

MANAGING TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

Side event during the

Fifth meeting of the Parties UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

Geneva, 10 November, 1.15 - 2.30 pm.

Salle VII

The Water Convention has served as a model and stimulated the work of transboundary Water Commissions in the UNECE region while the older Water Commissions formed a basis upon which the Water Convention has been built. Over the years, work aimed at protecting transboundary waters has evolved and has been faced with growing challenges and responsibilities.

The side event will allow sharing the experience gained under a number of European Commissions and discussing how progress has been achieved, the lessons-learned that can be replicated, and the challenges ahead.

A moderated panel discussion will analyse the responsibilities of river commissions, their strengths and weaknesses, and their role in preventing and addressing problems of transboundary water management. The panel discussion will aim to promote cross-fertilization between experiences and to inspire the work under other commissions in the UNECE region and under the Water Convention.

Moderator:

Ms Heide Jekel, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Panelists:

Mr. Mario Cerutti, Secretary, International Commission for the Meuse/Maas

Ms. Maria Galambos, Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission

Mr. Harry Liiv, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia, Estonian-Russian Joint Commission (tbc)

Mr. Arnould Lefebure, Secretary, International Commission for the Scheldt

Mr. Steven Vinckier, Flemish Environment Agency, International Commission for the Scheldt

Mr. André Weidenhaupt, Water Management Administration, Luxemburg, International Commissions for the Protection of Mosel and Saar Against Pollution and International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

Mr. Ben van de Wetering, Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine