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

Working Group on Water Management

REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING

Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Working Group on Water Management was held at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands at the Atlantic Hotel, The Hague (Netherlands), on 17 and 19 September 2001. On 18 September, a workshop on public participation in water management was held at the same venue.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine. Representatives of the NGO MAMA-86 also participated.
3. Mr. Milan Matushka (Slovakia), Chairman of the Working Group, and Mr. Carel de Villeneuve (Netherlands), Chairman of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, made opening statements and asked the Working Group to observe a minute's silence for the victims of the 11 September attack in the United States.

I. PROCEDURES

4. Mr. Milan Matushka, who was elected Chairman at the second meeting of the Working Group (Bonn, Germany, 15 September 1999), chaired the meeting.
5. At the end of its third meeting, the Working Group re-elected Mr. Milan Matushka as Chairperson, and elected Mrs. Bernadetta Czerska (Poland) Vice-Chairperson.
6. The Working Group adopted its agenda as set out in document MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/1.

II. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

A. Joint bodies and bilateral and multilateral cooperation

7. The Working Group took note of the information that the secretariat provided on the work it had undertaken and on its future activities to establish a specific web site on joint bodies. The Working Group also took note with appreciation of the information by a representative of the Water Convention's International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), including that on the IWAC contribution to the World Water Development Report (see para. 32) and the forthcoming report "10 Transboundary Rivers in Europe: Assessment practices and environmental status".
8. Following the objectives of programme element 2.2 on strengthening the capability of joint bodies to comply with the obligations under the Convention, the Working Group discussed possible ways of examining the difficulties encountered when implementing the Convention, arising from differences in administrative practice, in management and protection responsibilities or in water-use rights in riparian countries. Rather than compiling a separate report, the Working Group was of the opinion that such an exchange of views and experience should become part of the agenda of its future meetings.
9. The Working Group also considered ways to strengthen cooperation with joint bodies for the protection of the marine environment (see the report of the second meeting of the Parties, ECE/MP.WAT/5, para. 47 (d)) and with the Global Programme of Action of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It noted the readiness of Finland and the Netherlands to consider taking a lead in this activity under the 2003-2006 work plan under the Convention.^{1/}

B. Water and industrial accidents

10. The Working Group took note of the information by the secretariat about the outcome of the joint special session of the Parties to the Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), held at

Geneva on 2-3 July 2001, to draw up an appropriate regime on civil liability in the UNECE region for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities.2/

11. The Working Group, referring to the joint activities on water and industrial accidents with the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (see programme element 2.8 below), the Working Group appreciated: (a) the offers of Germany and Hungary to host the first and second meetings (Berlin, 18-19 October 2001, and Budapest in spring 2002, respectively); (b) the readiness of Hungary and Switzerland to act jointly as lead countries; (c) the designation of water experts and industrial accidents experts by Parties and non-Parties to the Conventions. The Working Group invited delegations which had not already done so to consider nominating further experts, particularly with a background in water management.3/

12. The Working Group also considered the tentative programme of the international workshop and exercise on industrial safety and water protection in transboundary river basins (MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/2 and 3), scheduled to take place in Tiszaújváros, Hungary, on 3-5 October 2001 at the invitation of the Government of Hungary, and made arrangements for lectures to be given by water experts.4/

C. Ecosystem approach in water management

13. The Working Group examined the tentative programme for the joint German-Slovak workshop on “Approaches and tools for river basin management: experience drawn from the implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive” (Bratislava, 15-16 October 2001) contained in document MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/4 issued on 27 June 2001, and made arrangements to assist both lead Parties in the further preparations.5/

14. The delegation of Germany invited the Working Group to consider, when drawing up the future direction of work under the Convention: (a) the growing membership of the EU; (b) water issues at the fringe of an enlarged EU area; and (c) water problems in non-accession countries. The Working Group also took note of information by delegations from EU accession countries on national plans for the implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive, which would be dealt with in detail at the workshop.6/

D. Groundwater management

15. The Working Group examined the tentative programme for the workshop on the protection of groundwaters used as a source of drinking-water supply (MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/5) scheduled to be held in Budapest on 8-10 November 2001 at the invitation of the Government of Hungary, and made arrangements to assist the lead Party (Hungary) in the further preparations for, and the follow-up to, the workshop.7/

16. The Working Group also took note of the information by the secretariat on the workshop on artificial recharge of groundwaters and human health scheduled to take place in Budapest, on 9-10 November 2001.8/ The workshop was a joint event organised by UNECE and the World Health Organisation's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO).

