

**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND
INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

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Reference: WAT/IC/INFO/2/2023/6

Ms. Ana Catarina Miranda
Project Manager
Project “Reconnecting Iberian Rivers”

18 April 2023

**Subject: Letter addressed to the Implementation Committee from organizations
cooperating in the project “Reconnecting Iberian Rivers”**

Dear Ms. Miranda,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) to inform you of the steps taken by the Committee in consideration of the information provided by the organizations cooperating in the project “Reconnecting Iberian Rivers” through your letter of 12 December 2022.

On 13 January 2023, the Committee has shared your letter with Portugal and Spain and requested the countries to submit their views on the information provided in your letter, together with any corroborating documents. The Committee received the replies from Spain on 13 February 2023 and from Portugal on 15 February 2023.

At its fifteenth meeting (Geneva, 16–17 February 2023), the Committee discussed your letter and the information provided by Portugal and Spain.

The Committee appreciated the information provided by the organizations cooperating in the project “Reconnecting Iberian Rivers” as it assists the Committee in its mission to facilitate implementation and application of and compliance with the Water Convention. The Committee decided to consider the matter within its information gathering and consultation function (decision VI/1, Annex I, section VIII (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)), without prejudice to any further decision to undertake a Committee’s initiative (decision VI/1, Annex I, section VII).

The Committee also appreciated that Portugal and Spain provided their views on the issues raised in your letter promptly so as to allow the Committee to discuss the matter at its fifteenth meeting.

The Committee noted that Spain and Portugal had coordinated their responses received by the Committee on 13 February 2023 and 15 February 2023, respectively, and that this provided additional evidence of the existing cooperation between the two countries. The Committee also stressed that its mission is to promote and safeguard the implementation of the Water Convention. In other words, the mechanism to support implementation and compliance, established through decision VI/1 of the Meeting of the Parties, is to be used for the improvement and strengthening of transboundary cooperation in pursuit of the aims of the Convention including compliance with its substantive provisions.

Having discussed the information received, the Committee decided to invite Portugal and Spain to provide additional information to complement the information they provided on 15 February 2023 and 13 February 2023, respectively, and formulated to that end its questions to the two countries. On 14 March 2023 I have transmitted the questions of the Committee to Portugal and Spain, inviting them to provide their replies within three months.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Attila Tanzi', written in a cursive style.

Attila Tanzi
Chair, Implementation Committee
Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes