

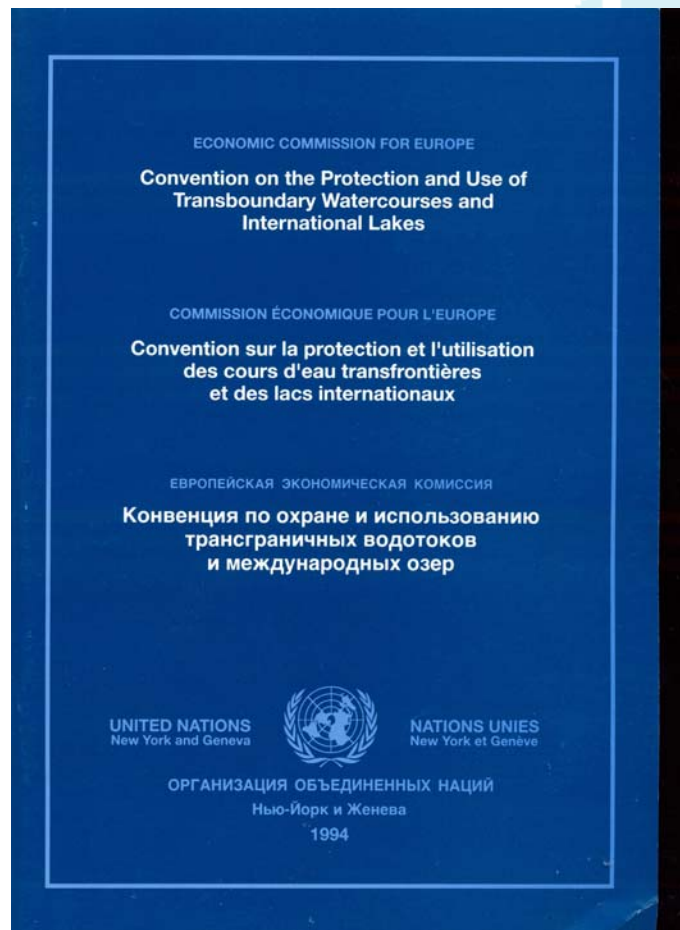


The UNECE Water Convention:
a unique framework for transboundary
water cooperation

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www.unece.org/env/water

The Water Convention



- Signed on 17 March 1992
- Entered into force on 6 October 1996
- Protocol on Water and Health adopted in 1999, entered into force in 2005
- Protocol on Civil Liability adopted in 2003

