



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

PC.DEL/872/07
11 September 2007
ENGLISH only

Conference Services

Please find attached the presentation by Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Environmental Adviser, UNECE delivered at the Plenary Session 6 – Co-operation in transboundary water courses and rivers, First Preparatory Conference to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing Security and protecting the environment” held in Helsinki, 10 - 11 September 2007.



UNECE/OSCE Dniester Projects

Bo Libert, regional advisor on environment
UN Economic Commission For Europe
(UNECE)
Geneva

First Prep. Conf. to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
10-11 September 2007, Helsinki



Five regional environmental ECE conventions

- The protection of transboundary waters
- Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo)
- Long-range Transport of Air Pollution
- Public information and participation in decision making (Aarhus)

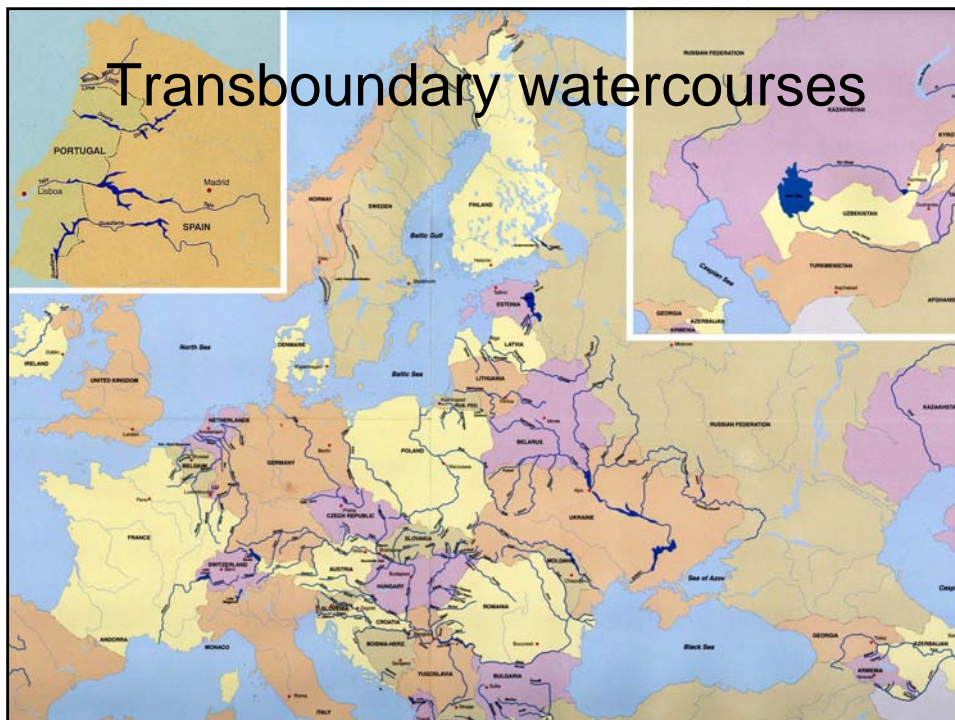




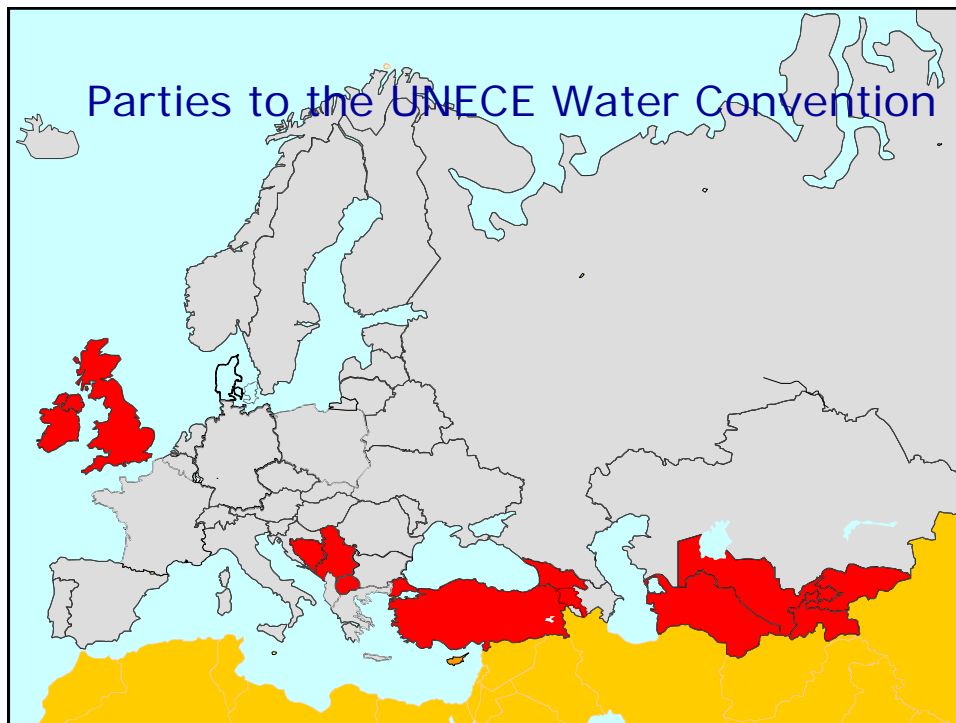
UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

