

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR): evolution of organizational structure and substantive scope and cooperation with non-Convention countries

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Chairman



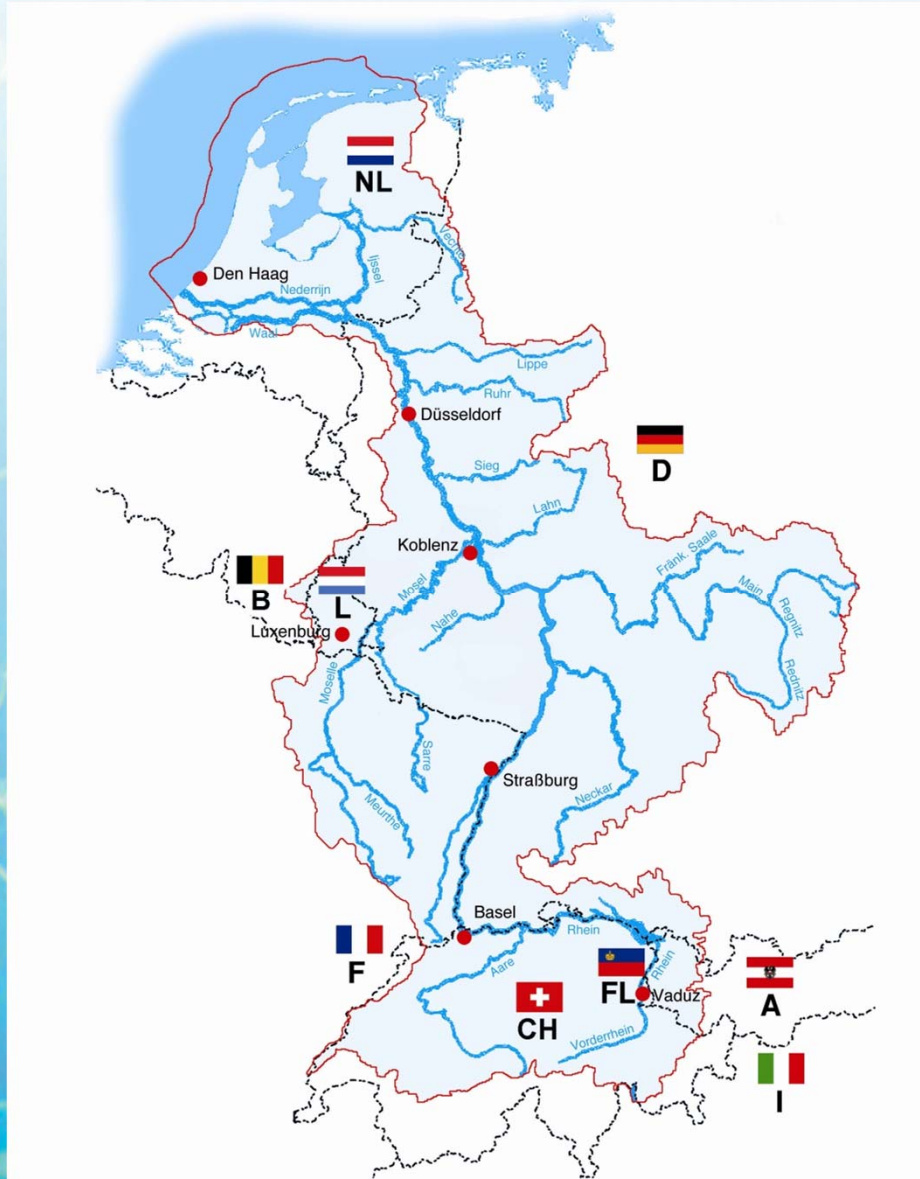
Internationale
Kommission zum
Schutz des Rheins

Commission
Internationale
pour la Protection
du Rhin

Internationale
Commissie ter
Bescherming
van de Rijn

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Rhine

Catchment area



**3rd biggest
European river**

**9 countries,
58 million
Inhabitants**

**Drinking water
supply for 30
million people**

Landmarks



- 1950 - Foundation
- 1963 - Convention of Berne
- **1986 - Accident at Sandoz**
- 1987 - Rhine Action Program
- **1993 and 1995 – Flooding**
- 1998 – Flood Action Plan (1995 – 2020)
- 1999 - New Convention - entry into force 1 Jan. 2003
- 2000 - Programme Rhine 2020
- 2000 - EU Water Framework Directive
- 2007 - EU Floods Directive

The ICPR



- ▶ **ICPR**
Established 1950, amended in 1963 and 1999

- ▶ **Members**
Switzerland, France, Germany,
Luxemburg, Netherlands, European
Union

Cooperation with Austria, Liechtenstein,
Wallonia (Belgium)

- ▶ **Observers**
Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO's)

