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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

**Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

**REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING**

Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment was held in Helsinki, on 3-5 October 2002, at the invitation of the Government of Finland.
2. It was attended by representatives of the following countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
3. Representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Groundwater Quality Assessment and Protection (British Geological Survey), the European Topic Centre on Water (ETC/IW) established under the auspices of the European Environment Agency, and the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also attended the meeting.
4. Representatives of the Global Water Partnership and of the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation also participated.
5. Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland), Chairperson, and Ms. Zsuzsa Buzas (Hungary), Vice-Chairperson, chaired the meeting.

## **I. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

6. Ms. Lea Kauppi, Director-General, Finnish Environment Institute, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

7. Mr. Martti Poutanen, Director of Bilateral-regional Cooperation, International Affairs Unit, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, addressed the participants. He reminded them of the importance of the Water Convention for Finland, which had a long tradition of cooperation on transboundary waters with its neighbours. He emphasized the special momentum for water issues after the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the entry into force of the EU Water Framework Directive, and how all this amplified the responsibilities of the Working Group.

8. Mr. Wim Cofino, Director of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), thanked the Finnish Environment Institute for organizing the meeting. He also underlined the many responsibilities of the Working Group within different frameworks, including the work related to the EU Water Framework Directive, the cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on groundwaters and the role in the World Water Assessment Programme.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The Working Group adopted its agenda as contained in document MP.WAT/WG.2/2002/1.

## **III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING**

10. The Working Group adopted the report of its second meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/3).

11. The representative of Hungary informed the Working Group that the "Technical report: Guidance to operation of water quality laboratories" had been finalized as agreed at the previous meeting. An electronic version of the report was distributed to the participants. The report would be posted on the IWAC and the UNECE Water Convention's web sites. 1/

12. The secretariat briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the Second International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters, which had taken place in Miedzzydroje (Poland) from 21 to 24 April 2002, at the invitation of the Government of Poland (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/conf2.htm>). Attention was drawn to the report of the Conference (ECE/MP.WAT/8).

#### IV. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

##### A. Monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers

13. Mr. John Chilton, British Geological Survey, who became project leader of the Core Group on Rivers Pilot Projects on behalf of the Netherlands, since Mr. Martin Adriaanse had joined UNEP, reported on the progress over the past year in the rivers' pilot projects on the rivers Bug, Latoritza/Uhz, Ipoly, Morava and Mures/Maros (unofficial working paper WGMA/2002/4 2/). This included completion of:

(a) Synthesis reports "Identification and Review of Water Management Issues" for the rivers Bug, Morava and Mures/Maros. The reports were printed and distributed, and several presentations of the pilot projects were made at the Conference in Miedzyzdroje;

(b) Draft recommendations reports for the Bug, Morava and Mures/Maros;

(c) Draft reports on water management issues for the Ipoly and the Latorica/Uhz. For these rivers, the reports on water management issues would be combined with the recommendations reports.

14. The Working Group complimented the Core Group on Rivers Pilot Projects on its work and requested IWAC and the UNECE secretariat to contact, respectively, the participants of the Working Groups and the Focal Points of the Water Convention to publicize the availability of the reports, which could be ordered from IWAC.

15. The Working Group expressed its regret at the absence of Ukraine from the meeting and the pilot projects, and requested the secretariat to call on Ukraine to play a more active role in the finalization of the reports.

16. It was stressed that the work of the Core Group on Rivers Pilot Projects would not be concluded with the publication of the reports, since the evaluation of the projects on the five rivers was extremely important in order to draw lessons and conclusions relevant also for the future work on monitoring and assessment.

17. With this aim, the Working Group asked UNECE and IWAC to organize a workshop with the members of the pilot projects, the team leader, reviewers of the reports and drafters of the guidelines in order to evaluate the pilot projects. The outcome of the workshop would be presented to the Working Group at its next meeting and would provide suggestions for the future work plan, including recommendations concerning the Guidelines. The conclusions would also be part of the assessment requested by the Meeting of the Parties on the implementation of the Guidelines (see paras. 35-36). 3/

18. It was also suggested that the experience of the pilot projects could be presented at the next Monitoring Tailor-Made Conference (see para. 39).

19. It was emphasized that the recommendations of the pilot projects should now be implemented. The delegations of Poland and Slovakia pointed out that they were already implementing them. The secretariat drew attention to the opportunity for the countries in

Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to implement the projects within the framework of the EU Water Initiative (see para. 42).