E. International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters

17. The Working Group examined the tentative programme for the second International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in Miedzyzdroje (Poland) on 21-24 April 2002 to mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Water Convention (MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/6), and made arrangements to assist the lead Parties (Poland, Finland, Germany, Netherlands) in the further preparations for the Conference. It particularly appreciated that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) had joined the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE), WHO/EURO, UNECE and IWAC as co-organizers of the Conference.

18. The Working Group invited the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to assist the Programme Committee in the finalization of the Conference programme (mid-December 2001), the development of the Conference and the preparation of draft conclusions and recommendations.^{9/}

F. Management and sustainable development of international lakes

19. The delegation of Switzerland, which had originally agreed to act as lead Party, informed the Working Group that it was no longer in a position to do so.

20. The Working Group, having consulted with other delegations on their readiness to take over as lead countries:

(a) Considered merging the policy issues of programme element 2.7 on management and sustainable development of international lakes and the policy issues linked with the implementation of programme element 3.2.3 on the pilot programme on international lakes;

(b) Noted the information by Finland that institutional, legal, managerial, technical and scientific issues of lake management as well as public participation were important aspects of the forthcoming implementation of the guidelines on lake monitoring and assessment in pilot projects;

(c) Noted also that programme element 3.2.3 would provide important contributions to programme element 2.7 rather than replacing it;

(d) Noted further that activities of other joint bodies on international lakes, such as Lake Ohrid, and other programmes, such as MANTRA EAST ^{10/}, could provide important inputs to policy guidelines on lake management;

(e) Decided to reconsider the issue at its fourth meeting once more information would be available on the scope of the pilot projects on lake monitoring and assessment.

G. Interstate distribution and rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers in water-deficient regions

21. The Working Group took note of the written information by the lead Party (Russian Federation) on the circulation in spring 2001 of a questionnaire to focal points from countries that experienced water deficiency and a number of non-ECE countries to gather information on reasonable and equitable ways of using waters in transboundary river basins. By September 2001, information had been received from Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine; and the other countries were expected to provide information by the end of 2001. Thereafter, the lead country would compile a draft study with preliminary conclusions and recommendations that would provide a basis for a workshop tentatively scheduled to be convened in late 2002.

22. The Working Group took note of the information provided and requested the lead country to inform the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties in early 2002 about the results so that the Bureau could decide on the convening of the workshop.

H. Best agricultural practice

23. The Meeting of the Parties, when adopting its agenda for its second meeting (see ECE/MP.WAT/5, para.10), had decided to entrust the Working Group on Water Management with considering at its third meeting in 2001 the outcome of the activity on best agricultural practice (ECE/MP.WAT/2, annex II, element 4.2 of the 1997-2000 work-plan) including the secretariat note on this subject (MP.WAT/2000/8). In order to facilitate the discussion, the secretariat had also circulated copies of the consultant's report on which the above secretariat note was based.

24. Delegations participating in the discussion underlined the importance of examining how the Parties would apply soft-law instruments, such as the 1995 Guidelines on the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture (ECE/CEP/10), noting, however, that guidelines were not binding on them. Such an examination was useful to identify achievements and shortcomings of current practices.

25. Delegations noted that in a number of cases the objectives of the guidelines had not yet been achieved. Some delegations pointed to the need for further examination, as the information available covered only part of the region or was seen as otherwise incomplete or contradictory. Others – while taking note of the outcome of the study – did not see a need for continuing the activity for the time being as there was no lead Party. Other delegations preferred taking a decision at a later stage, while giving countries the opportunity to comment and provide further information until the end of 2001.

