisted by the Legal Board and the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents established under the Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, with Germany and Hungary as lead countries.

Rationale: The focus of this programme area is on intersectoral activities to support the implementation of the Convention with regard to integrated management of transboundary water resources. Activities aim to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact and thereby prevent damage to the environment; promote the ecosystem approach in the framework of

<sup>3</sup> Romania proposed to start the negotiation on a bilateral agreement in 1996.

<sup>4</sup> Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

integrated water resources management; ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of water-related ecosystems; promote the concept of payments for ecosystem services; prevent damage by water, including floods and droughts; build and/or strengthen institutions responsible for the management of transboundary waters; facilitate the work of joint bodies; and promote access to information and public participation in decision-making.

Work under this programme area will include awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

Work under this programme area will in particular assist countries in EECCA and SEE and thereby contribute to the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy and the EU Water Initiative.

**Resource requirements:**

- Participation in the meetings of the Working Group: \$45,000.

## **2.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

### **2.1.1 STRATEGIC GUIDANCE ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES**

Work to be undertaken: The Meeting of the Parties will develop strategic guidance on integrated management of transboundary water resources. The guidance will take into account the results and recommendations reached under previous Convention's activities as well as material developed by other partners, will focus on EECCA and SEE, promote a step-by-step approach and reflect the experience in the implementation of the European Water Framework (EU) Water Framework Directive. In the development of the strategic guidance, the experience of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be taken into account; moreover, capacity building activities carried out under workplan element 2.2 will be used to develop and test the guidance.

Furthermore, the Legal Board will develop guidance on a legally sound interpretation of the provisions of the Convention whose misinterpretation hampers ratification (such as the polluter-pays principle).

Lead Party:<sup>5</sup> Switzerland, for strategic guidance.

Participating countries:<sup>6</sup> Czech Republic, Finland, Romania and others to be defined.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNDP, GWP, UNESCO and its Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, the RECs and others to be defined. The Legal Board will be involved in the legal issues.

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<sup>5</sup> The lead Party is the country responsible for the overall coordination of the activity. It usually provides fundamental substantial support to it but is not expected to cover all the activity costs.

<sup>6</sup> Activities under the Convention's workplan are open for participation to all Parties and non-Parties. Participating countries are indicated only to inform the Meeting of the Parties of expressions of interest from specific countries.

**Resource requirements:**

- Strategic guidance on integrated management of transboundary water resources (consultancy, participation of experts, translation and printing): \$46,000.
- Legal interpretation (consultancy, participation of experts, translation and printing): \$16,000.

**2.1.2 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PAYMENTS FOR SUCH SERVICES IN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Work to be undertaken: The Meeting of the Parties will support the implementation of the Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management through:

(a) The development of capacity-building and awareness-raising activities (Georgia expressed interest in the organization of a regional workshop for the Caucasus on the application of the Recommendations);

(b) The development/use of technical guidance on specific aspects of the Recommendations;

(c) The development of pilot projects for the implementation of the Recommendations in transboundary river basins in the region (Serbia expressed its interest in the development of a pilot project on the Kolubara River; Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova expressed interest in a pilot on the Dniester River; Kyrgyzstan also expressed its interest in a pilot project);

(d) The promotion of the Recommendations at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference and at the fifth Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE);

(e) The establishment of a network of experts on payments for ecosystem services.

The Parties at their fifth meeting will review the experience in the application of the Recommendations and decide to update, if need be, these Recommendations in light of the practice and lessons learned, technological advances, economic and social factors as well as changes in scientific knowledge and understanding.

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Participating countries: Azerbaijan, France, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and others to be defined.

Possible partners: The Ramsar Convention secretariat, the UNECE Timber Committee, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP (for using the Recommendations in the framework of their projects), UNEP, UNESCO and its category II centre on Eco-hydrology in Poland (for the implementation of pilot projects), MCPFE, the EECCA RECs (for the dissemination of information, the development of pilot projects and the organization of regional workshops), WWF and private-

sector organizations. Cooperation will also be sought with ongoing or planned international projects, such as Global Environment Facility-funded projects.

**Resource requirements:**

- Support to pilot projects preparation (consultancy, organization of meetings, other costs): \$50,000 per pilot project.
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities: \$50,000 per workshop.

