

Statement of the Netherlands delegation at the opening session of the UNECE Water Convention'4th Meeting of the Parties, Bonn, 20th November, 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

The Netherlands would like to join other delegations in congratulating all of us, and UNECE in particular, with the 10th anniversary of our Convention's entry into force. Its crucial importance to The Netherlands has already been stressed by the Belgian delegation.

We would like to thank Rainer Enderlein for the formidable work he has done and the wonderful and resourceful support he has given to the Convention's implementation (we are glad to see him here!) – and to congratulate Francesca Bernardini with her new position, which she more than merits!

The Netherlands has had to scale down its activities in the monitoring and assessment field after many years of very active input; we have our reasons for this step, and we think it would not be right if a certain activity were to stick forever with one and the same Party. We however remain strongly committed to the Convention, and would like to raise with you the most important issue of climate impacts on water resources, be it floods or droughts or other extreme events. We will come back on this issue later during this Meeting.

Let me finally thank our old friend and neighbour Germany for being our sympathetic host these days!