26. The Working Group invited delegations to submit comments and suggestions for amendments to document (MP.WAT/2000/8) and the consultant's paper, if needed, to the secretariat by the end of December 2001, so that a draft decision could be prepared by the secretariat on a possible revision of the study or an appropriate follow-up activity under the 2003/2006 work plan.

I. Public participation in water management

27. Based on the outcome of the workshop on public participation in water management that had taken place on 18 September 2001 at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, the Working Group:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the host country for the organization of the workshop and its readiness to act as lead Party for the drawing-up of a manual on public participation in water management taking into account: (i) relevant provisions of the 1998 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Convention); and (ii) the documents on public participation in water management submitted to the Parties and considered at their second meeting (MP.WAT/2000/4, 6 and Add.1);

(b) Invited delegations to nominate their experts for the drawing-up of these guidelines, and to communicate to the secretariat their names and addresses by end of December 2001; 11/

(c) Tentatively scheduled an expert group meeting for mid-2002 with a view to submitting a preliminary draft version of the manual to the Working Group for consideration at its fourth meeting.

III. PARTNERS IN COOPERATION

A. International Conference on Freshwater

28. The Working Group took note of the information by the secretariat about the International Conference on Freshwater that would be held in Bonn (Germany) on 3-7 December 2001, and discussed various proposals for Conference contributions.12/ It particularly invited its members to bring the achievements under the Water Convention to the attention of the international community.13/

B. Kiev Ministerial Conference

29. The Working Group took note of the preparatory process for the Kiev Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (21-23 May 2003), particularly the activities of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy to prepare assessments of Europe's environment and the contributions from the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), established under the Water Convention, to it (see the report on the second meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/3, para. 51-52).

C. Cooperation with the governing bodies of other UNECE environmental conventions

30. The Chairman of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties informed the Working Group about the outcome of recent meetings, organized under the auspices of the UNECE

Committee on Environmental Policy, on cooperation among the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions.

31. The Working Group particularly noted the already existing close cooperation between the governing bodies of the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions (see paras. 10-12). It took note of the information by the secretariat that two studies were being prepared under the auspices of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy: one on public participation in international forums, and the other on the links between provisions of the Aarhus Convention with other environmental conventions that could provide the basis for future cooperation with the Aarhus Convention. The two studies would be discussed before submission to the Committee in November 2002, at an informal consultation between the Bureaux of the Committee and of the ECE environmental conventions.

D. World Water Development Report

32. The Working Group noted the information by the secretariat about the activities of the United Nations to draw up the World Water Development Report (as part of the World Water Assessment Programme) for consideration at the Third World Water Forum (Japan, spring 2003). It agreed to assist the secretariat and the International Water Assessment Centre in the preparation of the regional input to the report. In particular, the Working Group on Water Management supported the proposal by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (see MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/3, paras. 47-48) to include a case study on cooperation on transboundary waters in the UNECE region already in the first edition of the World Water Development Report.^{14/}

IV. WORK PLAN

33. The Working Group examined its work plan (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex II, programme area II), and updated it on the basis of the decisions taken (see annex below).

V. CLOSURE

34. On behalf of the participants, the delegate of Slovakia thanked the Government of the Netherlands for the excellent arrangement that had been made and for the cordial hospitality extended to them during the meeting. The participants expressed their gratitude for the financial assistance provided by the Netherlands to support the participation of experts from countries in transition and NGOs.

Notes:

^{1/} At its meeting in Miedzyzdroje, Poland, 24-25 April 2002, the Bureau noted the information by Mr. Carel de Villeneuve and Mrs. Sirkka Haunia (Finland) about the

possibility of convening a workshop on transboundary waters and the marine environment after the third meeting of the Parties; and requested the Chairman of the Working Group to take this proposal into account when drafting the 2003/2006 work plan.

2/ The progress of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Civil Liability in drawing up this instrument can be followed on the Convention's web site at <http://www.unece.org/env/civil-liability/meetings-working-group.html>.

3/ The second meeting (Budapest, 15-16 April 2002) of the ad hoc expert group was attended by: Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

4/ The report of this meeting was issued on 30 January 2002 as document CP.TEIA/2001/6 - MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/4.

5/ The workshop report was published on 24 December 2001 as document MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/8.