**2.1.3 WATER AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS,  
INCLUDING FLOOD AND DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT**

Work to be undertaken:

(a) The Flood Task Force will be transformed into a Water and Climate Task Force, and will prepare a guidance on water and climate adaptation for presentation and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session. This work will be targeted to support cooperation and decision-making in transboundary basins on a range of relevant or emerging issues resulting from climate change, including issues not covered by the 2000 Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention. The work will address possible impacts of climate change on flood and drought occurrences, health-related aspects as well as practical ways to cope with the transboundary impacts through adaptation. The adaptation responses to be considered in the context of integrated water resource management include, inter alia, integrated management of surface and groundwater for flood and drought mitigation and response, including benefits of floods to increase water availability and to improve the ecological status of waters. Land use, regional and spatial planning and land-use management, as well as their role in reducing flood and drought risks and damage potential, in particular in the transboundary context, will also be considered. Appropriate use will be made of the analysis of some successful cases and/or ongoing projects on transboundary cooperation.

(b) The Task Force will support the transfer of the experience and the results of the European Network of Expertise on Flood Risk Management to non- EU countries. To this end, two workshops will be organised on flood forecasting and flood risk mapping. Furthermore, the Task Force on Water and Climate and the Legal Board will assist Parties and non-Parties in using the Model Provisions on Transboundary Flood Management. On the basis of legal developments in the region and experience gained in the use of the Model Provisions, the two bodies will further develop the provisions and their supporting commentary, as needed.

Lead Party/Organization: Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, in cooperation with Hungary and Greece (lead Party for the flood model provisions).

Participating countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and others to be defined.

Main partners: The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health for health-related aspects. Cooperation will be sought with the WMO Commission for Hydrology, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD), WHO, the EU, Directorate-General Research, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Ramsar Convention, GEF, the RECs, the Environment and Security Initiative and the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (ICWC).

**Resource requirements:**

- Preparation of guidance (support of Task Force experts, seminar to finalize guidance): \$80,000.
- Assistance to promote the use of the model provisions for transboundary flood management – to be defined.

#### **2.1.4 MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY GROUNDWATERS IN THE UNECE REGION**

Work to be undertaken: Under this programme area the Core Group on Groundwater will develop activities related to:

(a) Water and health issues, to support the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, in particular in relation to the use of groundwater as a source of drinking water;

(b) Groundwater aspects of the EU Water Framework Directive and Groundwater Directive, including the promotion outside the EU of the lessons learned under the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive related to groundwater (monitoring, protected areas, direct/indirect discharge to groundwaters) as well as progress under the currently developed EU Groundwater Directive. Specific capacity-building workshops could be organized in EECCA and SEE;

(c) Groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

These activities will be carried out in cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

Lead Party: Slovakia, through the International Water Assessment Centre.

Participating countries: Hungary Lithuania, Switzerland, Ukraine and others to be defined

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNESCO and in particular its International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), the Ramsar Convention, the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) and GWP (for the Roundtable on Transboundary Groundwaters in SEE).

**Resource requirements:**

- Workshop organization: \$50,000 (per workshop).

#### **2.1.5 EU WATER INITIATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES**

Work to be undertaken: Within the framework of the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative, the Meeting of the Parties will support the development and implementation of

integrated water resources management in EECCA countries at the national and transboundary levels. Work under this programme element will aim to develop activities related to integrated water resources management to improve the regulatory and administrative framework, priority setting and project identification, and development of capacity in the EECCA region through a dialogue that will involve, among others, public authorities and representatives of the civil society, thereby contributing to the development of road maps to the water-related Millennium Development Goals and integrated water resources management targets in the EECCA region. To this end, steering groups will be set up in the concerned EECCA countries and will include stakeholders of key importance in the development of integrated water resources management plans. The UNECE secretariat will facilitate the development of the National Policy Dialogues in these steering groups. The output of the National Policy Dialogues will be the definition and tiered implementation of policy packages addressing issues of importance for integrated water resources management. In the period 2007–2009, activities will focus on the establishment of National Policy Dialogues in two or three EECCA countries. The National Policy Dialogues will be presented at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”.

The Meeting of the Parties will also cooperate with the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative.

Lead Party: European Commission.

Participating countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine and others to be defined.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNDP, OECD, the EECCA RECs, GWP and others to be defined.

**Resource requirements:**

- Development of National Policy Dialogues (part-time United Nations staff member, country missions, local consultancy, organization of meetings, translation, interpretation, printing and other costs): \$138,000 per year.

