



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

**Joint meeting of the Legal Board and
the Task Force on Floods
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Working paper 2

DRAFT WORKPLAN 2007-2009 ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

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The following proposed activities for the workplan 2007-2009 under the Water Convention are based on the outcome of the Seminar on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation which took place in Berlin in June 2004, and the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2006).

The Flood Task Force may wish to:

- (a) Examine the proposals and further elaborate those elements which should become part of the draft workplan including, whenever possible, information on the method of work and the time frame;
- (b) Draw up additional elements for the workplan, following proposals by Parties and non-Parties, including, whenever possible, information on the method of work and the time frame;
- (c) Inform on the willingness of Parties and non-Parties to lead or participate in the implementation of the various elements of the workplan;
- (d) Entrust the Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, to present the draft work plan to the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (second meeting, Geneva, 26-27 June 2006).

Activity 1: Networks of Expertise

The most important preconditions to prevent damage caused by floods if they occur are good flood forecast, well-organised early warning systems as well as high awareness and preparedness of the responsible authorities as well as of the potentially affected population and economic actors. Moreover systematic risk assessment and dissemination of information concerning identified risks in a way which is meaningful for those potentially affected is of vital importance for efficient risk management.

At the initiative of the EU Water Directors a European Network of Expertise on Flood Risk management has been established since early 2004. For the time being two exchange circles are existing in this context, the one focussing on flood forecasting (EXCIFF. Co-pilots: France and DG JRC), the other one, launched in 2006 dealing with flood risk mapping (EXCIMAP Co-pilots:

France and Switzerland). It is proposed to extend the networks by inviting experts from Non EU/EEA countries being Contracting Parties to the Convention to join the network. To facilitate the extension of the networks one (or two if needed) work shop(s) might be envisaged organised in the framework the Convention's work plan with the objective of bringing together the existing European network with interested experts from countries not yet engaged in the network, presenting the work accomplished by the network and identifying possible additional issues of particular relevance to Non EU/EEA countries.

Possible Lead Country/Organization

[Jointly] France, Germany, Switzerland; European Commission (DG JRC)

Activity 2: Policy Guidance

The Seminar on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation (Berlin 2004) recommended the preparation of a set of recommendations for decision makers at governmental as well as regional, municipal and local level on a range of relevant or emerging issues not yet covered by the 2000 Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention.

Such recommendations should address in particular regional and spatial planning as well as land use management, and their role in reducing flood risks and damage potential, in particular in transboundary context.

Other aspects which should be addressed in the recommendations are possible impacts of climate change for flood management, practical ways to implement the solidarity principle, financial mechanisms, the involvement of the public and of stakeholders in the planning process for flood management, ecological aspects of flood management, integrated management of surface and groundwater for flood mitigation and response, and possible synergies between flood management and programmes for improving the ecological status of waters.

The recommendations will be based on the analysis of some successful cases and/or running projects of transboundary cooperation. A Task Force will be responsible for the preparation of the recommendations.

Possible Lead Country/Organization

Hungary in cooperation with [to be defined].

Activity 3: Advise to Contracting Parties on Legal Provisions for Flood Management

The proposed model provisions may be accompanied by a advisory component which would offer support to Contracting Parties for using these model provisions in developing or updating bilateral or multilateral flood management agreements for transboundary basins.

Possible Lead Country/Organisation

None, to be implemented by the Bureau with assistance of the Secretariat and the Legal Board

Activity 4: Capacity building

The Seminar on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation (Berlin 2004) recommended specific capacity building activities be developed to provide training for local and national authorities as well as joint bodies responsible for transboundary water cooperation.

The Flood Task Force should identify major issues on which capacity building activities should focus in 2007-2009.

Activity 5: Floods and health aspects

The draft programme of work for 2007-2009 under the Protocol on Water and Health will include the development of guidance for climate change adaptation strategies to reduce the impacts of extreme weather events, including extreme cold, health waves and floods, on water quality and quantity, as well as human health.

The Flood Task Force will cooperate with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and will in particular focus on [to be developed].