6/ These presentations are available on the Convention's web site at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub75.htm>.

7/ The proceedings of the workshop will be published by IWAC; thereafter the report and presentations will also be made available on the IWAC web site at www.iwac-unece.org.

8/ The report on the workshop is available on the WHO/EURO web site on water and sanitation at <http://www.euro.who.int/watsan>.

9/ The report on the Conference was issued on 12 June 2002 as document ECE/MP.WAT/8. The report and presentations made at the Conference are also available on the Water Convention's web site at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/conf2.htm>

10/ Integrated strategies for the management of transboundary waters on the eastern European fringe.

11/ In addition to the Netherlands (lead Party), the following delegations informed the secretariat of their readiness to participate: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Slovakia, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the NGOs: Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation and MAMA-86.

12/ At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC/SWR) in Geneva on 24-28 September 2001, UNESCO offered to prepare a set of posters highlighting the activities of United Nations organization on water. A poster describing the UNECE and IWAC water activities was prepared by IWAC and submitted on 23 October 2001 to UNESCO.

13/ At the Bonn Conference, the delegations of Denmark and Switzerland highlighted the achievements under the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

14/ The inclusion of a case study on Lake Peipsi was approved at the above-mentioned ACC/SWR meeting in Geneva (24-28 September 2001), and arrangements have been made for the drafting of the case study jointly by Estonia and the Russian Federation, assisted by the Netherlands, the Joint Estonian-Russian Commission on Transboundary Waters, the Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation and the secretariat. The case study is available at http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/case_studies/peipsi_lake/index.shtml

Annex

UPDATE OF PROGRAMME AREA II OF THE 2000-2003 WORK PLAN UNDER THE CONVENTION a/

PROGRAMME AREA II: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

Responsible body: Working Group on Water Management, with Slovakia as lead Party.

Rationale: The focus of programme area II is on inter-sectorial issues of water management related to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact. It aims at providing assistance to the Parties in their endeavour to prevent damage to the environment; ensure the conservation and, where necessary, the restoration of aquatic ecosystems; prevent damage by waters, including river regulation, drainage, floods, droughts and erosion; promote the ecosystem approach in water management; and foster water-demand management measures, including water supply services and the rational use of water. The programme area also facilitates the work of joint bodies. It also provides advice on public information and public participation in water management. Outputs include recommendations, codes of practice and other soft-law instruments.

2.1 Public participation in water management

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries to comply with provisions of relevant conventions, protocols and other binding and non-binding instruments to make policy- and decision-making on integrated management of catchment areas a matter of concern to both public authorities and the public. Guidance will be given to countries and joint bodies so that public participation can lead to an improvement in the quality and implementation of, and commitment to, decisions, increased accountability, increased transparency and increased public awareness of water management issues.

Work accomplished: Draft guidelines on public participation in water management (MP.WAT/2000/4, 6 and Add.1) prepared by a group of invited experts.

Work to be undertaken: Draw up a manual on public participation in water management taking into account relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention and the EIA Convention for consideration by the Parties at their third meeting.

Lead country: Netherlands.

a/ Amendments are boldfaced.

Main partners: Working Group on Legal Aspects, Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health, Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention, UNEP, WHO/EURO as well as relevant NGOs.

2.2 Strengthening the capability of joint bodies to comply with the obligations under the Convention

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries which are setting up or revitalizing joint bodies (e.g. river and lake commissions, border commissions) to comply with the provisions of the Convention related to the activities of joint bodies, and to strengthen cooperation between the UNECE conventions related to transboundary waters, industrial accidents, environmental impact assessment, public participation and long-range transboundary air pollution. Experience gained in concluding and implementing international legal instruments on the protection and use of waters will be analysed. Difficulties encountered when implementing the Convention, arising from differences in administrative practice, in management and protection responsibilities or in water-use rights in riparian countries, will also be examined.

Work accomplished: Workshop "from dispute to consensus - the role of binational and multinational commissions on transboundary waters", Bonn, Germany, 13-14 September 1999.

Work to be undertaken: **Create a web site under <http://www.unece.org/env/water>** listing and permanently updating joint bodies on transboundary waters as a basis for exploring the possibility of twinning between joint bodies and eventually establishing a network of joint bodies and, at their request, on-the-job training of their representatives to facilitate the implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention as well as relevant recommendations or guidelines and other soft-law instruments drawn up under the Convention.

Lead Party: none, to be implemented by the secretariat.

Main partners: Working Group on Legal Aspects, UNEP, representatives of secretariats of joint bodies, such as the International Commissions for the Protection of the rivers Elbe, Danube, Meuse, Moselle, Oder, Rhine and Scheldt, as well as regional sea commissions.

2.3 Ecosystem approach in water management

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will provide guidance on basic approaches to preventing further deterioration and protecting and improving the status of aquatic ecosystems, to promote sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources as stipulated both in the Convention and in the proposal for a EC directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. It will examine how countries are following a holistic approach to the environmentally sound water management of inland water resources, and review the progress made in developing a new level of national and international awareness and responsibility to solve complex and interrelated water management problems.

Work accomplished: 1993 Guidelines on the ecosystems approach in water management (ECE/ENVWA/31).

Work to be undertaken: The EC Directive establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy will be used by the EC as legal instrument to transpose the Convention into Community legislation. Therefore, the EC directive will be an important tool for the implementation of the Convention in the region. The experience gained with implementing the directive will therefore be of major interest to non-EU Parties to the Convention. With a view to exchanging and disseminating early experience gained by the EU member States and countries applying for EU membership and to making use of this experience to possibly revise the 1993 Guidelines on the ecosystem approach in water management, a workshop will be organized jointly by Germany and Slovakia **and held in Bratislava on 15-16 October 2001.**

Lead Parties: Germany and Slovakia.

Main partners: European Commission, interested joint bodies.

2.4. Management of transboundary waters in the UN/ECE region

Description: The Meeting of the Parties will prepare, convene and follow up the second International Conference on Management of Transboundary Waters and Sustainable Development of International Lakes in the UNECE region, to be held in Poland, which will provide a platform for governmental officials, decision makers and planners in environmental and water authorities, representatives of joint bodies, scientists and all those who are involved in the institutional, technical, economic, legal or scientific aspects of the management of transboundary waters.

Work accomplished: Conference on Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe, Mrzezyno (Poland), 22-25 September 1997 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/4).

Work to be undertaken: A programme committee led by Poland will prepare and develop the Conference, **scheduled to take place in Miedzyzdroje on 21-24 April 2002.** The lead

country will inform the Parties at their third meeting about the outcome and propose follow-up activities.

Lead Parties: Poland in cooperation with Finland, Germany and the Netherlands.

Main partners: Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, **IWAC**, **UNECE**, **UNEP/ROE**, **WHO/EURO**, **UNESCO**, EC and relevant NGOs.

2.5 Groundwater management

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries to develop a comprehensive groundwater protection policy, which goes beyond water-production areas; preserves the water quality of unpolluted aquifers; promotes the integrated management of groundwater and surface water; and facilitates the development and use of techniques to alleviate contamination. It will develop additional specific measures to protect groundwaters against inputs of hazardous substances and overuse, following the provisions of article 3.

Work accomplished: International workshop on groundwater depletion in basin regions: problems arising between the rivers Danube and Tisza (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/5).

Work to be undertaken: Prepare and develop the international workshop on the protection of groundwaters used as a source of drinking-water supply, **to be held in Budapest on 9-11 November 2001**. The lead country will inform the Parties at their third meeting about the outcome and propose follow-up activities to be undertaken under the Convention or its Protocol on Water and Health.

Lead Party: Hungary.

Main partners: Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, **IWAC**, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WHO/EURO and relevant NGOs.

2.6 Interstate distribution and rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers in water-deficient regions

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will examine legal, administrative, economic and technical measures for the rational use of water within countries located in water-deficient regions; and develop policy guidelines for the reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas or under other physical and socio-economic constraints. Both water-quantity and water-quality aspects will be considered.

Work accomplished: 1984 UNECE Declaration of Policy on the Rational Use of Water; workshop on water-demand management organized under the former task force on sustainable water management, led by the Netherlands, under the auspices of the former Working Party on Water Problems (Geneva, 27-28 February 1995).

