



**Third meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Madrid, 26-28 November 2003**

## **Statement by Slovakia**

Slovakia appreciates **achievements made under the Convention's work plan 2000-2003**, which has been focusing on the specific elements related to the protection and use of the transboundary watercourses and international lakes. Under the leadership of Slovakia, the Working Group on Water Management has addressed and discussed various urgent issues such as:

- Sustainable flood prevention,
- Interstate distribution of transboundary water resources and river basins,
- The concept of the Strategic Partnership that should foster the implementation of the Water Convention and reinforce its role,
- Examination of the implications of the Framework Directive for countries on the fringe on an enlarged EU area

Slovakia would like to see at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Parties the good will of the delegations to acknowledge properly the effort of all the teams participated in the programme elements in the past and closing discussion on open issues related to the Work Programme 2004-2006.

Slovakia finds the Convention to be extremely helpful for both **bilateral and multilateral cooperation** in the protection and use of the transboundary waters. As we all have noted, cooperation among the parties is facilitated mostly thanks to the **guidelines** that have been created by the group concerned with the **monitoring and assessment of the transboundary waters**. Slovakia welcomed and deeply appreciated the opportunity to run **pilot projects** that were plotted to test these guidelines. Furthermore, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute in Bratislava feels proud about having the chance to host a branch of the **International Water Assessment Center** that provides training in the area of the transboundary surface and ground water monitoring for the entire Eastern Europe.

The Slovak delegation would like to inform the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Parties that the country was enhancing gradually its transboundary activities regarding the water policy in reflecting the recent trend focused on the **integrated water management implementation**. This idea is deliberately included into the **bilateral agreements** updated that Slovakia has developed with neighbouring countries parallel with the **implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive**. Last but not least, Slovakia has adopted measures that should lead to the fulfilment of the objectives contained in the **Protocol on Water and Health**.