## **2.1.6 WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

### **2.1.6.1 PROTOCOL ON CIVIL LIABILITY**

Work to be undertaken: The Meeting of the Parties will organize in 2007, jointly with the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, a workshop on Transboundary Waters, Transboundary Accidental Pollution, Liability – Challenges and Opportunities. The activity will aim to share information on the latest developments of the critical issues in context of transboundary environment/water pollution and on relevant issues of liability in the UNECE region. The workshop will also allow analyzing obstacles to the ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability and proposing future steps. The outcome will be presented at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade 10–12 October 2008). In preparation for the seminar, a background paper will be prepared in cooperation with the Legal Board analysing the historical pollution events, the evolution and comparison of the Protocol and other relevant civil liability instruments, highlighting difficulties and making preliminary recommendations.

Lead Party: Hungary, in cooperation with Greece and Switzerland.

Participating countries: Czech Republic, Romania and others to be defined.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with organizations from the industrial and insurance sectors, the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and REC-CEE.

**Resource requirements:**

- Organization of seminar and promotion of its results at the Sixth Ministerial Conference (consultancy, seminar's costs, preparation of material for the Sixth Ministerial Conference): \$80,000.

**2.1.6.2 JOINT AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

Work to be undertaken: Through the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, assistance will be provided to implement the activities set out in the joint programme (see ECE/MP.WAT/2006/7 – ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/9), including such issues as:

- (a) Provision of guidance and assistance to countries with economies in transition on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Hamburg seminar;
- (b) Drawing up guidelines and good practices for tailing dams;
- (c) Facilitation of the exchange of information on the functioning of alarm and notification systems at the national, regional and local levels established within the framework of the two Conventions and/or international river commissions (e.g. Rhine, Elbe and Danube) through joint consultations of representatives of points of contact designated under the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System and river alarm systems;
- (d) Provision of guidance for establishing cross-border contingency plans;
- (e) Promotion of the organization of response exercises, in particular in the transboundary context;
- (f) Drawing up guidelines and good practices for the navigation of ships on rivers;
- (g) Maintenance and updating of existing safety guidelines and good practices for the prevention of accidental transboundary water pollution and provision of guidance on their adaptation to the specific needs and circumstances in river basins;
- (h) Development of methodologies to identify hazardous activities that handle smaller amounts of substances than those specified in annex I to the Industrial Accidents Convention.

Lead Parties: Germany and Hungary.

Participating countries: Czech Republic, Georgia, the Netherlands, Romania and others to be defined.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNEP, the Basel Convention secretariat, the REC and organizations from the industrial and navigation sectors.

**Resource requirements:**<sup>7</sup>

- Support participation of experts in JEG meetings: \$15,000.
- Workshop on tailing dams and finalization of guidelines and good practices for tailing dams: \$65,000.
- Provision of guidance and assistance to countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Hamburg seminar: \$65,000.

## **2.2 CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

### **2.2.1 INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS IN EECCA**

Work to be undertaken: Within the framework of the UNECE “Capacity for Water Cooperation” (CWC) project, this programme element aims to strengthen the capacity of transboundary water management in EECCA. The objective is to create a framework which enables cross-fertilization and exchange of experience between river basins and countries regarding regulatory, institutional, methodological and other aspects of integrated management of transboundary waters and, at the same time, bring in valuable experience from other parts of the UNECE region. CWC also aims to establish a network of EECCA experts involved in transboundary water management who are used to cooperating and sharing knowledge. In the period 2007–2009, yearly CWC workshops will be organized on specific aspects of transboundary water management, such as the work of transboundary commissions, the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, management of transboundary floods or the development of river basin management plans.

Lead Parties: To be implemented by the secretariat.

Participating countries: All EECCA countries and countries with which they share waters.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with (UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, OSCE, REC-CEE, the EECCA RECs and others to be defined.

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<sup>7</sup> Costs to be shared with the Meeting of the Parties to the Industrial Accident Convention.

**Resource requirements:**

- Organization of thematic workshops (including travel and accommodation for participants and invited experts, preparation of background material and of final report, interpretation, translation, etc): \$65,000 per workshop.

**2.2.2 SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE WATER CONVENTION AND THE EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

Work to be undertaken: This programme element aims to introduce the concepts and principles of the EU Water Framework Directive into the water management of non-EU countries, particularly those on the fringe of the enlarged EU. The activities will particularly seek to:

- (a) Provide training on guidance documents developed in the framework of the EU Common Implementation Strategy;
- (b) Transfer early experience on ways of better integrating water management issues into other sectoral policies;
- (c) Disseminate the results of the EU pilot projects on transboundary water basins under the Common Implementation Strategy;
- (d) Promote joint implementation of the Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive, including through pilot projects; and;
- (e) Develop tools to deal with conflicting water uses (navigation/environment, hydropower/irrigation/fish migration, agriculture/environment).

Lead Parties: Italy for activities in SEE. Poland for activities at the north-eastern border of the EU.

