

THE ALBUFEIRA CONVENTION: COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

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Historical antecedents of coordination Spain & Portugal



- **1864**, Treaty on boundaries.
- **1927**, Convention to regulate the hydro-electric development of the international section of the Duero, revised in 1964.
- **1968**, Extension to others rivers: Miño, Limia, Tagus, Guadiana and Chança and their tributaries.
- **1998**, Albufeira Convention on the co-operation for the protection and the sustainable use of the waters of the Portuguese-Spanish river basins, Miño, Limia, Duero, Tagus and Guadiana.
- **2008**, Protocol amending the Albufeira Convention (flow regime)



What is the Albufeira Convention?



The Albufeira Convention was signed in 1998 to improve cooperation between Governments of Portugal and Spain:

- encouraging sustainable use of shared water courses
- maintaining and improving ecological status of shared water bodies.





Albufeira Convention:



Principles

Legal framework for cooperation and coordination

- Environmental global protection of surface water and groundwater bodies and related ecosystems
- To guarantee sustainable water use and mitigate effects of exceptional situations:
 - floods,
 - droughts
 - water scarcity.
- **Cooperation** based on three principal elements:
 - Active, regular and systematic exchange of information and consultation
 - To harmonise technical, administrative and legal measures
 - To define a flow regime in international rivers
- **Coordination of water management plans and programme of measures (WFD)**
 - ✓ Common environmental objectives
 - ✓ Coordination of works & Programme of measures





Outcomes of the of the 2nd Conference of the Parties (2008)

The Albufeira Convention was modified. Main outcomes :

- ✓ Endorsement of a new Protocol : innovative flow regimen (including quarterly and weekly flow to the annual flow).
- ✓ Establishment of Common Permanent Technical Secretariat.
- ✓ Announced establishment of a new Website for Albufeira Agreement (www.cadc-albufeira.eu)
- ✓ Endorsement of a Protocol for Action to apply Strategic Environmental Assessment with cross border effects.





New flow regime: features

- Establishment of specific flow regimen for each international river basin that is monitored, both in Spain and Portugal.
- Based in geographical, hydrological, climatologic and other natural elements. Defined exceptional conditions when necessary.
- Enable sustainable use of water resources, guaranting the future and current water demands.
- Warranty a good ecological and chemical status in water bodies.





Working group of hydro-meteorological issues and information exchange

- Exchange of hydro-meteorological data.
- Development of Joint Annual Reports.
- Harmonization of flow regimen data
- Flood protocol in international river basin districts
- Drought Indicators
- Harmonization of exchange of Information (content and format)
- EU Compliance Obligations





Future Prospects in the Albufeira Convention (II)

Working group of Water Planning

- Coordination of transboundary water bodies delimitation
- Harmonization of methodologies to characterize & assess state water bodies.
- Establishment of common environmental objectives in transboundary water bodies
- Coordination of programmes of measures in Riber Bassin Management Plans (RBMPs)
- Coordination of information, consultation and involvement of the public.
- Definition of flow regime in Portuguese flow control station (Pomarão - Portuguese Guadiana)
- Harmonization of navigation procedures in international RBD (Miño and Guadiana)



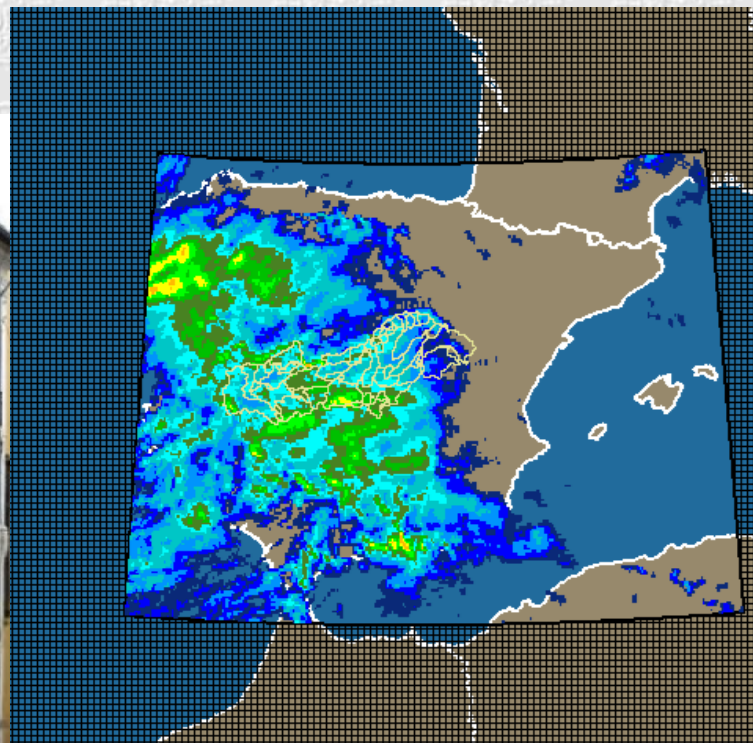


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Example of this coordination

Flooding management of March 2013



European Commission



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Thank you for your attention
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