

An aerial photograph showing a winding river through a lush green landscape with patches of brown earth, likely a wetland or floodplain. The river flows from the bottom left towards the top right, with a small circular feature on the left bank.

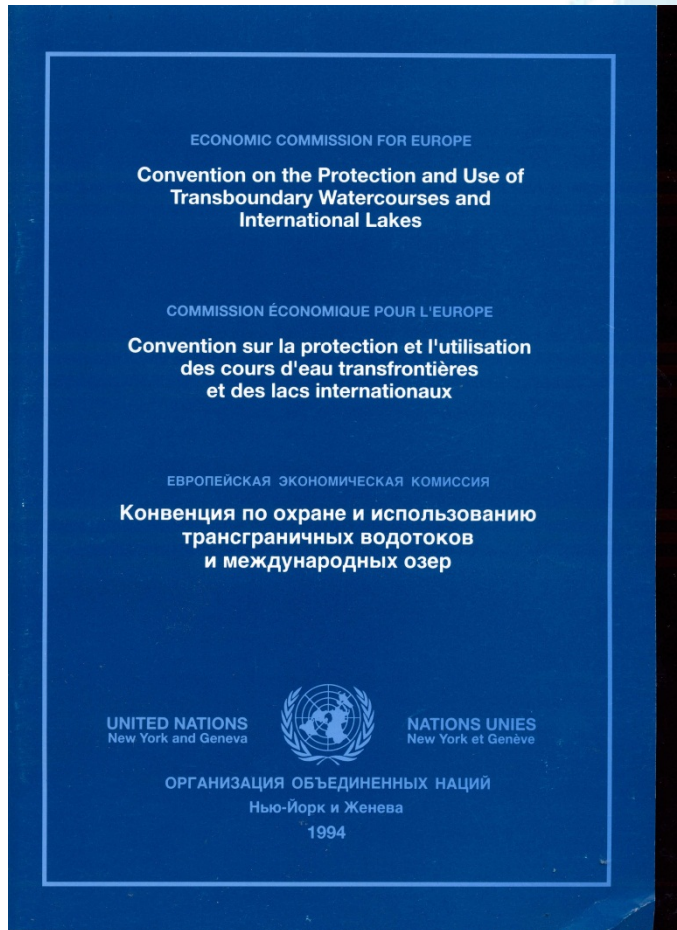
UNECE Water Convention

Going global after 20 years of
successful water cooperation

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The Water Convention



- Signed on 17 March 1992
- Entered into force on 6 October 1996
- Amendment 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

Status of ratification of the Convention

38 countries and the European Union

- Parties
- Countries in accession
- Non Parties

The map shows that most European countries are green (Parties). Turkey is red (Non Parties). Several countries in the Balkans and Eastern Europe are blue (Countries in accession). The United Kingdom and Ireland are red (Non Parties). The map also shows parts of North Africa and the Middle East in yellow.

38 countries and the European Union

 Parties

 Countries in accession

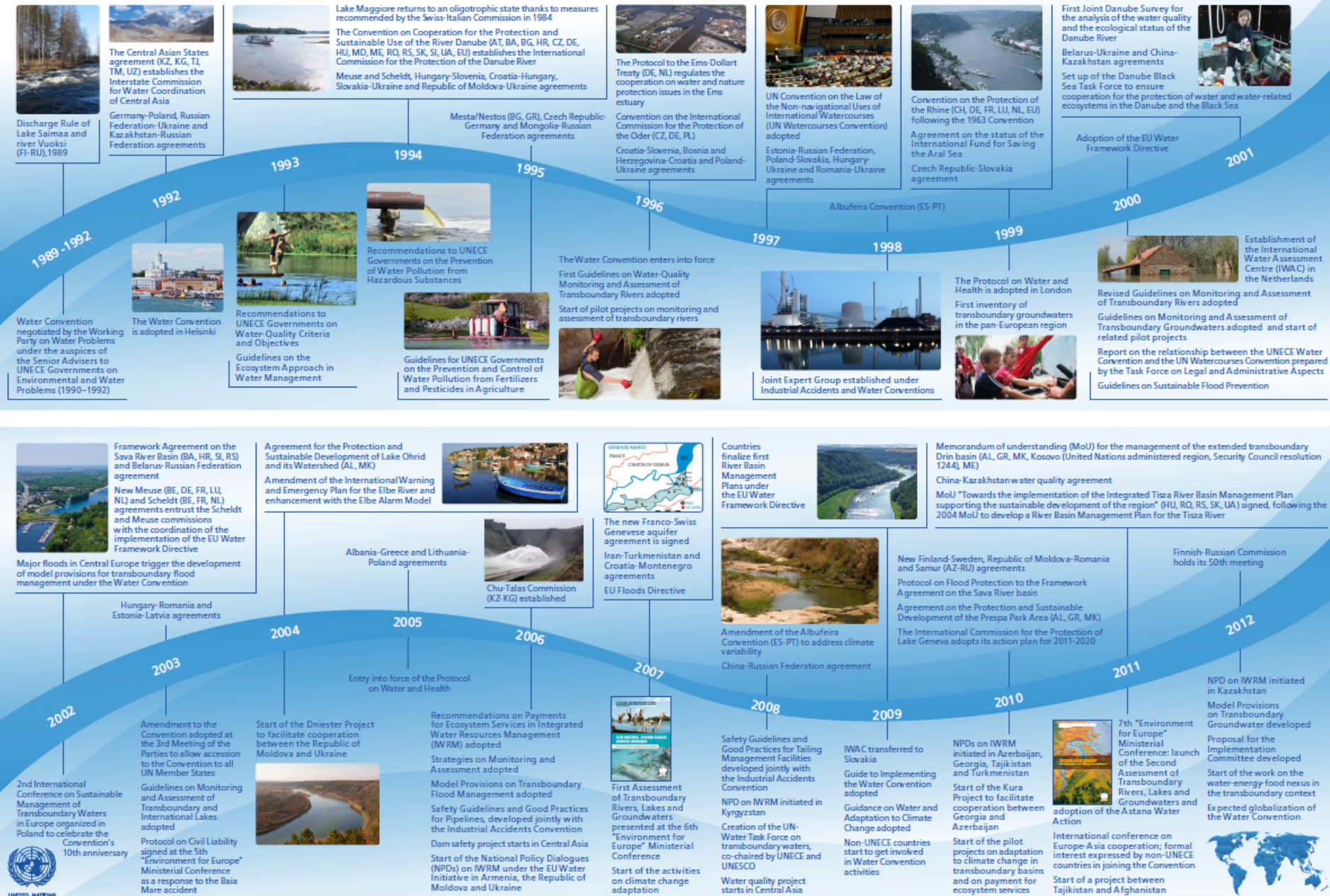
 Non Parties



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



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