Status of ratification of the Convention

37 countries and the European Community

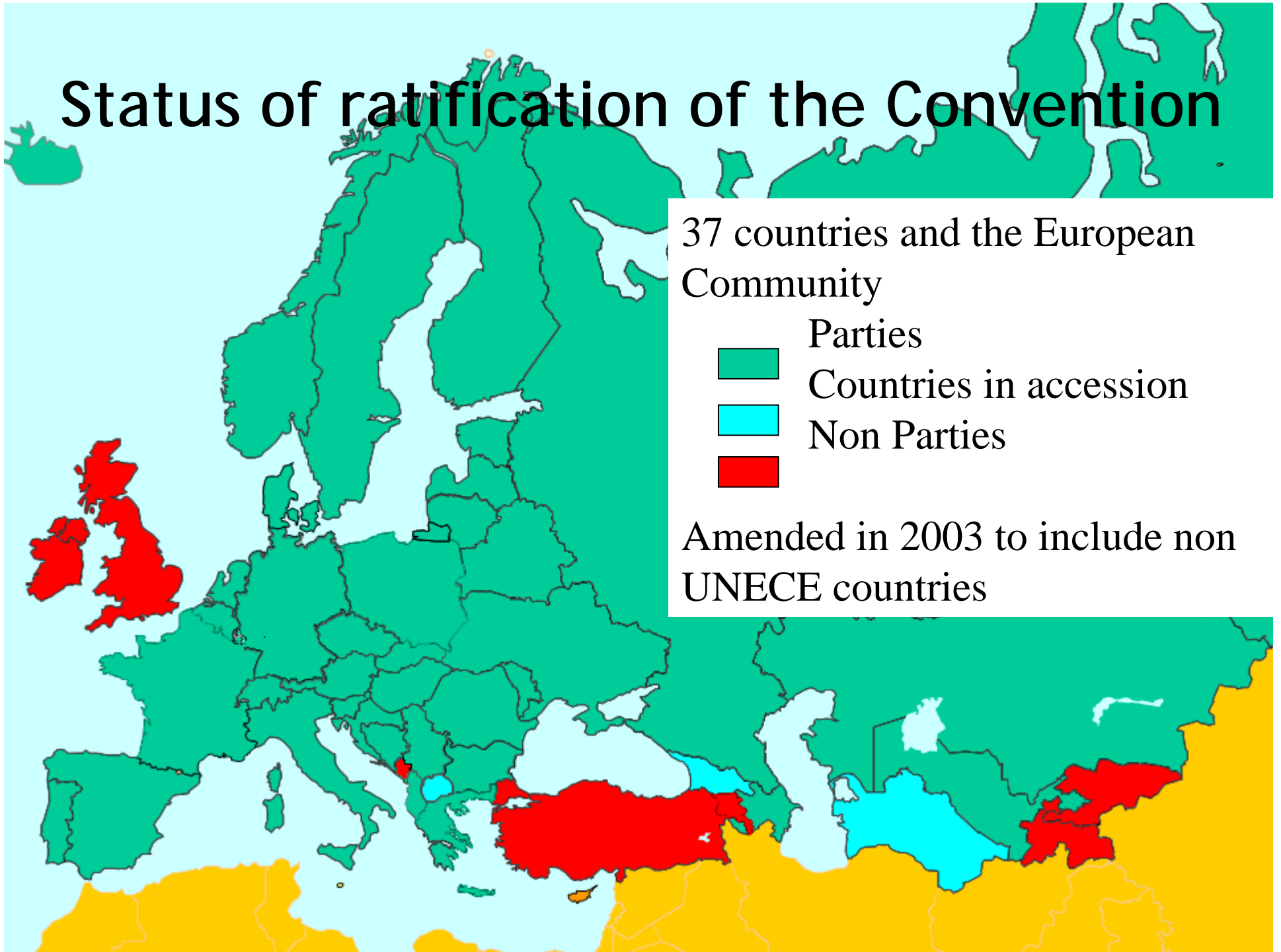
 Parties

 Countries in accession

 Non Parties



Amended in 2003 to include non
UNECE countries



Main obligations under the Convention



- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts (significant effects)
 - Reasonable and equitable use
 - Obligation to cooperate through agreements and joint institutions
- => Overall objective of sustainability

Holistic approach

- Transboundary impacts include impacts on human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures, and socio-economic conditions
 - Surface and groundwaters, and links to the recipient seas
 - Quality and quantity
 - Catchment area/river basin approach
- => IWRM at national and transboundary level

In practice...

- Played a crucial role in the region in supporting cooperation
- Most of the existing agreements are modelled on the Convention (Danube, Sava, Bug, Kazakh-Russian, Lake Peipsi, also the Water Framework Directive)
- Influenced the work of river commissions

Assistance to implementation

- Soft law instruments
Guide to Implementing the Water Convention,
different guidelines: monitoring and assessment,
transboundary floods, adaptation to climate change...
- Capacity building
- Projects in the field
- Assessment of results



Convention in Central Asia

- Priority region
- Parties: Kazakhstan (2001), Uzbekistan (2007), Turkmenistan in the process. Work also with non-Parties and with countries outside the UNECE region
- Projects on the ground: water quality, dam safety, Chu-Talas, National Policy Dialogues, UNECE-GTZ project...