



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes

# Draft analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Sonja Koeppel  
UNECE Water Convention secretariat

# Introduction

- Some Parties raised the need for reporting during the negotiations of the Implementation Committee;
- 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties (2012) mandated the WGIWRM to carry out an analysis on the needs for reporting.
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group (September 2013) agreed to send a questionnaire to focal points;
- 47 completed questionnaires in total were submitted, 30 of 39 Parties responded;



## Support to the introduction of reporting

- **16 Parties strongly supported** the introduction of reporting;
- **5 Parties were uncertain...**
- **4 Parties responded negatively;**
- Some non- Parties felt that **reporting would help** to identify gaps in their transboundary water cooperation;



# Value of the reporting

- **>30 respondents** considered reporting as strengthening effectiveness of the Convention by:
  - Stimulating concrete measures to address implementation gaps,
  - Strengthening understanding of Convention's provisions
  - Contributing to exchange of information and experience,
  - Enhancing cooperation in specific transboundary basins.
- **5 Parties** responded negatively to two or more sub-questions, **3 Parties** did not have a clear answer yet;



# Relation with other reporting requirements and formats

- **16 countries considered** that reporting requirements adequately reflect the implementation of the Convention;
- **16 respondents considered** that the existing reporting requirements do not appropriately reflect the implementation of all obligations under the Convention;
- **11 respondents felt** that the reporting mechanisms only reflect the Convention's provisions to a limited extent;
- EU member States stressed need for synergies with EU reporting.



# Workload implications for the countries and the secretariat

Potential additional administrative burden?

Extra burden on the Convention's secretariat?

Ultimate value and usefulness of the reports?



# Reducing the burden by careful design of the reporting system

42

- **respondents agreed**
- that a carefully designed reporting system might ease the burden on countries and the secretariat

3

- **Parties considered that**
- a review of the reporting system would be useful after the pilot phase, based on lessons learned

Most

- **Harmonization**
- of reporting - a pre-requisite for a successful reporting mechanism



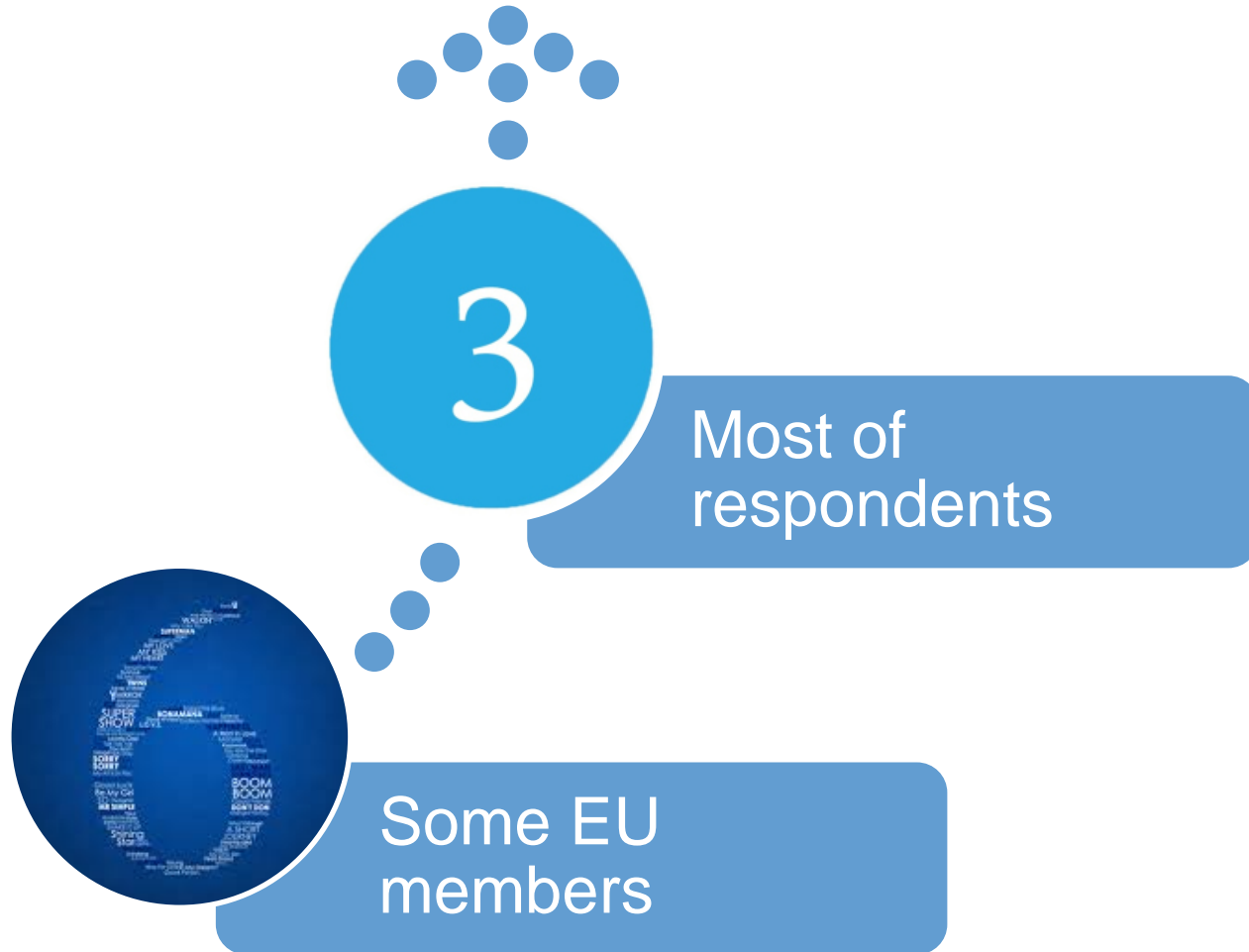
# Possible modalities of the reporting mechanism

- Majority supports issues-based reporting;
- Include good practices
- Concise, web-based reporting mechanism, with indicators and access to information;
- Periodic review of the reporting system;
- Other examples of reporting mechanisms;
- Role of the Implementation Committee: review and make recommendations
- Role of the Secretariat: coordinate and organize collecting of the reports, assist the Implementation Committee and disseminate the results.





# Frequency of reporting



# Conclusions

- The **majority** of the respondents **supported** the introduction of reporting
- General opinion of respondents - reporting would contribute to **strengthening** the **effectiveness** of Water Convention;
- Need to **avoid duplication** and prevent placing an extra burden on government officials;
- The allocation of additional human and financial resources;

