# Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary

# Specific provisions operate at the riparian level

Establish/ harmonise bilateral/multil ateral arrangements (Art. 9(1)) Key mechanisms for implementation certain provisions at basin/sub-basin levels Establish/ harmonise 'joint bodies' (Art. 9(2))

- Consultations (Art. 10)
- Develop joint standards (Art. 9(2)
  - Waste water emission limits
  - Water quality objectives & criteria
- Joint action programmes for reducing pollution (Art. 9(2)
- Joint monitoring & assessment (Art. 11 & Art. 9(2))
  - Identify, categorise & exchange info on pollution sources
  - Evaluate effectiveness of control programmes/stds
- Data & Info Exchange (Art. 13)
  - Develop inventories & exchange info on pollution sources
  - Planned measures (Art. 9(2))
  - EIAs (Art. 9(2))
- Common R&D (Art. 12)
- Warning & Alarm Systems (Art. 9(2) & 14)
- Mutual Assistance (Art. 15)
- Public Information (Art. 16)

## Bilateral and multilateral agreements

Art. 9, para 1 Guide p.63 (ENG) / p.76 (AR)

Enshrines general obligation to cooperate, providing means & framework to implement this obligation

Obligation to enter into agreement or other arrangements = specificity of the Water Convention

For Riparians Parties with respect to other Riparians Parties

#### For existing arrangements:

- States *must* revise existing arrangements to 'eliminate contradictions' with UNECE Water Convention
- States *must* enter into watercourse-specific agreements where they do not exist

### Joint bodies

Art. 9, para 2 Guide p.70 (ENG) / p.83 (AR)

Obligation to establish joint bodies (specificity of the Water Convention)

Detailed list of tasks to be performed by joint body  $\rightarrow$  consistency and substantive compatibility

If existing agreements don't provide for the establishment pf joint body, take steps to adjust instruments accordingly

### Tasks of a joint body

- Data collection and evaluation
- Joint monitoring
- Elaborating emission limits for waste water, and water-quality objectives
- Action programmes for pollution reduction
- Establish warning and alarm procedures
- Forum for information exchange on existing and planned uses, and best available technology
- Participate in implementation of EIAs