



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

INFORMATION NOTICE

**WORKSHOP ON APPROACHES AND TOOLS FOR RIVER BASIN
MANAGEMENT: EXPERIENCE DRAWN FROM THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EC WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
(Bratislava, 15-16 October 2001)**

Submitted by the delegations of Germany and Slovakia,
and prepared with the assistance of the secretariat

Introduction

The Parties to the Convention decided at their second meeting (The Hague, 23-25 March 2000) to provide guidance on basic approaches to preventing further deterioration and protecting and improving the status of aquatic ecosystems, to promote sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources as stipulated both in the Convention and in the EC Directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (EC Water Framework Directive). The Parties will examine how countries are following a holistic approach to the environmentally sound water management of inland water resources, and review the progress made in developing a new level of national and international awareness and responsibility to solve complex and interrelated water management problems (Report of the second meeting, ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex II, programme element 2.3 “Ecosystem approach in water management”).

The EC Water Framework Directive is, inter alia, an instrument to transpose the Convention into Community legislation. Therefore, the EC Water Framework Directive will be an important tool for the implementation of the Convention in the region. The experience gained with implementing the directive will therefore be of major interest to non-EU Parties to the Convention, in particular for Parties being candidates for EU Membership.

The Parties appreciated the offer of the Governments of Germany and Slovakia to host the workshop jointly. The workshop programme was drawn up by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, with the assistance of the secretariat.

I. OBJECTIVES

Following the 2000-2003 work plan under the Convention, the workshop aims at exchanging and disseminating early experience gained in the implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive by the EU member States and countries applying for EU membership and making use of this experience to possibly revise the 1993 UN/ECE Guidelines on the ecosystem approach in water management (ECE/ENVWA/31).

II. WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

A. Tentative Programme on 15 October 2001

1. Opening addresses and introduction to the workshop

Co-chair: Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Bonn (Germany) and Mr. Milan Matushka, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia).

9:00 **Opening address**
Mr. Laszlo Miklos, Minister for Environment of the Slovak Republic,
Bratislava (Slovakia).

9:20 **The EC Water Framework Directive: an introduction**
Mr. Friedrich Barth, European Commission, Brussels.

9:40 **Links between the EC Water Framework Directive and the ECE Water Convention**
Mr. Rainer E. Enderlein, UN/ECE, Geneva.

2. Characterization and assessment of surface water and groundwater bodies

Chair: Mrs. Juliana Adamkova, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Bratislava (Slovakia).

10:00 Characterization of surface water bodies

Mr. Anders Bertell, Ministry of the Environment, Sweden.
To be confirmed.

Discussion

10:40 Identification of pressures and assessment of impact

Mr. Dietrich Borchardt, Institute of Water Resources Research and Management, University of Kassel (Germany).

Discussion

11:10 Coffee Break

11:30 Assessment of the ecological status and classification of surface water bodies

Ms. Ursula Schmedtje, Bavarian State Office for Water Management, Munich (Germany).

Discussion

12:10 Characterization and assessment of the status of groundwater bodies

Mr. Karl Schwaiger, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Vienna (Austria).

Discussion

12:50 Lunch Break

14:00 Monitoring of surface water and groundwater bodies

Mr. Wim Cofino, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Water Convention, Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment, Lelystad (Netherlands).

Discussion

3. Measures and tools to achieve the environmental objectives of the EC Water Framework Directive

Chair: Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Bonn (Germany).

14:45 The combined approach

Mr. Wolf-Dieter Braschwitz, Bavarian State Office for Water Management, Munich (Germany).

Discussion

15:30 Cost recovery and water pricing

Mr. Pierre Strosser, France.

Discussion

16:10 Coffee Break

16:30 Programme of measures and river basin management plans

Mr. Milan Matushka, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia).

Discussion

18:30 Reception and Diner

B. Tentative programme on 16 October 2001

1. Experience gained by countries and in transboundary river basins in Europe

Chair: Mr. Carel de Villeneuve, Chairman of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management , The Hague (Netherlands)

9:00 River basin management cooperation between Spain and Portugal

Prof. Antonio Goncalves Henriques, Instituto da Agua, Portugal.
To be confirmed.

Discussion

9:40 Implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive between Finland and the Russian Federation

Ms. Lea Kauppi, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki (Finland).

Discussion

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Danube basin

Mr. Friedrich Barth, European Commission, Chairman of the Expert Group on River Basin Management established under the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River (ICPDR RBM-EG).

Discussion

11:40 The German Guidebook on the implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive

Mr. Harald Irmer, Environment Agency of North Rhine-Westphalia, Essen (Germany).

Discussion

12:30 *Lunch Break*

14:00 The challenge of implementing the EC Water Framework Directive in countries acceding the EU

Presentations by Mr. Vaclav Dvorak, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Prague (Czech Republic); Mr. Pawel Blaszczyk, Institute of Environmental Protection, Warsaw (Poland); Mr. Milan Matuska, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia); and Mr. Laszlo Balashazy, Ministry for Environment and Mr. Gyula Hollo, Ministry of Transport and Water Management, Budapest (Hungary).

Discussion

2. Workshop conclusions and recommendations

Co-chair: Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Bonn (Germany) and Mr. Milan Matushka, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia).

15 :30 Presentation of draft recommendations

The Programme Committee will present preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.

15:45 Adoption of the workshop recommendations

The workshop participants will discuss the workshop recommendations. They are expected to adopt these recommendations to be submitted to the 2002 meeting of the Working Group on Water Management for endorsement and possible follow up.

16:30 Closure

A representative of the host country will close the workshop.

III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORKSHOP

A. Language of the workshop

The working language of the workshop will be English, only.

B. Venue and Date

The workshop will be held at the training centre SUZA, the Congress Centre of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia. It will take place on 15-16 October 2001.

The address of the Centre is as follows:

Drotarska cesta 46
811 04 Bratislava
Slovakia
Tel.: + 421 7 5935 4255

C. Programme Committee

Mr. Milan Matushka, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia),
Chairman of the Programme Committee,

Mrs. Eleonora Bartkova, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
(Slovakia),

Mr. Rainer Enderlein, ECE secretariat,

Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and
Nuclear Safety, Bonn (Germany),

Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia).

D. Organizing Committee

Mrs. Slavomira Pisarcikova, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (Slovakia), Chairperson of the Organizing Committee,

Mrs. Jana Poorova, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Bratislava (Slovakia),

Mr. Peter Roncak, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Bratislava (Slovakia).

E. Workshop secretariat

All correspondence regarding the workshop should be addressed to:

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F. Registration and travel arrangements

Workshop participants shall inform the workshop secretariat (see sub-chapter E above) by **30 June 2001** at the latest about their travel arrangements.

For those who travel to Bratislava via Vienna airport, it is recommended to check the bus connections from Vienna to Bratislava, city bus terminal, at www.viennaairport.com/bus.htm.

There is a regular bus service from the Bratislava train and bus terminals to the site of the training centre as follows: (a) from the main railway station, the bus number 41; or (b) from the main city bus terminal, the trolley bus 207 with transfer on bus 41 at the bus stop Amfiteater, Budkova street.

G. Participation fee

The participation in the workshop is free of charge.

H. Accommodation

There are 65 double rooms available at the site of the training centre. The price of a double room is 700 SKK a night if used by 1 person, and 1,000 SKK if used by two persons.

The workshop secretariat may also assist participants with hotel reservations in the city of Bratislava.