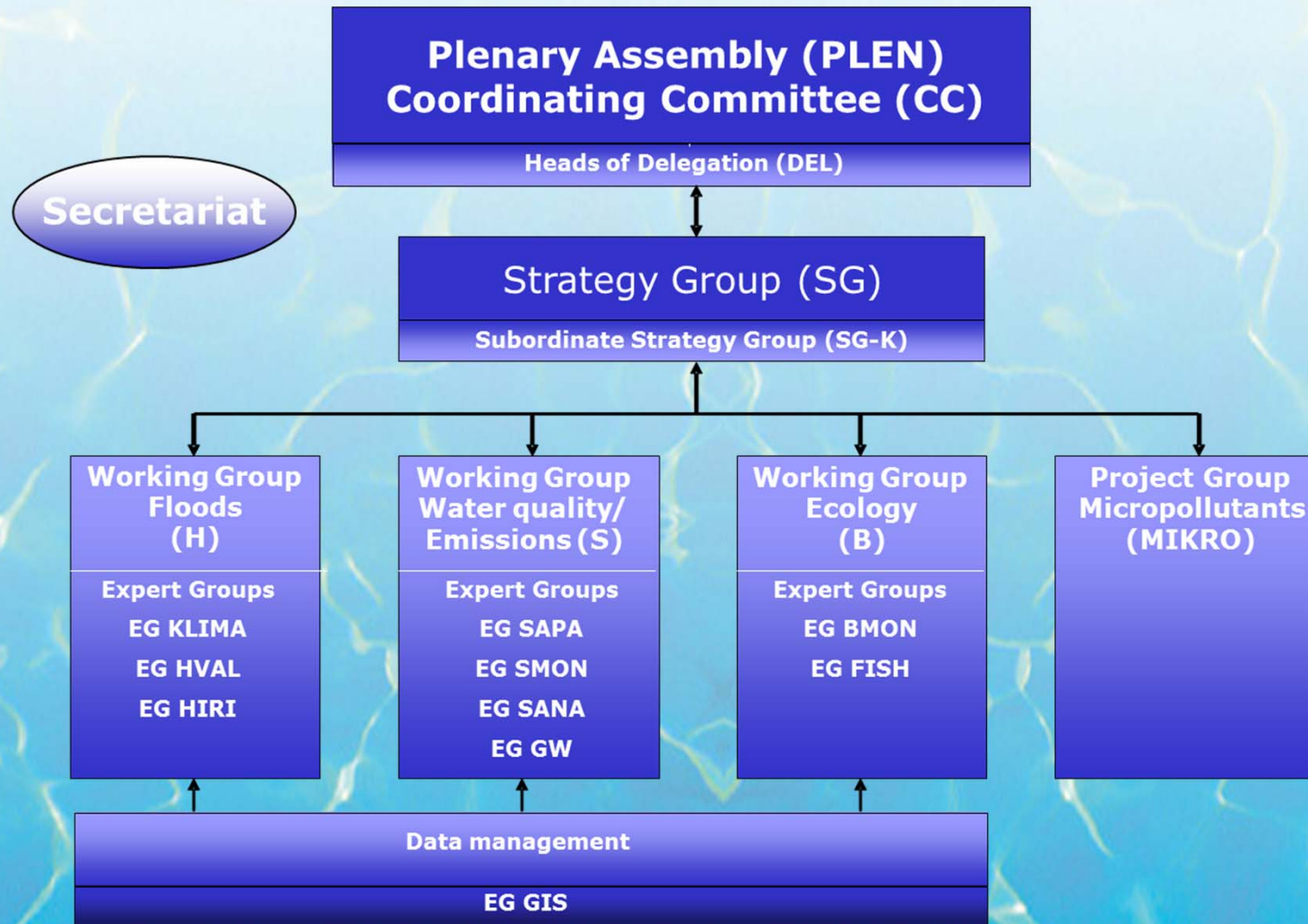
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)

Cooperation



- **De-centralised organization**
- **National delegations**
 - political mandate
 - technical know how
 - annual budget 1.200.000 €/a (operational costs of the Secretariat)
- **Political framework, no sanctions**
- **Legal framework provided by EU Directives (WFD and FD) and national legislation**
- **All agreements by consensus. Measures as recommendations to countries**
- **Obligation to report on implementation of measures**
- **Small neutral Secretariat, 4 languages**

Organisation



Challenges



First Phase (50ties - 70ties twentieth-century)

- **Building trust and mutual understanding**
- **Convincing society of the danger of continuous increasing water pollution**

Turning Point: Sandoz Accident

- **From short term detailed technical discussion to long term ambitious goal setting**
- **Integration of all relevant policy fields**

For the future

- **How correct the impact of missing environmental management of the past**
- **How to take account of uncertainties regarding the socioeconomic evolution and the impact of climate change**

Thank you!



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