20. Concerning the pilot projects carried out under Tacis on the rivers Kura, Severski-Donetz and Tobol, included in the Working Group's work plan, and the Pripyat River, it was underlined that even if UNECE did not have a formal role in the terms of references of the Tacis projects, the Working Group was interested in being proactive in the projects through its concerned members. Thus, a mechanism for establishing and maintaining contact with the Tacis projects should be developed.

#### **B. Monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters**

21. On the basis of two unofficial working papers (WGMA/2002/5a and WGMA/2002/5b) prepared by Mr. Geo Arnold, leader of the Core Group on Groundwaters, the Working Group examined the work of the Core Group and the progress in the pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters:

(a) The Aggtelek - Slovak Karst pilot project had started with a kick-off meeting in Jósfa, Hungary (7-8 March 2002). The first step, the inception report, would be finalized by the end of 2002;

(b) For the Bug pilot project, no memorandum of understanding had been signed yet, but during a tripartite meeting organized in Lubin, Poland (11 June 2002), it had been agreed that: (i) the pilot project would be regulated by a tripartite agreement between Ukraine, Belarus and Poland, which would take the lead in drafting it; (ii) the pilot project would cover all groundwaters in the Bug River basin; and (iii) the inception report would progress in parallel with the drafting of the agreement;

(c) The Vechte pilot project did not progress owing to some reservations from the German side.

22. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the successful efforts spent on establishing cooperation with the EU Working Group 2.7, responsible for developing the guidance document on monitoring for the EU Water Framework Directive. It encouraged the Core Group on Groundwaters to continue in its endeavour.

23. The Working Group also expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the translation into Russian of the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters.

#### **C. Monitoring and assessment of transboundary/international lakes**

24. Mr. Olli-Pekka Pietiläinen, Finnish Environment Institute, presented the background paper for the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary and international lakes 4/. The paper described the current monitoring and assessment practices used in 21 transboundary/ international lakes (including reservoirs) in the UNECE region. Furthermore, the document provided some basic information on these lakes, such as the location, physical

dimensions, catchment area properties, climate, long-term water quality changes, and major threats.

25. The Working Group congratulated the authors and suggested enlarging the study to other lakes. The secretariat and the delegation of Finland would contact national focal points under the Convention, as well as the secretariats of joint bodies, to collect additional information. The inventory would be published with minor amendments suggested by the Working Group and then kept updated on the Internet. A disclaimer would be inserted to spell out that geographic names and boundaries shown on maps did not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations or any other organization referred to in the publication.

26. Mr. Pertti Heinonen, Finnish Environment Institute, presented the progress on the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary and international lakes, which had been completed according to the recommendations made by the Working Group at its previous meeting. In particular, the output of the Common Implementation Strategy for the EU Water Framework Directive had been taken into account. The guidelines would be finalized to include the conclusions of the recently published Guidance on Monitoring for the Water Framework Directive.

27. The delegation of Finland submitted a working paper to the Working Group with a proposal for a case study on two transboundary lakes, Lake Peipsi (Estonia/Russian Federation) and Lake Pyhäjärvi (Finland/Russian Federation) (WGMA/2002/6). The aim of the project was to implement and test the above-mentioned guidelines and, at the same time, to develop information systems needed for water management, also in the light of the EU Water Framework Directive. The Working Group was requested to discuss and further define the project but it felt that any decision about the working programme should be taken by the Meeting of the Parties.

28. The Working Group also discussed ways of combining the two programme elements on lakes (programme element 3.1.1 on monitoring and assessment of international lakes, carried out under the auspices of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, and programme element 2.7 on management and sustainable development of international lakes, carried out under the auspices of the Working Group on Water Management), noting the fact that Switzerland was not in a position to continue as lead country for the latter programme element. It was noted that the proposed case studies would deal not only with monitoring and assessment aspects.

29. Ms. Tina Nöges, Estonia, gave a presentation of the evaluation of Lake Peipsi (Estonia / Russian Federation) according to the EU Water Framework Directive (reference conditions, assessment of water status).

