

The UNECE Water Convention: the path ahead

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S Y K E

Basic dates (1)

- 1991 First special session of the UNECE Working Party on Water Problems to draw up a framework convention
- 1992 Adoption of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
- 1996 Entry into force of the Water Convention (6 October)

Basic dates (2)

- 1997 First meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (July 1997, Helsinki, Finland)
- 1999 Adoption of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (June 1999, London. Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health)

Basic dates (3)

- 2000 Second meeting of the Parties to the Convention (March 2000, The Hague, Netherlands)
- 2000 EC Water Framework Directive adopted by EU Member States (October 2000)

Basic provisions of the Water Convention (I)

- Common research and development
- Exchange of information between Riparian Parties
- Warning and alarm systems (...> link to the Industrial Accidents convention)
- Mutual assistance
- Public information

Basic provisions of the Water Convention (II)

- Conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Establishment of joint bodies
- Consultation between Riparian Parties
- Joint monitoring and assessment

Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol

Bureau

**International
Water
Assessment
Centre
(IWAC)**

Working Groups

Legal & admin. aspects

Water management

Monitoring

Water and health

Civil liability

*Ad hoc
expert groups*

Secretariat

(UNECE for the Water Convention; UNECE and WHO/EURO for the Protocol)

Water Framework Directive

- re-enforcement of the basic principles and approaches of the Convention

The path ahead...

- we need to promote the remaining NIS countries and Balkan states to join the Convention and the Protocol
- we have to work towards the implementation of the WFD in transboundary context

The path ahead...

- we should disseminate information and know-how, share our experiences, offer our assistance for cooperation and create partnerships and mechanisms to solve problems

The path ahead

- Step by step –approach
- IWAC as a service provider
- reconsider present working structures

Water is a key factor for sustainable development

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Thank you for your attention!

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