

Christian Schilling, Austria

Statement TOP 7 “Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

Dear Chair persons, dear colleagues,

Austria has a long-lasting experience on water monitoring - also in a transboundary context with our neighbouring countries. We are grateful that the colleagues from Environment Agency Austria were able to share their experiences in the field of monitoring and to contribute to the preparation of the publications.

From our point of view it is very much appreciated that the publication “*Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater*” is now available in an updated version and important **practical aspects** of monitoring like **quality assurance and control**, are now integrated and emphasised in more detail.

Furthermore, the draft publication on *good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange* provides various valuable insights from different parts of the world how data exchange can be organized. We hope that this collection of inspiring examples will be helpful to support other countries in transboundary monitoring and data exchange and to successfully advance transboundary cooperation.

We thank the secretariat and all colleagues involved for their active engagement to further develop these important publications. Austria is ready to further support the work.

Thank you very much.