



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/5

13 July 2001
Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Water Management

Third meeting,
The Hague (Netherlands), 17 and 19 September 2001
Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATERS
USED AS A SOURCE OF DRINKING-WATER SUPPLY
(Budapest, 8-10 November 2001)**

Submitted by the delegation of Hungary and
prepared with the assistance of the secretariat

Introduction

1. The international workshop on the protection of groundwaters used as a source of drinking-water supply will take place at the invitation of the Government of Hungary. Other Parties and international and national organizations have offered to help prepare this event. The Convention's Working Groups on Water Management, Monitoring and Assessment, and Water and Health will also be involved.

GE.01-

2. The International workshop is the second in a series of groundwater workshops. The first was held in Budapest on 7-9 October 1997 on "Groundwater depletion in basin regions: problems arising between the rivers Danube and Tisza" (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/5).
3. The tentative programme of the workshop is available on the Convention's home page at www.unece.org/env/water and can be downloaded by clicking on "Meetings" and "Meeting documents". Further information on the workshop is given below.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

4. The importance of groundwater as a source of drinking-water supply is well known. In a number of UNECE countries the percentage of groundwater in the overall drinking-water supply exceeds 75 per cent, and groundwater is often the only source of drinking-water supply. Countries with a high percentage of groundwater use include Albania, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.
5. The use of groundwater is subject to legal, socio-economic, institutional and scientific considerations. Therefore, the Parties to the Convention agreed at their second meeting (The Hague, Netherlands, 23-25 March 2000) to assist countries to develop a comprehensive groundwater protection policy that goes beyond water-production areas; preserves the water quality of unpolluted aquifers; promotes the integrated management of groundwater and surface water; and facilitates the development and use of techniques to alleviate contamination. The Parties will also develop additional specific measures to protect groundwaters against inputs of hazardous substances and overuse, and to reduce the likelihood of water-related diseases due to the consumption of unsafe drinking water, following the provisions of the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.
6. Hungary will inform the Parties at their third meeting about the outcome of the workshop and propose follow-up activities to be undertaken under the Convention or its Protocol.

II. WORKSHOP THEMES

7. The following three themes will promote the further development of policies, methodologies and techniques needed to improve the understanding of groundwater systems and the protection of these sources, both in national and in transboundary contexts:
 - (a) Legal, administrative and economic aspects of source protection (international agreements; national laws and regulations; responsibilities in transboundary, national and local contexts; the role of stakeholders; etc.);

(b) Enforcement and implementation mechanisms at transboundary, national and local levels;

(c) Technical implementation, scientific results, case studies.

8. The themes of the workshop are intended to define the scope of topics but are not prescriptive nor necessarily exhaustive. Authors have some leeway within these themes.

9. The three themes will be addressed in plenary and in working sessions on 8 and 9 November 2001. On 10 November 2001, a full-day guided field trip will take place to familiarize participants with the protection of groundwaters that are used as a source of drinking-water supply in western Hungary.

III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORKSHOP

A. Workshop organizers

10. The international workshop is convened by Hungary's Ministries of Transport and Water Management, of the Environment, and of Health.

11. The workshop is organized jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO), the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Convention at the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA), Lelystad, Netherlands, the German National Committee for the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO and the Operational Hydrology Programme of the World Meteorological Organization.

B. Programme Committee

12. The Programme Committee for the workshop is made up of: Mr. Gyula Holló, Chairperson (Hungary's Ministry of Transport and Water Management), Mr. Geo Arnold (IWAC-RIZA), Mr. Roger Aertgeerts (WHO/EURO), Mrs. Alice Aureli (UNESCO), Mr. Rainer Enderlein (UNECE), Ms. Eszter Havas-Szilágyi (Hungary's Ministry of Transport and Water Management), Mr. Karl Hofius (Germany's Federal Office for Hydrology), Mr. Milan Matushka (Slovakia's Ministry of the Environment).

C. Language

13. The working language will be English.

D. Workshop participants

14. Representatives of Governments and national authorities, joint bodies, non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions with a background in the legal, managerial and scientific aspects of groundwater management are encouraged to participate.

E. Workshop contributions

15. The Programme Committee will contact leading experts to prepare lectures for the workshop. Workshop participants are invited to address the workshop themes during plenary and working sessions and provide other participants with information notes and background material (approximately 50 copies).

F. Proceedings

16. The proceedings, including the conclusions and recommendations, will be published after the workshop. The conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to the Parties to the Convention for endorsement at their third meeting (Spain, spring 2003).

G. Preliminary registration

17. Those intending to participate in the workshop are requested to contact Ms. Buzás (see para. 21 below) as soon as possible. They will then be put on the mailing list for further announcements.

18. For technical reasons, participation in the excursion is limited to 30 persons.

H. Participation fee

19. The workshop is free of charge.

I. Venue, accommodation and boarding

20. The host country will inform the pre-registered participants about the venue of the workshop in Budapest, possible hotel accommodation and boarding at preferential rates.

J. Workshop secretariat

21. For further information on the workshop, participants may wish to contact:

Ms. Zsuzsa BUZÁS
Ministry of Transport and Water Management
Dob u. 75-81
H-1077 Budapest
Hungary
Tel.: (+36 1) 461 3576 and 351 7522
Fax: (+36 1) 461 3442
e-mail: zsuzsa.buzas@kovim.gov.hu

Ms. Eszter HAVAS-SZILÁGYI
Ministry of Transport and Water Management
Dob u. 75-81
H-1077 Budapest
Hungary
Tel.: (+36 1) 322 3629
Fax: (+36 1) 461 3436
e-mail: eszter.havas@kovim.gov.hu

Mr. Geo ARNOLD
International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)
P.O. Box 1700,
8200 AA Lelystad
Netherlands
Tel.: (+31 320) 298 435
Fax: (+31 329) 297 642
e-mail: g.arnold@riza.rws.minvenw.nl

Annex

**Registration form for the International Workshop on the protection of
groundwaters used as a source of drinking-water supply
(Budapest, 8-10 November 2001)**

Each participant should complete this form in duplicate and send one copy to each of the addresses below as soon as possible, but **no later than 15 September 2001**:

Mrs. Evelina Rioukhina

Environment and Human Settlements Division
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Tel: +41 22 917 1499
Fax: +41 22 907 0107
e-mail: evelina.rioukhina@unece.org

Mrs. Zsuzsa Buzás

Ministry of Transport and Water Management
Dob u. 75-81
H-1077 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +36 1 461 3576 and 351 7522
Fax: +36 1 461 3442
e-mail : zsuzsa.buzas@kovim.gov.hu

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐

Surname:

First Name:

Country or international organization which you will represent at the meeting:

Professional address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

Date and time of arrival in Budapest

Date and time of departure from Budapest

Would you like to participate in the excursion?

☐

yes

☐

no

Date:

Signature: