

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

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General Secretary



Internationale
Kommission zum
Schutz des Rheins

Commission
Internationale
pour la Protection
du Rhin

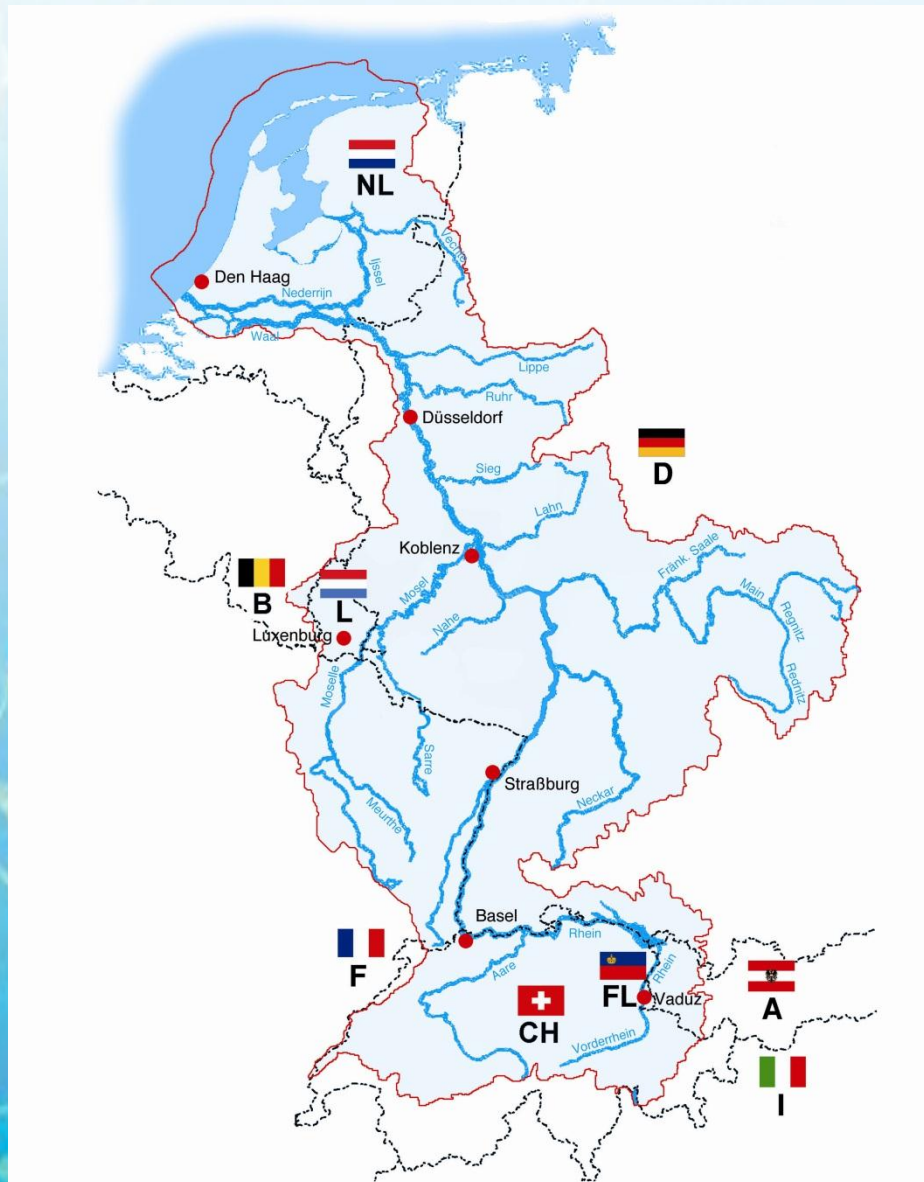
Internationale
Commissie ter
Bescherming
van de Rijn

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Rhine

The Rhine, a European river



The Rhine catchment



**3rd biggest
European river**

**9 countries,
58 million
Inhabitants**

**Drinking water
supply for 30
million people**

Functions of the Rhine



The ideal river for ...