Work to be undertaken: Prepare draft recommendations on the rational use of water and interstate water distribution on the basis of responses to a questionnaire and other available information; organize and hold a workshop in the Russian Federation in 2002.

Lead Party: Russian Federation.

Main partners: Working Group on Legal Aspects and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

2.7 Management and sustainable development of international lakes

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries in promoting environmental management and sustainable development of international lakes as part of their entire basins taking duly into account relevant international legal frameworks such as UNECE conventions and the EC directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. The experience of the lake commissions, relevant documents developed by other international organizations and the deliberations and results of international workshops in this field, e.g. the Tartu workshop, will be fully taken into account. To this end, a policy document containing a set of recommendations will be prepared covering all necessary aspects, e.g. institutional, legal, managerial, technical and scientific in the lake catchment areas, including public participation and paying special attention to the specificity of lakes as compared to other waters.

Work accomplished: International workshop on management and sustainable development in international lake basins held in Tartu (Estonia) from 15 to 17 December 1999 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1999/5).

Work to be undertaken: An international expert group on management of international lakes will be established, with Switzerland as lead country, as a forum to facilitate the exchange of information and strengthen cooperation between international lake basins. The expert group will prepare a draft policy document, following a three-step approach: collection of the existing documentation and its critical review by the expert group, drafting of a preliminary version of a policy document and final review of the draft document by the Working Group on Water Management in order to finalize it for consideration by the Parties at their third meeting in 2003. In parallel, its content will be disseminated widely.

Lead Party: Based on the experience gained with the preparations for the pilot projects on monitoring and assessment of transboundary and international lakes (programme element 3.2.3), led by Finland, the Working Group will at its fourth meeting either designate a lead country or consider merging programme elements 2.7 and 3.2.3.

Main partner: International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC).

2.8 Water and industrial accidents

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents will implement their joint programme on water and industrial accidents, further develop the recommendations contained therein, and provide advice to joint bodies and other relevant authorities, organizations and institutions to improve the safety and management of industrial installations so as to prevent transboundary accidental water pollution, taking into account the achievements of the joint bodies for the protection of the Elbe, Danube and Rhine.

Work accomplished: Workshop on prevention and limitation of industrial accidents with effects on transboundary waters, Berlin, Germany, 7-9 May 1998 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/7), and UNECE Seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters, Hamburg, Germany, 4-6 October 1999 (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3), organized jointly under the auspices of the Meetings of the Parties/Signatories to both Conventions.

Main partners: Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health, **IWAC**, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), UNEP, WHO/EURO, European Commission.

2.8.1 Water and industrial accidents: joint measures

Work to be undertaken: Implement the short-term activities set out in the joint programme (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I) to promote cooperation and prompt communication in the event of an industrial accident, further develop the joint programme and adapt it to changing circumstances. **Joint activities include the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of both Conventions, safety guidelines/best practices for the prevention of accidental water pollution, notification and alarm systems, cross-border contingency plans and the organization of joint response exercises. These joint activities also include the drawing up of safety guidelines for pipelines and tailing dams, and possible adaptation of existing guidelines to the specific needs and circumstances of river basins. Upon request, assistance will be provided for the drafting of the legally binding instrument on civil liability for damage to transboundary waters caused by industrial accidents.**

Lead Parties: Hungary and Switzerland.

2.8.2 Water and industrial accidents: measures to be undertaken by each Party

Work to be undertaken: The long-term activities set out in the joint programme (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I) will be carried out by each of the Parties (by countries

with market economies within a period of five years, and by countries with economies in transition within a period of ten years). These activities include the adaptation of national legal systems, the setting-up of administrative procedures and the implementation of technical measures at the level of industrial installations and within production practices. Each Party will report to the respective meetings of the Parties about achievements. The format of the reporting scheme and criteria for compliance will be considered by the Parties to both Conventions at a joint meeting, tentatively scheduled for 2003, in order to facilitate reporting by countries with market economies in 2005 and by countries with economies in transition in 2010.

Lead Party: none, to be implemented by each Party.