Participating countries: Azerbaijan, Estonia, Finland, Romania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and others to be defined.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with joint bodies in the region, such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the International Sava River Basin Commission, ongoing and planned relevant Interreg projects, GWP-MED, REC-CEE and EECCA RECs, INBO and the Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters.

**Resource requirements:**

- To be defined on the basis of the agreed activities.

**2.2.3 THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS IN THE UNECE REGION**

Work to be undertaken: A programme committee led by Poland will be responsible for the preparations for the Conference, scheduled for 2007.

Lead Party: Poland in cooperation with Finland.

Participating countries: The Netherlands (depending on the programme, in particular for what concerns any climate change issue).

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNEP, WHO-Europe, the European Commission, joint bodies in the region and relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

**Resource requirements:**

- To be defined.

### **PROGRAMME AREA III: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

Responsible body: Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, with Finland as lead Party. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) will assist in the implementation of the programme area.

Rationale: The programme area on monitoring and assessment will help Parties bordering the same transboundary waters to establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impact; agree on pollution parameters and pollutants whose concentrations in transboundary waters will be regularly monitored; carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact; exchange reasonably available data on environmental conditions of transboundary waters, including monitoring data; inform each other about any critical situation that may have a transboundary impact; and make available to the public the results of water and effluent sampling, together with the results of the verification of compliance with water-quality objectives and permit conditions. Furthermore, within this programme area, the Meeting of the Parties will prepare periodic assessments of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes, which will allow to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention.

**Resource requirements:**

- Participation in the meetings of the Working Group: \$45,000.

#### **3.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES IN THE UNECE REGION**

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Finalization of the first assessment report on the status of transboundary waters for the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”. In particular, the Working Group will:

(i) Complete of the assessment for the EECCA region;

(ii) Prepare an assessment of all major transboundary rivers in SEE according to the agreed outline, through the completion of the data sheets as a first step. The compiled draft assessment will be finalized in a regional workshop;

(ii) Prepare an assessment of major transboundary river basins shared by EU countries according to the agreed outline, through the completion of data sheets or the submission of relevant material from reports under the EU Water Framework Directive;

(iii) Prepare an assessment of transboundary groundwaters for Central Asia, Caucasus and SEE according to the agreed outline through the completion of the groundwater questionnaire as a first step. The compiled draft assessments will be finalized in regional workshops;

(iv) Draft an executive summary of the assessment for transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters with a clear action-oriented political message. A special group with experts from the different subregions will be responsible for this task;

(v) Prepare a contribution to the European Environment Agency (EEA) Belgrade report on the state of the environment;

(b) Preparation of the workplan for the second assessment report to be published either in connection with the next Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” or with the sixth meeting of the Parties.

Lead Party/organization: Finland, Slovakia and the British Geological Survey (for the groundwater part).

Participating countries: All countries

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNESCO (for the organization of regional workshops on groundwater in SEE and Central Asia), EEA, ICWC, the Water Programme of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) of UNEP, and GWP.

**Resource requirements:**

- Consultant (covered by Finland).
- Expert meetings in SEE, Central Asia and Caucasus: \$45,000.
- Editing, translation and printing of the full report: \$30,000.

**3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF A METADATA DATABASE ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS OF THE UNECE REGION**

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Design of the metadata database structure, considering that the meta-database will in the long term serve all activities under the Convention and its protocols, not only the ones related to monitoring and assessment; and;

(b) Data collection, metadata database population and maintenance, including establishment of links to other sources of information.

Lead Party: The secretariat and Finland.<sup>8</sup>

Participating countries: All countries.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with EEA, joint bodies in the region, the EECCA RECs (through the GEF project for the establishment of a database and a website on river basin management) and others to be defined.

**Resource requirements:**

- Depending on the functionalities and the use definition, up to \$117,000 (12 man-months of programming plus database population).

### 3.3 TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Updating of the inventory of existing technical guidance, tools and examples of monitoring and assessment practices, including a short description of their contents and scope, as well as an expert judgment, if possible, to be published on the IWAC website;

(b) Preparation of specific guidelines on technical aspects of monitoring and assessment, as needed, in particular to support the implementation of the Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters. To complete this task, specific expert groups will be established.

Lead Party/organization: IWAC for the inventory; to be defined for the preparation of technical guidelines.

Participating countries: all countries.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNESCO, WMO and others to be defined.

**Resource requirements:**

- IWAC will cover the costs related to the updating of the inventory.
- Development of technical guidance (consultancy, expert group meetings, translation and printing): \$30,000.

### 3.4 PILOT PROGRAMMES ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

#### 3.4.1 PILOT PROGRAMMES ON TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Finalization of the recommendations report for the Latorica/Latoritsa-Uh/Uzh;

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<sup>8</sup> After the meeting, France agreed to take the leadership in the design phase of the metadata database.

(b) Implementation of the pilot projects recommendations into the monitoring programmes of the riparian countries, through evaluation meetings which will be held back to back with the meetings of the transboundary commissions or the meetings of relevant international projects;

(c) Support in the creation of joint transboundary commissions (in compliance with the Convention's requirements) responsible for the monitoring and assessment programmes;

(d) Support to UNECE countries in the implementation of the Convention through new pilot projects (initiation and support in the preparation of the projects which will be financed from other sources, e.g. EU sources, GEF and others), e.g. on the Sava River Basin;

(e) Dissemination of pilot projects' results through workshops organized in the framework of other international projects in transboundary river basins in the UNECE region.

Lead organization: IWAC.

Participating countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and others to be defined.

Other partners: Cooperation will be sought with the relevant joint bodies, including the Sava River Basin Commission, and with ongoing international projects, such as projects under the TACIS programme and UNDP, the EECCA RECs, GEF, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

**Resource requirements:**

- To be defined in cooperation with IWAC.

### **3.4.2 PILOT PROGRAMMES ON TRANSBOUNDARY GROUNDWATERS**

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Continuation of the ongoing pilots: extension of the methodology and results of the Aggtelek-Slovak Karst Groundwater Pilot to other groundwaters shared by Slovakia and Hungary; continuation of the Bug pilot programme; continuation of the pilot programme on transboundary groundwaters shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and, development of a new pilot on the Neterva Karst groundwater;

(b) Development and implementation of new pilot projects by partnering with ongoing international projects;

(c) Organization of multi-purpose workshops for transboundary waters in EECCA and SEE in order to:

- (i) Promote and build capacity regarding the Convention, the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters and the UNECE Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters;
- (ii) Share lessons learned from “old” pilot projects with potential new pilot project teams;
- (iii) Identify the problems and gaps in transboundary groundwater management in the aquifers concerned.

Lead organization: IWAC.

Participating countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and others to be defined.

Other partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNESCO and other partners of the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Programme (FAO and the International Association of Hydrogeologists), ICWC as well as with ongoing international projects in the region, including UNDP projects.

**Resource requirements:**

- Costs of groundwaters pilots to be defined in cooperation with IWAC.
- Participation of experts in the meetings of the Core Group on Groundwater: \$25,000.

### 3.4.3 PILOT PROGRAMMES ON TRANSBOUNDARY LAKES

Work to be undertaken: Implementation of a trilateral project (Estonia, Finland and the Russian Federation) on Lake Peipsi to test the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes; development and implementation of new pilot projects (e.g. on Jandar Lake shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan) by partnering with ongoing international projects.

Lead Party: Finland.

Participating countries: Azerbaijan, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, the Russian Federation and others to be defined.

Other partners: Cooperation will be sought with the Finnish-Russian Joint Commission and the Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission and with UNDP international projects.

**Resource requirements:**

- Costs covered by Finland (for the Lake Peipsi pilot).

### **3.5 CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS**

Work to be undertaken: Organization of workshops, training and other capacity-building activities to assist particularly EECCA and SEE countries to harmonize monitoring and assessment programmes and develop joint programmes via a step-wise approach.

The activities will focus on:

- (a) Exchanging experience between EU countries on joint monitoring and assessment programmes developed in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive; as well as on the promotion of the lessons learned in non-EU countries;
- (b) Supporting implementation of the UNECE Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters;
- (c) Developing biological monitoring;
- (d) Supporting the establishment of transboundary early warning and notification systems and contingency plans;
- (e) Encouraging and exchanging data exchange.

Lead Party: Finland, in cooperation with the secretariat.

Other partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNESCO, the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, and the Finnish project in Georgia.

<b>Resource requirements:</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$50,000 per workshop/training session.</li></ul> |
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### **3.6 ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH ON ISSUES RELATED TO TARGET-SETTING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

Work to be undertaken: Assistance to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to review and assess their progress towards the achievement of the targets established under article 6, paragraph 2 of the Protocol, and to prepare guidelines for harmonized reporting, in particular in relation to water management targets.

Lead Party: Switzerland, in the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Participating countries: All Parties to the Protocol.

Other partners: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. Cooperation will be sought with others to be defined.

**Resource requirements:**

Budgeted under the resource requirements of the programme of work for 2007–2009 under the Protocol on Water and Health.

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