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

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Addendum

WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2006

The Parties to the Convention adopted their work plan for the period 2004-2006 on 28 November 2003. Activities under this work plan are open to Parties and non-Parties to the Convention. Countries and/or organizations listed under “Participating Parties and non-Parties” have stated their interest in joining the related activity. The list serves as an indication for the lead Party and does not exclude any other interested country/organization from participation.

PROGRAMME AREA I: PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS ACTIVITIES AND ADVISORY SERVICE

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 to develop new partnerships and synergies. Furthermore, the Advisory Service will provide legal and technical advice to countries to help them comply with the provisions of the Convention.

Responsible body: The Bureau.

1.1 Promotion 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 work plan.

Work to be undertaken: Activities will include presentations of the Convention at high-level meetings in UNECE countries and at international meetings: the development of a communication strategy, including tools to raise the profile of the Convention (e.g. through informative leaflets, CDs, web site); and the publication of a leaflet for the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (14-30 April 2004) in English, French and Russian, and, if possible, in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish. The commitment and action of focal points under the Convention will be increased, and a meeting of focal points under the Convention will be convened. The links with joint bodies will be strengthened.

Lead Party: None, to be implemented by the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat. The secretariat will be responsible for the periodical revision of the list of focal points.

Participating Parties: All Parties. Spain will provide assistance with the Spanish translation of the informative leaflet, Italy and Switzerland will publish it.

Main partner: International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN).

1.2 Advisory service

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist Parties to the Convention and non-Parties, at their request, to draw up new or adapt existing agreements on transboundary waters in line with article 9, paragraph 1, as well as other relevant articles of the Convention. Assistance will also be provided to draw up, revise and/or adapt national laws/regulations on water management. The Meeting will provide guidance to joint bodies in the region to strengthen their capability 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: The Bureau will, as input to the Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), the Partnership on Water for Sustainable

Development for the EECCA countries (see programme element 2.4) and other partnerships, 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.

Lead Party: None, to be implemented by the Bureau.

Participating Parties: All Parties. The Parties are invited to nominate experts in different areas and to send their names and contact details to the secretariat.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with the UNECE Regional Advisory Service and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

PROGRAMME AREA II: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

Responsible body: Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with Switzerland as lead Party, assisted by the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents established under the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), with Hungary and Switzerland as lead countries.

Rationale: The focus of programme area II is on inter-sectoral water management issues to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact. It aims to help the Parties in their endeavours to prevent damage to the environment; ensure the conservation and, where necessary, the restoration of water-related ecosystems; prevent damage by waters, including river regulation, drainage, floods, droughts and erosion; promote the ecosystem approach in water management; and foster water-demand management measures, including water-supply services and the rational use of water. The programme area also facilitates the work of joint bodies. It aims to provide guidance for the drawing-up, revision, adaptation and implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements on transboundary waters and provides advice so as to avoid inconsistencies with the Convention and its protocols and other UNECE environmental agreements. Moreover, it provides advice on public information and public participation in water management.

Work under this programme area will in particular assist countries in South-Eastern Europe, and in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) to implement the Convention, and in this way contribute to the EECCA Environment Strategy and to the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development.

Work accomplished: See document MP.WAT/2003/5, annex, programme area II.

2.1 Flood prevention and protection

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will review the experience in the application of the 2000 Guidelines on sustainable flood prevention and update, if need be, the Guidelines in the light of

the practice and lessons learned during the most recent flood events in various parts of the UNECE region.

Moreover, options to strengthen flood protection, prevention and mitigation strategies and their implementation, in particular in a transboundary context, will be explored, taking into account the role of joint bodies foreseen in article 9 of the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: An open-ended task force, with Germany as lead country, will prepare the Seminar on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation, to be hosted by Germany in Berlin on 21-22 June 2004. The need and the possibilities for updating and amending the Guidelines on sustainable flood prevention will be examined. In this context, a survey of provisions concerning transboundary river-basin cooperation in flood protection, prevention and mitigation in national legislation as well as in bilateral and multilateral agreements will be made. Options, including the possibility of drawing up a legal instrument under the Convention, to further develop and strengthen a common framework for flood protection, prevention and mitigation strategies will be explored with a view to presenting appropriate proposals to the Meeting of the Parties for discussion and possible adoption. Cooperation with the European Commission will be sought to ensure harmonization with the planned EU integrated strategy on flood prevention and protection and with the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

Lead Party: Germany.

Participating Parties and non-Parties: Azerbaijan, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland and the European Commission.

Main partners: The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). Cooperation will be sought with joint bodies, such as the International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine, Elbe, Oder, Danube, Meuse and Scheldt, as well as joint bodies established in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Cooperation will also be sought with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO).

2.2 Ecosystem approach in water management

2.2.1 Role of ecosystems as water suppliers

Objectives: For the first time, the Ministerial Declaration of the third World Water Forum officially recognized the essential role of ecosystems that naturally capture, filter, store and release water, such as rivers, forests, wetlands and soils (para. 24 of the Declaration). The Meeting of the Parties will review and disseminate relevant experience and best practices.

Work to be undertaken: An open-ended task force, with Switzerland as lead country, will prepare a seminar, hosted by Switzerland in 2004, on the role of ecosystems as water suppliers and develop proposals for follow-up activities by the Meeting of the Parties.

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Participating Parties: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Main partners: REC. Cooperation will be sought with the governing body of the Ramsar Convention, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and other relevant NGOs, and with countries outside the UNECE region, such as Japan.

2.2.2 Environmental services and financing for the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will review and disseminate experience of solidarity between upstream and downstream communities, specifically considering the practice of protecting and sustainably using ecosystems (forests and wetlands) by means of innovative economic tools such as payments for environmental services through successful public-private partnerships and public-public partnerships.

Work to be undertaken: An open-ended task force, with Switzerland as lead country will prepare a seminar, hosted by Switzerland in 2005, on financing the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems by environmental services and develop proposals for follow-up activities by the Meeting of the Parties.

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Participating Parties: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Main partners: IW:LEARN and regional environmental centres (RECs). Cooperation will be sought with UNEP, the World Economic Forum, the governing body of the Ramsar Convention, WWF, IUCN and others.

2.3 Implementation of the Water Framework Directive

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will serve as a platform for disseminating the work on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive carried out by EU working groups and expert advisory forums in order to facilitate cooperation in basins shared with non-EU countries.

Work to be undertaken: A group of experts will develop a plan of activities 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. This plan of activities will particularly seek to: (a) test and possibly adapt of the guidance documents developed in the framework of the EU Common Strategy in countries in transition; (b) transfer early experience on ways of better integrating water management issues into other sectoral policies from EU member States to countries in transition; and (c) disseminate the results of the EU pilot projects on transboundary water basins under the Common Implementation Strategy. In the first phase, two subregional workshops will be organized, one for North-Eastern Europe and the second for South-Eastern Europe, to facilitate cooperation and an exchange of experience and best practices in the Water Framework Directive's implementation

Lead Parties: Italy for the workshop in South-Eastern Europe, Poland and the European Commission for the workshop in North-Eastern Europe.

Participating Parties and non-Parties: Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovakia.

Main partners: REC and GWP.

2.4 Integrated management of transboundary waters in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to address the subregion's problems, and use water sustainably, manage demand and share water among countries, adopt the ecosystem approach in water management (including biodiversity and integration of land and water management), and prevent pollution and redress damaged ecosystems.

In particular, the Meeting of the Parties will provide guidance to joint bodies in the subregion to strengthen their capacity in integrated river basin management and water protection. Difficulties encountered in implementing the Convention arising from differences in administrative practices, in management and protection responsibilities or in water use rights in riparian countries will also be examined, weak points of management discovered, and guidance provided for jointly developing water resources management and setting priorities provided. The results of the activity will be widely disseminated to facilitate cooperation. Assistance will also be provided to comply with provisions of relevant conventions, protocols and other binding and non-binding instruments to make policy- and decision-making on integrated water resources management a matter of concern to both the authorities and the public. Guidance will be given to countries and joint bodies so that public participation can lead to an improvement in the quality and implementation of, and commitment to, decisions, increased accountability, increased transparency and increased public awareness of water management issues.

Work to be undertaken: Assistance will be provided to the 12 EECCA countries region: (a) to implement the EECCA Environment Strategy as well as the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development, related to transboundary waters, following, as appropriate, the secretariat's Action Programme (see ECE/MP.WAT/15) and the Partnership's programme document; and (b) to link work with other partnership arrangements, such as the Partnership on Water, Environment and Security in Central Asia. For example a series of workshops, each focusing on specific aspects of cooperation (e.g. legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks; joint monitoring and assessment, including exchange of information, information systems, early-warning and alarm systems; pollution prevention, control and reduction; allocation of water resources and sustainable use of water; river basin management plans and relation with the EU Water Framework Directive - integrated water resources management including the ecosystem approach, environmental objectives and public participation; relation and policy integration with regional seas; flood prevention and flood protection).

Lead Parties: Denmark and the Russian Federation (for overall coordination of the Partnership's component on integrated water resources management in 2003-2004). After this period, it is expected that new lead Parties will be designated by other countries that participate the Partnership's component on integrated water resources management.

Participating Parties and non-Parties: All 12 East European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries as well as Estonia, Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Main partners: European Commission, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNEP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO/EURO, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), GWP, REC, EECCA RECs and IW:LEARN. Cooperation will also be sought with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

2.5 Water and industrial accidents

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents will ensure the implementation of their joint programme on water and industrial accidents, further develop the recommendations contained therein, and provide advice to joint bodies and other relevant authorities, organizations and institutions to improve the safety and management of industrial installations so as to prevent transboundary accidental water pollution, taking into account the achievements of the joint bodies on the rivers Elbe, Danube and Rhine.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with ISDR, UNEP, WHO/EURO and the European Commission.

2.5.1 Water and industrial accidents: joint measures

Work to be undertaken: Through the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents, assistance will be provided to implement the short-term activities set out in the joint programme (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I) adopted by both governing bodies. The work plan for the joint ad hoc expert group (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex VI, decision 2000/5) has also been agreed upon by both governing bodies and includes such issues as: safety guidelines/best practices for the prevention of accidental water pollution, notification and alarm systems, cross-border contingency plans and the organization of joint response exercises and the drawing-up of safety guidelines for pipelines and tailing dams. The joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents will also establish the format for the reporting scheme to be used by Parties to report on the implementation of the long-term activities set out in the joint programme (see programme element 2.5.2) and will compile an assessment report for submission to the Parties at their fourth meeting in 2006.

Lead Parties: Hungary and Switzerland.

Participating Parties and non-Parties: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovakia.

Main partner: REC.

2.5.2 Water and industrial accidents: measures to be undertaken by each Party

Work to be undertaken: The long-term activities set out in the joint programme (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I) will be carried out by each of the Parties. These activities include the adaptation of national legal systems, the setting-up of administrative procedures and

the implementation of technical measures in industrial installations and in production practices. Parties with market economies will accomplish this task within a period of five years (by 2005) and Parties with economies in transition within a period of ten years (by 2010). Parties are expected to report to the respective governing bodies on the implementation of the long-term joint programme according to the reporting scheme established by the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents. The Parties with market economies will report on their achievements in 2005 for an assessment report to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties in 2006 (see programme element 2.5.1).

Lead Party: None, to be implemented by each Party.

Participating Parties: All Parties from countries with market economies for the review to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties in 2006.

2.6 Management of transboundary waters in the UNECE region

Objective: The Meeting of the Parties will start the preparation for the third International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe to be held in Poland in 2007.

Work accomplished: Conference on Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe, Mrzezyno (Poland), 22-25 September 1997 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/4), second International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe, Miedzyzdroje (Poland), 21-24 April 2002 (ECE/MP.WAT/8).

Work to be undertaken: From 2005 onwards, a programme committee led by Poland will start with the preparations for the Conference, scheduled for 2007. The lead country will inform the Parties at their meeting in 2006 about these preparations.

Lead Party: Poland in cooperation with Finland.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNEP, WHO/EURO, the European Commission and relevant NGOs.

2.7 Interim implementation of the Protocol on Civil Liability

Objective: The Meeting of the Parties in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) will promote the early entry into force of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group will assess the progress made by Parties to either of the Conventions to ratify the Protocol and report at a joint special session of the Parties to the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions, to take place preferably in 2006. Experts designated by the governing body of the Industrial Accidents Convention are invited to participate in the activities of the Working Group. At the request of Parties, the Working Group will also provide them with further information on the provisions and guidance for the implementation of the Protocol.

Lead Party: Greece.

Participating Parties: Hungary and Switzerland.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNEP, the governing body of the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), REC and relevant NGOs.

2.8 Review of achievements, policies and strategies regarding the protection and use of transboundary waters

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will regularly review policies for, and methodological approaches to, the protection and use of transboundary waters, and exchange information on steps taken by the Parties to implement the Convention. This will be part of its efforts to follow closely recent developments in the protection and rational use of inland waters, both nationally and internationally in the UNECE region, and facilitate the setting of policies and strategies. This review will also facilitate the selection of priorities for policy discussion at its meetings and form a basis for identifying areas of specific cooperation.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare a draft report on achievements under Agenda 21, Rio+5 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the two thematic areas of water and sanitation (and contribute to the relevant sections in the report on the thematic area of human settlements) as input to the UNECE Regional Implementation Forum in January 2004, the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, meetings under the Environment Strategy for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as relevant meetings under the EU Water Initiative. The secretariat will also update the compilation of agreements on transboundary waters in the UNECE region and the review of the activities of joint bodies on the basis of country reports, workshop contributions and other communications from countries.

Lead Party: None, to be implemented by the secretariat with inputs from Parties and non-Parties.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Convention), the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements, UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO/EURO, OECD, as well as relevant NGOs.

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) at the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment will assist in the implementation of the programme area.

Rationale: Programme area III 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.

Work accomplished: See document MP.WAT/2003/5, annex, programme area III.

3.1 Strategies for monitoring and assessing transboundary waters – strategic and technical guidance

Objectives: Guidelines, studies and reports on monitoring and assessing transboundary waters will be drawn up or revised. They will provide a framework for problem identification, specification of information needs, the use of applicable tools and the setting-up of monitoring and assessment systems for transboundary waters. Guidance will also be provided, as appropriate, on issues related to human health and safety. Guidance will include recommendations to Governments and regional/local authorities and/or institutions of riparian countries.

The Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters (MP.WAT/2000/9), the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers (MP.WAT/2000/10), and the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes (MP.WAT/2003/10), already developed by the Working Group will provide a basis for this activity.

The revised guidance documents will separate the strategic and technical aspects of monitoring, which were discussed and presented together in the previous monitoring guidelines, as the experience gained with the pilot projects highlighted the need to develop an overall monitoring and assessment strategy for transboundary waters as well as the need for practical examples.

Work to be undertaken: Draft strategic guidelines for the monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (rivers, groundwaters, lakes) will be prepared to be adopted in 2006 by the Meeting of the Parties. The strategic guidelines should allow a step-by-step approach, take into account the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, put more emphasis on

institutional arrangements, have an integrated basin approach embracing rivers, lakes, groundwaters, transitional and coastal waters, and cover extreme events and climate change effects, as well as human health requirements. Due account should be taken of the rivers' pilot projects evaluation (MP.WAT/2003/11) and of the experience with the implementation of the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers and Groundwaters (MP.WAT/2003/9).

Moreover, an inventory will be drawn up of existing technical guidance, tools and examples of monitoring and assessment practices, developed within other frameworks (e.g. United Nations organizations, EU Water Framework Directive), including a short description of the contents and scope, as well as an expert judgement, if possible, to be published on the IWAC web site.

Lead Party: Finland.

Participating Parties: Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Main partners: The World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Groundwater Quality Assessment and Protection (British Geological Survey), REC, EECCA RECs and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Cooperation will also be sought with UNEP, the Global Water Partnership, the European Environment Agency (EEA), WHO and WMO.

3.2 Pilot programmes on monitoring and assessment

Objectives: Through pilot programmes, the Meeting of the Parties will provide assistance to countries to implement the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Waters in a number of catchment areas, in order to illustrate the application of the Guidelines and to make possible adjustments/improvements to them. The implementation of the Guidelines through the pilot programmes will be supported by an advisory service, training and workshops (if necessary). As far as possible, the implementation will also cover issues related to human health and safety, as stipulated in the Protocol on Water and Health.

Main partners: Donor countries (Parties and non-Parties) and donor organizations/institutions; joint bodies set up under transboundary water agreements in Europe.

3.2.1 Implementation of the projects on transboundary rivers and groundwaters

Work to be undertaken: As the work programme for the rivers' pilot projects, which started in 1997, completed the analysis of monitoring and assessment needs and the development of recommendations (see MP.WAT/2003/5 and 11), support will be provided to the implementation phase of the rivers' pilot projects.

The Core Group on Pilot Projects will advise and review the implementation of the pilot projects' recommendations, as part of the national monitoring programmes, provide a liaison mechanism between the pilot projects, and record lessons learned and experience.

The Working Group will help ensure political support to the projects in order to guarantee the necessary funding. To this end, the Working Group will organize evaluation meetings with the authorities of the countries where the pilot projects have taken place to discuss the

recommendations and the measures needed for their implementation. Furthermore, a new pilot project on the River Sava (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovenia) will be initiated and developed with support from ongoing activities in the region.

As regard the pilot projects on groundwaters, the Core Group on Groundwaters will be responsible for the overall supervision and project management of the implementation of the Guidelines on Groundwaters, including the development of preparatory studies and working programmes, the initiation of new pilot projects, and participation in the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management Programme.

Lead Party: Slovakia. IWAC will have a coordinating role.

Participating Parties: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine.

Other partners: Cooperation will be sought with the relevant joint bodies, the European Union's Tacis programme as well as with the partners involved in the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Programme (UNESCO, FAO and the International Association of Hydrogeologists).

3.2.2 Pilot programme on international lakes

Work to be undertaken: Implementation of two pilot projects to test the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes, one focusing on Lake Peipsi (Estonia-Russian Federation) and the other on Lake Pyhäjärvi (Finland-Russian Federation). Preliminary preparations for the two coordinated pilot projects have already been made. Implementation will start with an inception meeting in late 2003, and the monitoring activities will be carried out during 2004-2005. The results will be published in late 2005.

Lead Party: Finland.

Participating Parties: Estonia, Finland and the Russian Federation.

Other partners: Finnish-Russian Joint Commission, Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission.

3.3 Assessment and reporting

Work to be undertaken: Preparation of assessments of European transboundary water bodies (rivers, groundwaters and lakes) as a contribution to the fourth assessment report of the state of the environment for the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in 2007 and to the second World Water Development Report.

A project plan will be prepared together with the European Environment Agency to define the contribution of the Working Group. IWAC will draw up the modalities for contributing to the World Water Development Report.

The work already accomplished by the Working Group will be a basis for this activity: the report "10 Transboundary Rivers in Europe – Assessment Practices and Environmental Status", the

different reports of the river pilot projects, the groundwaters inventory, the “Background paper for the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes - General properties and monitoring practices of selected transboundary/international lakes” and the Lake Peipsi case study in the first World Water Development Report.

Lead Party: Finland.

Participating Parties: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine. IWAC will coordinate the contribution to the World Water Development Report.

Main partners: REC and EECCA RECs. Cooperation will be sought with joint bodies, EEA, the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and other entities that are responsible for the preparation of the fourth assessment report of the state of the environment for the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, as well as with the World Water Assessment Programme.

PROGRAMME AREA IV: WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH

Responsible body: Working Group on Water and Health, with Hungary as lead Party.

Rationale: The focus of programme area IV is on the interim implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health pending its entry into force. The activities will promote sustainable water supply and management in cities and rural areas, the rehabilitation of defective water-supply and sewage systems, and the minimization of the adverse impact of human activities (e.g. waste-water discharges, water resources development projects) on human health and safety. The programme area also aims at reducing health problems and diseases due to poor water quality. Soft-law instruments and methodologies will be developed. Human resources development and institutional capacity-building, for example through workshops, training courses and pilot programmes or projects, are also foreseen. Following the outcome of the second meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol (Geneva, 2-4 July 2003), the Working Group, in the further preparatory process for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, will update the work-plan elements included in this programme area.

Main partners: UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, WHO/EURO, UNEP, UNDP, European Commission, OECD, European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) and relevant NGOs.

Work accomplished: See document MP.WAT/AC.2/2003/3 - EUR/03/5041120/3 describing the achievements in the interim implementation of the Protocol.

4.1 Protocol on Water and Health: interim implementation

Objectives: The Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will implement relevant provisions of the Protocol pending its entry into force. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Convention, will assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the programme element.

4.1.1 Surveillance, early-warning and notification systems

Work to be undertaken: Based on the outcome of the discussion of the Signatories at their first and second meetings, the Working Group on Water and Health will draw up draft guidelines on good practices in national and international surveillance, early-warning and notification systems for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting. The Working Group will also prepare training programmes for the public health sector to support the establishment of surveillance, early-warning and notification systems.

Lead country: Hungary.

4.1.2 Facilitating access to sources of finance, through improving the formulation of programmes and projects

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group on Water and Health will examine ways and means of accessing and disseminating information on sources of finance, e.g. inventory of information sources under which donor organizations publish projects of relevance to the Protocol; liaison with the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP Task Force, serviced by OECD) and the European Commission as regards relevant tasks under the Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development (i.e. the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative) related both to urban water supply and sanitation as well as to integrated water resources management.

Lead country: None. To be implemented by the joint secretariat with the assistance of an ad hoc expert group.

4.1.3 Workshops on sustainable water management and health

Work to be undertaken: Preparation and development of international workshops and other events, including workshops to be held on the occasion of ECWATECH-2004, ECWATECH-2006 and the 2005 Conference CLEAN WATER - RUSSIA, and preparation of follow-up activities for consideration by the Bureau.

Lead country: Russian Federation in cooperation with the joint secretariat and IWAC.

4.1.4 Conference on health risks in enclosed recreational water environments

Objectives: Investigation of health risks in enclosed recreational water environments and the options for their management.

Work to be undertaken: Preparation of the Conference to be held on 11-12 March 2005 in Hungary. The Conference will examine the health risks of different enclosed recreational water facilities, the regulations and control practices used in different countries and the best ways of managing these risks without interfering with the requirements of the free market but with due consideration to the precautionary principle and health safety requirements.

Lead country: Hungary.

4.2 Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Objectives: The Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will prepare the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

4.2.1 Strategy and framework for compliance with the Protocol on Water and Health

Objectives: Guidance will be provided to the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health to draw up multilateral arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance, which should allow for appropriate public involvement.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group will prepare, with the assistance of the Legal Board, a draft compliance review mechanism under the Protocol for consideration at a possible consultation among the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, scheduled to take place once the Protocol has entered into force and for submission to the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health for adoption at their first meeting.

Lead Party: Italy.

Participating Parties and non-Parties: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Hungary and Switzerland.

Main partner: REC.

4.2.2 Arrangements for the preparation of meeting documents on reporting

Work to be undertaken: Article 16, paragraph 3 (b), of the Protocol requests the Parties to evaluate progress in implementing the Protocol on the basis of information provided by the Parties in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties. Such guidelines shall avoid duplication of effort in reporting requirements. The Working Group on Water and Health will draw up a draft guidance document on reporting following the relevant provisions of the Protocol, particularly articles 6 and 7.

Lead country: United Kingdom.

4.2.3 Arrangements for the preparation of other meeting documents

Work to be undertaken: On the basis of drafts to be prepared by the joint secretariat, the Working Group on Water and Health will finalize the following documents for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting: (a) draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol; (b) draft guidance document on modalities for the participation of competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in all meetings and other activities pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of the Protocol (art. 16, para. 3 (f)); (c) draft guidance document on the priorities under the Protocol; and (d) a draft declaration of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Other meeting documents will be drawn up, if need be.

Lead country: None. To be implemented by the joint secretariat with the assistance of the Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health (Hungary) and of the Legal Board.