... nature protection

... agriculture

... drainage

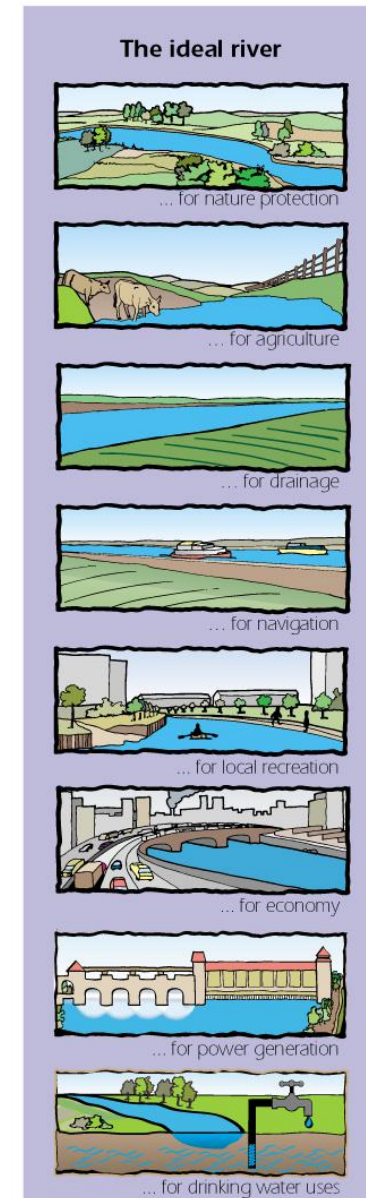
... shipping

... tourism

... economic activities

... power production

... drinking water production



Changes over the centuries



1838



1872



1980



Cooperation in the ICPR



▶ **ICPR**

Established 1950, amended in 1963 and 1999

▶ **Members**

Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxemburg,
Netherlands, European Union

Cooperation with Austria, Liechtenstein,
Belgium (region Wallonia)

▶ **Observers**

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO's)

