

Main provisions of the 1992 Water Convention and its implementation

Obligations in terms of prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impacts

National Workshop on the “Benefits of cooperation and the UNECE Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes”

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Prevention, control and reduction (1)

- **Key substantive scope of Convention article 2 para 1 – Obligation to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact**
- Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, control and reduce pollution of waters causing or likely to cause transboundary impact.
- Measures shall be taken, *where possible*, at source and shall not directly or indirectly result in a transfer of pollution to other parts of the environment.
- Principles to be followed in applying the measures:
 - precautionary principle,
 - polluter-pays principle
 - sustainable management of water resources

Prevention, control and reduction (2)

- Cooperation of riparian Parties on the basis of equality and reciprocity, in particular through bilateral and multilateral agreements,
- Development of harmonized policies, programmes and strategies for relevant catchment areas, or parts thereof.
- Development, adoption and implementation legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures
- Each Party shall set emission limits for discharges from point sources into surface waters
- Setting water-quality objectives; adopting water-quality criteria for the purpose of preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impact.

Prevention, control and reduction (3)

Danube Basin - main problems:

- nutrient pollution (mainly from agricultural fertilizers and inadequately/untreated waste water)
- organic pollution (caused by untreated or partially treated wastewater from towns/villages, industry and agriculture)
- hazardous and toxic substances by occasional industrial accidents or floods
- hydromorphological alterations including interruption of river and habitat continuity, disconnection of adjacent wetland/floodplains, hydrological alterations and future infrastructure which may cause impact on water status.

✓ Urgent actions and measures needed at national level as well as DRB in support of coordinated management of water resources.

Prevention, control and reduction (4)

Joint Body of DRP Convention: ICPDR

- promotion of policy agreements and setting of joint priorities and strategies aiming to improve the quality of the Danube River and its tributaries
- developed and established tools used to manage environmental issues in the DRB:
 - the Accident Emergency Warning System – provides warning of accidental pollution
 - the Trans-National Monitoring Network for water quality TNMM (physical, chemical and biological conditions in the Danube River and its main tributaries – based on 79 monitoring stations of the national surface water monitoring networks)
 - the information system for the Danube (Danubis)

Prevention, control and reduction (5)

At national level

- Legislation in place - norms concerning the conditions of discharging wastewater into aquatic environment, etc.
- National System of Integrated Water Monitoring - qualitative monitoring of water resources: 2715 monitoring sections/points (1400 for surface water and 1315 for groundwater)
- 42 water quality laboratories (1 national, 3 regional, 8 basinal and 30 local)
- Water management permit - technical and legal act issued by administrator of water resources (volume and quality parameters of discharged water in natural emissaries)
- Preventing and reducing impact of accidental pollution through implementation of plans at the level of potential units and of the warning system in case of accidental pollution
- Synthesis of Water Quality in Romania - 2015
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Thank you for your attention!

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