

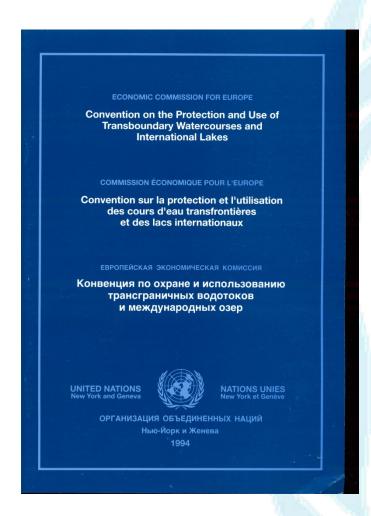
UNECE Water Convention

Going global after 20 years of successful water cooperation

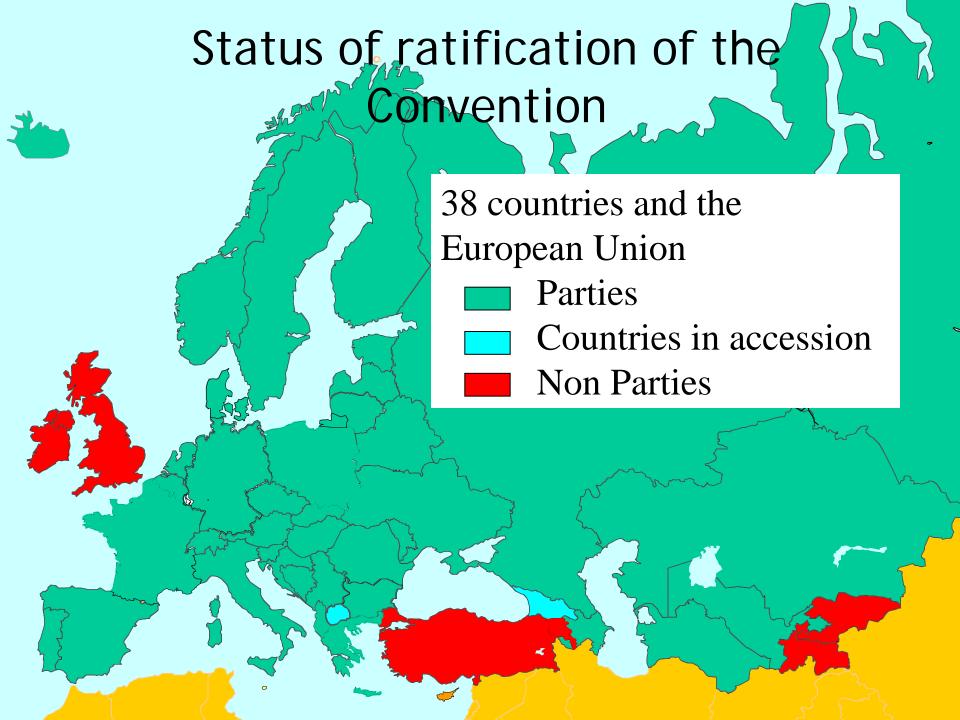
Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE



The Water Convention



- Signed on 17 March 1992
- Entered into force on 6
 October 1996
- Amendement to open the Convention to non UNECE states adopted in 2003
- Protocol on Water and Health adopted in 1999, entered into force in 2005
- Protocol on Civil Liability adopted in 2003





Major strengths proved after 20 years

- Strong framework for transboundary water cooperation coupled with concrete projects on the ground (support to joint bodies & agreements)
- A balanced approach to cooperation: both upstream and downstream, water rich and water poor, developed and in transition Parties
- An instrument for basin management and IWRM
- Critical look: the Assessments
- Evolving and responsive instrument: climate change, ecosystem services, Implementation Committee
- Supportive institutional framework of the MOP
- Strong ownership by Parties, cooperative spirit, participation of non-Parties

THE WATER CONVENTION: 20 years of successful water cooperation



Discharge Rule of Lake Saimaa and river Vuoksi (FI-RU), 1989

The Central Asian States agreement (K7 KG TI TM, UZ) establishes the nterstate Commission or Water Coordination of Central Asia

Germany-Poland, Russian Federation-Ukraine and Kazakhstan-Russian Federation agreements



1993

Recommendations to

Water-Quality Criteria

Ecosystem Approach in

2004

to facilitate cooperation between the Republic of

Moldova and Ukraine

Water Management

and Objectives

Guidelines on the

UNECE Governments on

Lake Maggiore returns to an oligotrophic state thanks to measures recommended by the Swiss-Italian Commission in 1984

The Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (AT, BA, BG, HR, CZ, DE, HU, MD, ME, RO, RS, SK, SI, UA, EU) establishes the International ion for the Protection of the Danube River

Meuse and Scheldt, Hungary-Slovenia, Croatia-Hungary, Slovakia-Ukraine and Republic of Moldova-Ukraine agreements

1994

Recommendations to UNECE

Governments on the Prevention

Mesta/Nestos (BG, GR), Czech Republic-Germany and Mongolia-Russian Federation agreements



The Protocol to the Ems-Dollart Treaty (DE, NL) regulates the protection issues in the Ems. estuary

Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder (CZ, DE, PL)

Croatia-Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia and Poland-Ukraine agreements



1998

Convention on the Protection of the Rhine (CH, DE, FR, LU, NL, EU) following the 1963 Convention (UN Watercourses Convention)

Agreement on the status of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

Czech Republic-Slovakia agreement

First Joint Danube Survey for the analysis of the water quality and the ecological status of the Danube River Belarus-Ukraine and China

Kazakhstan agreements

Set up of the Danube Black Sea Task Force to ensure cooperation for the protection of water and water-related ecosystems in the Danube and the Black Sea

Adoption of the EU Water

2000

Establishment of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) in

Revised Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers adopted

Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters adopted and start of related pilot projects

Report on the relationship between the UNECE Water Convention and the UN Watercourses Convention prepared by the Task Force on Legal and Administrative Aspects

Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention

1995

The Water Convention enters into force First Guidelines on Water-Quality Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers adopted





The new Franco-Swiss

agreement is signed

Iran-Turkmenistan and

Croatia-Montenegro



the Non-navigational Uses of

International Watercourses

Estonia-Russian Federation, Poland-Slovakia, Hungary

Ukraine and Romania-Ukraine

Joint Expert Group established under Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions in the pan-European region

1999

The Protocol on Water and

Health is adopted in London

transboundary groundwaters

First inventory of

Water Convention

Party on Water Problems

under the auspices of

the Senior Advisers to

Problems (1990-1992)

UNECE Governments on

Environmental and Water

Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (BA, HR, SI, RS) and Belarus-Russian Federation agreement

The Water Convention

New Meuse (RE. DE. FR. LU. NL) and Scheldt (BE, FR, NL) agreements entrust the Scheldt and Meuse commissions with the coordination of the mplementation of the EU Water amework Directive

Major floods in Central Europe trigger the development of model provisions for transboundary flood management under the Water Convention

Hungary-Romania and Estonia-Latvia agreements

negotiated by the Working is adopted in Helsinki

LIN Member States 2nd International Conference on Sustainable

Transboundary Waters in Europe organized in Poland to celebrate the Convention's 10th anniversary

Convention adopted at the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to allow accession

Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of International Lakes adopted

Protocol on Civil Liability signed at the 5th "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference as a response to the Baia Mare accident

Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed (AL, MK)

Amendment of the International Warning and Emergency Plan for the Elbe River and enhancement with the Elbe Alarm Model

Poland agreements

2005



Guidelines for UNECE Governments

Water Pollution from Fertilizers

and Pesticides in Agriculture

Albania-Greece and Lithuania

(KZ-KG) established

Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated

Model Provisions on Transboundary

Safety Guidelines and Good Practices

for Pipelines, developed jointly with the Industrial Accidents Convention

Dam safety project starts in Central Asia

Start of the National Policy Dialogues

(NPDs) on IWRM under the EU Water

Initiative in Armenia, the Republic of

Water Resources Management

Strategies on Monitoring and

Flood Management adopted

(IWRM) adopted

Assessment adopted

Moldova and Ukraine

200s



agreements **EU Floods Directive**

2007

First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and

presented at the 6th "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference

Start of the activities on climate change adaptation



1997

Framework Directive

China-Kazakhstan water quality agreement

MoU "Towards the implementation of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan supporting the sustainable development of the region" (HU, RO, RS, SK, UA) signed, following the 2004 MoU to develop a River Basin Management Plan for the Tisza River

2011

7th "Environme

Conference: launch

for Europe

Ministerial

of the Second

Assessment of

Transboundary

Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the management of the extended transboundary

Drin basin (AL, GR, MK, Kosovo (United Nations administered region, Security Council resolution

Amendment of the Albufeira Convention (ES-PT) to address climate

China-Russian Federation agreement

New Finland-Sweden, Republic of Moldova-Romania and Samur (AZ-RU) agreements Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework

2009

IWAC transferred to

Slovakia

Agreement on the Sava River basin Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area (AL, GR, MK)

The International Commission for the Protection of Lake Geneva adopts its action plan for 2011-2020

2010

Guide to Implementing the Water Convention Start of the Kura Project to facilitate Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate

Non-UNECE countries start to get involved in Water Convention activities

Change adopted

NPDs on IWRM

Rivers Lakes and

International conference on Europe-Asia cooperation; formal interest expressed by non-UNECE countries in joining the Convention

Tajikistan and Afghanistan

Finnish-Russian Commission holds its 50th meeting

NPD on IWRM initiated in Kazakhstan

Model Provisions on Transhoundary Groundwater developed

Proposal for the Implementation Committee developed Start of the work on the

water-energy-food nexus in the transboundary context Expected globalization of the Water Convention

Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailing Management Facilities developed jointly with

the Industrial Accidents NPD on IWRM initiated in Kyrovzstan

200g

Creation of the UN-Water Task Force on transboundary waters co-chaired by UNECE and UNESCO

Water quality project starts in Central Asia

initiated in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan

cooperation between Georgia and

Azerbaijan Start of the pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins and on payment for

ecosystem services

adoption of the Astana Water

Start of a project between

Future global opening of the Convention: which perspectives?

Advantages

- Promote permanent and effective transboundary cooperation worldwide
- Global forum for cooperation, to exchange and share experience between regions
- Further enrich the Convention's store of knowledge
- Synergies with the 1997 Watercourses Convention

Challenges

- Integrate new challenges and resource requirements in future work
- Difficulty in getting consensus at the global level on the importance of transboundary water cooperation

Looking ahead - new programme of work 2013-2015

- Area of work 1: Support to implementation and accession (projects on the ground and capacity building; Implementation Committee to be established)
- Area of work 2: EUWI NPDs
- Area of work 3: Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation
- Area of work 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins
- Area of work 5: Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus
- Area of work 6: Opening of the Convention outside the ECE region

Thank you!

More information

including guidelines, publications and information on activities under the Convention can be found at

http://www.unece.org/env/water

water.convention@unece.org