#### **D. Monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries**

30. Ms. Anna Nöjd, Finnish Environment Institute, presented the working paper on guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries (WGMA/2002/7). The paper included an inventory of the transboundary estuaries in the UNECE region and their monitoring practices, compiled on the basis of a questionnaire submitted to the focal points

under the Water Convention. The study covered only estuaries on the border of two or more countries and not the estuaries of all transboundary watercourses. The main conclusions of the study were that in most countries the monitoring of estuaries was part of the national surface-water monitoring programmes and that transboundary estuaries were covered by some kind of agreement promoting cooperation on monitoring and on sharing monitoring information among riparian countries.

31. The Working Group:

(a) Thanked Finland for the very comprehensive report and invited it to incorporate into the paper the comments received, in view of its future publication;

(b) Agreed that there was no need to develop specific guidelines on estuaries, given the current monitoring practices;

(c) Stressed, nevertheless, the importance of the topic and of the link between integrated freshwater management, coastal zone management and the marine environment protection, also considering the future activities under the Water Convention, including those in the framework of the EU Water Initiative (see paras. 42 to 44).

**E. Monitoring, warning and alarm, and notification systems: links with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

32. The secretariat informed the Working Group on the industrial accident notification system used by the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. As there was a close link between warning systems for pollution incidents in transboundary waters and industrial accident notifications (most accidents had an adverse impact on transboundary waters), experts from Hungary, the Netherlands and Switzerland examined the compatibility of both systems in their respective countries. The findings of this group would be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group, which might be called upon to follow them up.

**F. Rapid environmental and health risk assessment in transboundary river basins**

33. The secretariat, on behalf of the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO), informed the Working Group on the progress in the pilot project on rapid environmental and health risk assessment (REHRA), with Italy as lead country and supported by WHO/EURO and UNECE (WGMA/2002/11). In particular, the Working Group took note of the completion of the implementation of the REHRA methodology in Hungary and Romania, after conclusion of the implementation in Bulgaria in 2001. The methodology had already attracted the interest of a number of experts outside the pilot countries. REHRA had been approved as a type II initiative at the recent Johannesburg Summit, and a partner from Slovakia had joined in the new phase of the project within the framework of the initiative. The GIWA representative informed the Working Group of the successful testing of the methodology in Latin America.

**G. Monitoring, surveillance, early warning and response systems: links with the Protocol on Water and Health**

34. The Working Group agreed that the participation of Ms. Sirkka Haunia (Finland) at the next meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (28-29 October 2002 in Budapest) would make it possible to define the assistance to be provided to the Working Group on Water and Health in its activities linking water-related and human-health-related systems for monitoring and assessment 5/. It was also agreed that the development of indicators for measuring progress in the prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases should be included in IWAC activities (see paras. 37-38)

**V. EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION'S WORK ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

35. The Working Group discussed a working paper prepared by the secretariat (WGMA/2002/8) on possible ways and means to comply with the request of the Parties to the Convention that riparian Parties should report jointly, preferably through their joint bodies, to the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and to the Parties at their third meeting on their experience with the implementation of the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and of transboundary groundwaters (ECE/MP.WAT/5, para. 37 (e)).

36. In the light of the comments expressed, a group was set up to prepare a revised version of the questionnaires to be submitted to UNECE countries. The two draft questionnaires proposed by the group were then discussed and finalized by the Working Group. The secretariat would send them to the Convention's focal points, collect the replies and report to the Working Group at its the next meeting, before submitting the outcome to the Parties at their third Meeting.

**VI. INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT CENTRE (IWAC)**

37. Mr. Wim Cofino reported on the activities carried out by IWAC in 2001-2002 (WGMA/2002/9), including the support to the river pilot projects, the organization of the workshop "East meets West in integrated river basin management" (Bratislava, 27-28 June 2002), the contribution to the World Water Assessment Programme, in particular the input on indicators and the insertion of a case study on Lake Peipsi in the World Water Development Report. Furthermore, the outcome of the second meeting of the IWAC Core Group was presented together with future priorities and planned activities for 2003 and beyond, including the organization of the Conference Monitoring Tailor-Made IV (see para. 39), the role in the EU Water Initiative's component on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the involvement in the second edition of the World Water Development Report and the creation of strategic partnerships.

38. It was stressed that the future World Water Development Report could include either as a specific chapter or as a separate publication subregional information on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and that countries interested in contributing should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **VII. PARTNERS IN COOPERATION**

### **A. International Conference on Monitoring and Assessment**

39. The Director of IWAC informed the Working Group about preparations for the International Conference Monitoring Tailor-Made, which would be held in the Netherlands on 15-18 September 2003. The Conference would be a contribution by UNECE, IWAC and the Parties to the Water Convention to the 2003 International Year of Freshwater. 6/

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies on transboundary groundwaters**

40. The Working Group noted with appreciation the report by Mr. Geo Arnold on the activities undertaken and planned to be undertaken in cooperation with UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) under the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) project, including the publication in November 2001 of "Internationally Shared (Transboundary) Aquifer Resources Management - Their significance and sustainable management - A framework document" and the participation in regional workshops to promote the implementation of the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters.

41. The Working Group invited Mr. Arnold to continue his activities on behalf of the secretariat and IWAC.

### **C. World Summit on Sustainable Development**

42. The secretariat and Mr. Henrik Larsen, Global Water Partnership, briefed the Working Group on the EU Water Initiative, launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular on its component for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The partnership was designed to help countries achieve their water and sanitation targets. Actions were developed in a multi-stakeholder process together with the partner regions, NGOs and the private sector.

43. The Working Group discussed the planned events under the initiative, the modalities for cooperation and the inclusion of its contribution in its next work plan.

44. The representative of UNEP/GIWA informed the Working Group on the FreshCo Partnership linking integrated water resources management and integrated coastal zone management launched at the World Summit by the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment, UCC-Water, in collaboration with the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA). 7/



#### **D. Kiev Ministerial Conference**

45. The Working Group took note of the information by the secretariat on the preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, 21-23 May 2003). In particular it was informed of the preparation of the environment strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, including the background paper on integrated water resources management. 8/

46. The secretariat also informed the Working Group of the progress in the negotiation of the draft protocol on civil liability, which was expected to be adopted at the Ministerial Conference. It drew the attention of the participants to the fact that the protocol would contain obligations for the Parties linked to activities on monitoring and assessment. 9/

### **VIII. MONITORING STRATEGY UNTIL 2006 AND BEYOND**

#### **A. Stepwise approaches in monitoring and assessment**

47. Given the absence of the former IWAC staff member, Mr. Martin Adriaanse, who had promoted this issue, the secretariat advised the Working Group to postpone the discussion on the subject, as UNEP was currently considering possible worldwide activities. More information could be available by the time of the next meeting of the IWAC Core Group in spring 2003.

48. The secretariat recalled the Parties' obligation under the Convention to assess the effectiveness of measures taken for the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact (art. 11) as well as the obligations of review and assessment of progress under article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health. The Working Group agreed that, even if the assessment was a very demanding and resources-consuming activity, it was of primary importance. Therefore, the future work-plan (2003-2006) should shift the focus from monitoring to assessment.

#### **B. Future work under the Convention linked to monitoring and assessment**

49. Mr. Rainer Enderlein, Secretary of the Water Convention, gave a presentation on the preparation of the future strategy under the Convention, reviewing possible future areas of work, on the basis of ongoing activities under the Convention and within UNECE.

50. The Chairperson, Ms. Lea Kauppi, presented a working paper (WGMA/2002/10) on the outcome of informal discussions and brainstorming sessions with the friends of the Chair on a mid-term (until 2006) and long-term strategy (beyond 2006) under the Convention related to monitoring and assessment. The paper presented a proposal for the main activities related to monitoring and assessment as well as possible organizational structures.

51. The Working Group discussed and commented the proposal. It entrusted a group composed of Mr. Geo Arnold, Ms. Zsuzsa Buzás, Mr. John Chilton, Mr. Wim Cofino, Mr. Pertti Heinonen, Ms. Lea Kauppi (acting as a facilitator), Mr. Valery Kukosh and

Ms. Malgorzata Landsberg-Uczciwek with the finalization of a proposal for the future work plan 2003-2006, to be ready for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group.

52. It was also agreed that the future organizational structure would depend on the activities under the work plan.

## **IX. WORK PLAN**

53. The Working Group considered its work plan (MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/3, annex), and updated it on the basis of the decisions taken (see annex below).

## **X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

54. On a proposal by the delegation of the Russian Federation, the Working Group confirmed Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland) as Chairperson of the Working Group and Ms. Zsuzsa Buzas (Hungary) as Vice-Chairperson.

## **XI. DATES AND VENUE OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP**

55. Mr. Wim Cofino suggested, and the Working Group agreed, to hold the next meeting in the Netherlands before the Conference Monitoring Tailor-Made IV.

