

# INVITATION

## TRANSBOUNDARY WATER DISPUTE PREVENTION AND SETTLEMENT IN EUROPE: DO WE HAVE EFFECTIVE TOOLS AND MECHANISMS AT HAND?

The 2016 Budapest Water Summit (28-30 November) will address the implementation of **Sustainable Development Goal number 6** that – among others – calls for the further strengthening of transboundary water governance. **The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** (Water Convention) provides a crucial legal framework and intergovernmental platform for the day-to-day development and advancement of transboundary cooperation.

The **Implementation Committee** under the Water Convention was established at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Rome, 28-30 November 2012) with the objective to **facilitate, promote and safeguard the implementation, application and compliance with the Water Convention**. In line with the overall cooperative approach of the Convention, the Committee also aims to help countries having difficulties in implementing the Convention in a simple, non-confrontational, transparent and supportive manner. The Committee can therefore potentially play a major role in preventing disputes.

The **Water Convention Secretariat** and the **Centre for Sustainable Development Studies of the National University of Public Service** organise jointly a seminar featuring as speakers the members of the Implementation Committee of the Water Convention, entitled:

**“Transboundary water dispute prevention and settlement in Europe: do we have effective tools and mechanisms at hand?”**

We would be pleased if you would participate in our event.

The event will be held at the **Ludovika Campus** of the National University of Public Service (1083, Ludovika sq 2.) in Hunyadi Room, on **1 December 2016**.

We hope for your interest in our seminar, as much as we are convinced of its usefulness for your professional work.

Please, **confirm your participation** by 22 November 2016 at [fftk@uni-nke.hu](mailto:fftk@uni-nke.hu).

# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

PADOP-2.1.1-CCHOP-15-2016-00001  
COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPETENCES,  
CAREER PROGRAM AND TEACHING TECHNOLOGY PROJECT



## PROGRAM:

9:30-10:00	Registration, welcome coffee
10:00-10:05	Prof. András SZÖLLŐSI-NAGY, Chair, UN International Hydrological Programme <i>Opening &amp; Welcome speech</i>
10:05-11:30	Session I - Session I will address some of the key general legal and institutional questions of transboundary water dispute settlement.
10:05-10:20	Prof. Attila TANZI, Chair, Implementation Committee <i>The nature of transboundary water conflicts</i> A comparative analysis of transboundary water disputes vis-à-vis other state-to-state legal disputes. The lecture will highlight the special legal and political nature of water disputes in the broader context and also present the Implementation Committee of the Water Convention, its aims, composition and ways of working.
10:20-10:35	Prof. Stephen McCAFFREY, Former Special Rapporteur, UN International Law Commission, <i>Lessons of inter-state water dispute settlement in the United States and beyond</i> The presentation will highlight the positive and negative experiences of US federal inter-state dispute settlement with a special focus on the Western United States. While operating under highly different constitutional architecture, the level of integration of EU member states in the field of water governance is such that it allows for a comparison with established federal dispute resolution mechanisms. The presentation will also consider lessons of similar procedures elsewhere in the world, as appropriate.
10:35-10:50	Mr. Gábor BARANYAI, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development Studies, National University of Public Service <i>Water disputes in the EU</i> The European Union has a highly integrated water governance regime that nevertheless suffers from a number of critical shortcomings. This includes the lack of an adequate water dispute settlement mechanism. The lecture would describe the evolution and current state of the subject within the EU.
10:50-11:30	Questions and discussion
11:30-11:50	Coffee break
11:50-13:00	Session II. - Session II will highlight cooperation risks and discuss existing mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of disputes in different basins in Europe, in particular the role of the Implementation Committee. Discussions in this session will follow the <b>Chatham house format</b> .

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11:50-12:40	<p><i>Panel discussion</i> - This panel discussion, consisting of different members of the Implementation Committee, will discuss the modalities, procedures and lessons learned of mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of disputes in different basins in Europe. The participants will be:</p> <p>Mr. Johan LAMMERS, the Netherlands Ms Anne SCHULTE-WÜLWER-LEIDIG, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine Ms. Vanya GRIGOROVA, Executive Director of the Environment Agency, Bulgaria Mr. Ivan ZAVADSKY, Executive Secretary of the Danube Commission Mr. Kari KINNUNEN, previous chair/ member of the Finnish-Swedish, Finnish-Norwegian and Finnish-Russian Commissions</p>
12:40-13:20	Discussion (in <i>Chatham house format</i> )
13:20-13:30	Mr Balázs HEINCZ, water coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary <i>Conclusions &amp; Closing</i>
13:30 - 14:15	Lunch

**The moderator of the conference is** Mr Balázs HEINCZ, water coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary

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