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#### **Dispute resolution mechanism: the Dniester River Basin Commission case**

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# What is the Dniester Commission. How conflict management helps us work more efficiently



SAVE THE DNIESTER TOGETHER

WHAT IT IS: The Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (the Dniester Commission) is a body for intergovernmental cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the area of protection, sustainable use and development of the Dniester River Basin

**OBJECTIVES:** implementation of measures to achieve rational and environmentally sound use and protection of water and other natural resources and ecosystems of the Dniester River basin in the interests of the population and sustainable development of states.

**HOW DOES IT WORK:** is chaired by two co-chairs and consists of deputy co-chairs, representatives of competent central executive authorities, representatives of regional authorities, scientific institutions and organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations of Moldova and Ukraine. The commission also creates working bodies and attracts experts to its work.

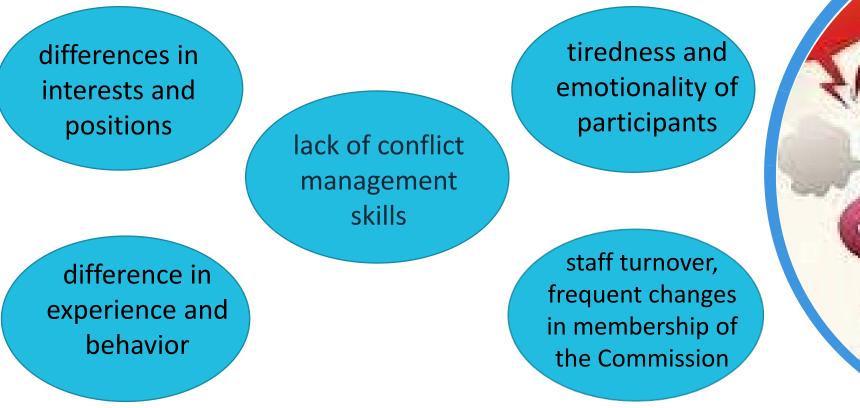
# What causes conflicts in the work of the Dniester Commission?

Water is a limited resource The use of There are several parties interested in the use of natural resources

Using and managing environmental elements is a complex process

The positions and interests of those concerned can differ radically, giving rise to conflict

### Why conflicts most often arise in the work of the Dniester Commission



"In a truly complex conflict, it is rarely the case that one side at all is to blame" - Angela Merkel

#### Manifestation of the conflicts

- ✓ Incorrect communication
- ✓ Lack of desire to accept the opinion of the other Party
- ✓ Breach of subordination, personalization
- ✓ Disputes and disagreements within one group/Party
- ✓ Imposing your point of view
- Interrupting your interlocutor

#### A practical case using the example of the Dniester Commission: involving a mediator before and during negotiations

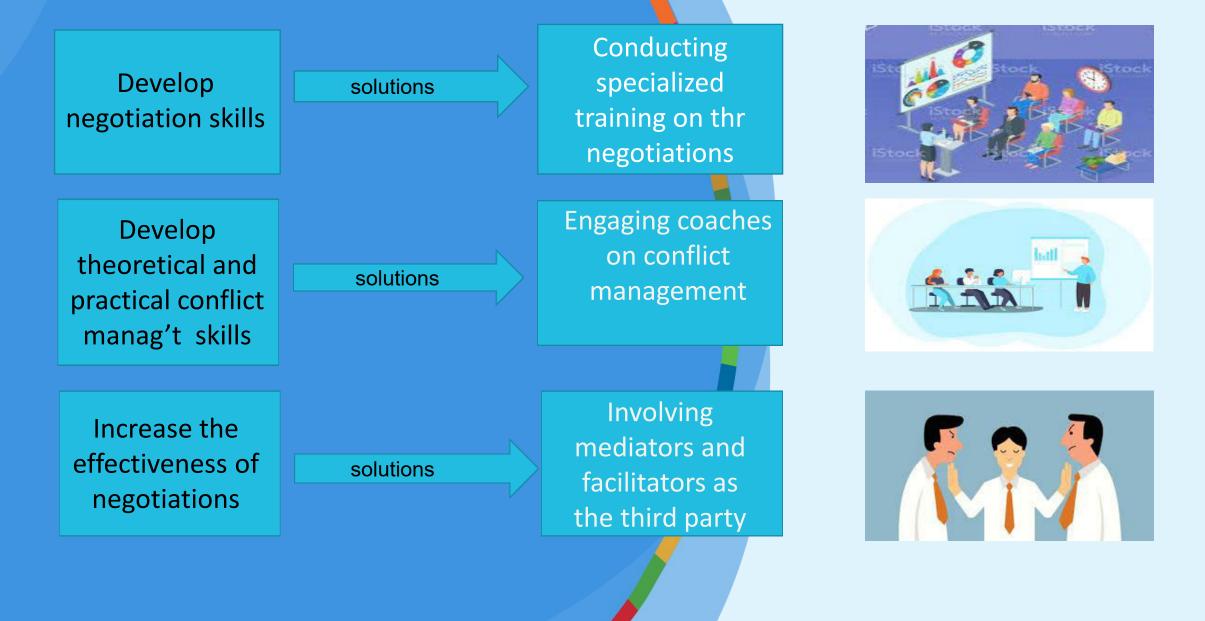
The meeting is nearing its end. The participants are tired and hungry

A controversial issue is on the agenda. Conflict arises Emotional outburst. Communication becomes more difficult A mediator advises the co-chairs on how to deal with the conflict

The conflict is over. Negotiations completed positively Use of a flipchart, open questions, clarification of the positions and interests of the parties One of the participants recalls what the mediator taught before the meeting

It is suggested to take a break. Nobody reacts

#### What helps us influence the atmosphere at Commission meetings?



## THANK YOU!

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