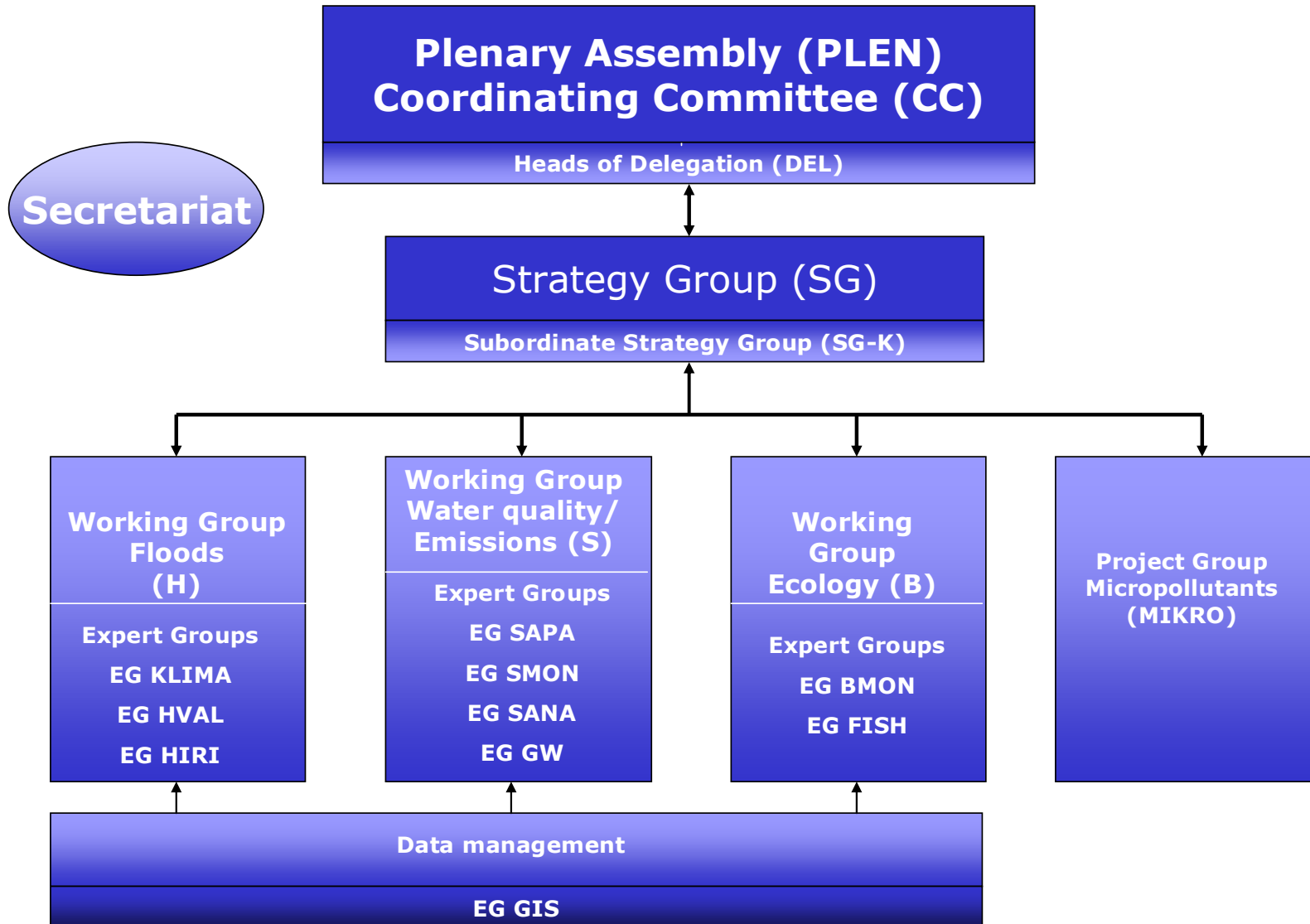
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)

Key elements of the cooperation



- **De-centralised organization**
- **National delegations**
 - political mandate
 - technical know how
 - funds (1.200.000 €/a)
- **Political Framework, no sanctions**
- **All agreements by consensus. Measures as recommendations to countries**
- **Obligation to report on implementation of measures**
- **Legal framework provided by EU Directives (Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive)**
- **Small neutral Secretariat**

Organisation of the ICPR



Landmarks



- **1950 - Foundation**
- **1963 - Treaty of Berne**
- **1986 - Accident at Sandoz**
- **1987 - Rhine Action Program**
- **1993 and 1995 – Flooding**
- **1999 - New Convention - entry into force 1 Jan. 2003**
- **2000 - Programme Rhine 2020**
- **2000 - EU Water Framework Directive**
- **2007 - EU Floods Directive**

Challenges



First Phase (50ties and 60ties twentieth-century)

- **Building trust and mutual understanding**
- **Convincing society of the danger of continuous increasing water pollution**

Turning Point: Sandoz Accident

- **from short term detailed technical discussion to long term ambitious goals**
- **Integration of all relevant policy fields**

For the future

- **How correct the impact of environmental mismanagement of the past**
- **How to take account of uncertainties regarding the socioeconomic evolution and the impact of climate change**

Lessons Learned



Both the Sandoz fire in 1986 and the floods of 1993 and 1995 were triggers for fundamental changes in policy

- **always try to find a positive approach, even when catastrophic events have occurred**
- **start with building common denominator, not with points of disagreements**

Cooperation



- **Cooperation in transboundary waters at catchment level is an absolute requirement for IWRM**
- **Any Cooperation needs a legal framework in addition to a strong political commitment**
- **The UN-ECE Water Convention can support the setting up such cooperation**
- **Cooperation at international level to exchange experiences and knowledge would add to this**

Thank you for your attention!



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