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

56. The delegate from the Russian Federation reported on the International Congress and Technical Exhibition ECWATECH, which had taken place on 4-7 June 2002 in Moscow. During the Congress, WHO/EURO and UNECE had organized a workshop on Sustainable Water Management and Health. The next Congress would be held in Moscow on 1-4 June 2004, and it could include a specific workshop on monitoring and assessment.

## **XIII. CLOSURE**

57. Ms. Lea Kauppi closed the meeting. The Working Group thanked the Government of Finland for the excellent arrangements that had been made and for the kind hospitality extended to it during the meeting.

### Notes

1/ The report is available at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidancelaboratories.pdf>.

- 2/ Working papers are internal meeting documents for restricted access by the participants of the meeting. Copies can be obtained upon request from the secretariat. Some papers can also be downloaded from the Convention's web site, at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/wgma/wgmadocuments.htm>.
- 3/ The Rivers Pilots Evaluation Workshop was held on 9-10 May 2003 in the Netherlands.
- 4/ The background paper for the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary and international lakes is available at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/inventorylakes.pdf>.
- 5/ Owing to other professional obligations, Ms. Haunia could not attend the second meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health. The report of the meeting is available on the Water Convention's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2002/wat/wg.4/reportsecondmeet.pdf>.
- 6/ Information about the Conference can be found at <http://www.mtm-conference.nl/>.
- 7/ The secretariat of the Water Convention has subsequently been asked to participate in the Partnership in view of developing common activities under the Water Convention. Information on the Partnership can be found at <http://www.ucc-water.org/Freshco/>.
- 8/ The Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (see document ECE/CEP/105/Rev.1) was adopted at the Kiev Conference.
- 9/ On 21 May 2003, the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters was adopted at the second joint special session of the Parties to the Water Convention and to the Industrial Accidents Convention. The Protocol is available at <http://www.unece.org/env/civil-liability/protocol.html>.

Annex

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

**PROGRAMME AREA III: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

**3.1 Strategies for monitoring and assessing transboundary waters**

**3.1.1 Monitoring and assessment of international lakes**

Work to be undertaken: *Provide information on the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary / international lakes to the Parties to the Convention at their third meeting (Spain, 26-28 November 2003) with the request for endorsement of the guidelines.*

Lead Party: Finland.

**3.1.2 Monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries**

Work to be undertaken: *Provide information on work undertaken on monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries to the Parties to the Convention at their third meeting.*

Lead Party: Finland.

**3.1.3 Updating of the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters**

Work to be undertaken: *Examine the use of the guidelines on transboundary rivers and groundwaters by the Parties and joint bodies (report by the secretariat on the basis of replies to a questionnaire). Provide information on work to be undertaken to update the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters to the Working Group for examination at its fourth meeting and to the Parties to the Convention for approval at their third meeting.*

Lead Party: Finland.

**3.2 Pilot programmes on monitoring and assessment**

**3.2.1 Pilot programme on transboundary rivers**

Work to be undertaken: *On request, provision of guidance to the Tacis project team on the new pilot projects on the rivers Kura, Pripyat, Severski-Donetz and Tobol.*

*Evaluation of work under the pilot projects on the rivers Bug, Latorica/Uzh, Morava, Maros and Ipoly for consideration by the Working Group at its fourth meeting.*

Lead Party: Netherlands.

### **3.2.2 Pilot programme on transboundary groundwaters**

Work to be undertaken: *Preparation of a progress report on the current groundwater pilot projects and cooperation with UNESCO and IAH for consideration by the Working Group at its fourth meeting.*

Lead Party: Netherlands.

### **3.2.3 Pilot programme on international lakes**

Work to be undertaken: *Preparation of a progress report on the current lake pilot projects for consideration by the Working Group at its fourth meeting.*

Lead Party: Finland.

### **3.3 Laboratory quality management**

*[Work accomplished with Hungary and the Netherlands as lead Parties]*

### **3.4 *International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)***

Work to be undertaken: *Examine the effectiveness of work of IWAC and prepare, if need be, a new mission statement, for consideration by the Working Group at its fourth meeting and endorsement by the Parties at their third meeting. This could include IWAC activities to support the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, provide assistance to the implementation of the EU Water Initiative, and assist the United Nations system in the development of indicators for the water sector.*

Lead Party: Netherlands.

#### Note

a/ Amendments are given in italics.