UNECE

- **Signed on 17 March 1992**
- **Entered into force on 6 October 1996**
- **35 countries and the European Community are Parties to the Convention**

3







Basic provisions to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts

- Use of environmental impact assessment
- Promotion of the ecosystem approach
- Development of contingency planning
- Definition of objectives and criteria with regard to water-quality
- Minimization of the risk of accidental water pollution

6



Provisions relating to Riparian Parties

Parties bordering the same transboundary waters are obliged to conclude **specific bilateral or multilateral agreements** providing for the establishment of **joint bodies**

8



Tasks of joint bodies, examples

- **Identify, draw up inventory and exchange information on pollution sources;**
- **Elaborate joint monitoring programmes;**
- **Elaborate joint water quality objectives**
- **Develop concerted action plans for the reduction of pollution loads;**

9



Conclusion

UNECE Regional Environmental Conventions, in particular the Water Convention, gives a framework for cooperation on shared water resources.

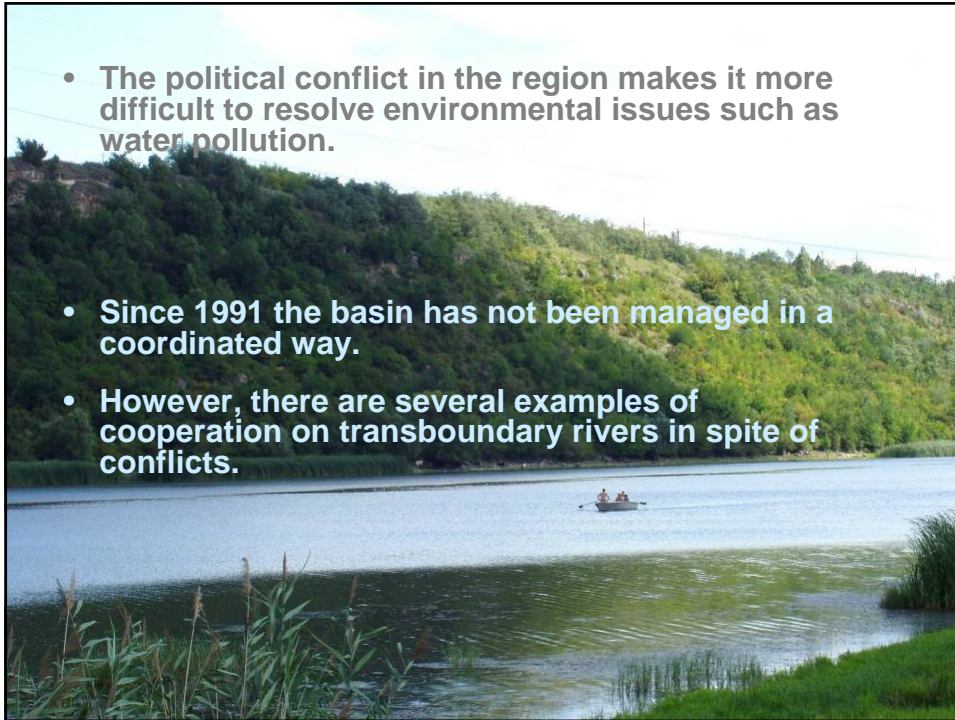
10

- **The Dniester river is transboundary (Ukraine, Moldova/ Transdniester region) flows from the Carpathian mountains to the Black Sea**
- **More than 7 million inhabitants in the basin.**
- **The main source of drinking water in Moldova, a major source in Ukraine.**



Dniester river and state borders





Dniester projects

I Evaluation -II Action programme

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Narrow scope of cooperation; | - Broadening of scope: Health, Ecosystems; |
| 2. Limited participation of institutions; | - Broader participation; |
| 3. No public participation, and | - Public participation, and |
| 4. Limited access and exchange of information. | - Information system. |



Dniester I - II – Dynamic process

- Participation of MoE, MoFA, Water authorities
- Participation of stakeholders and NGOs
- UNECE-OSCE facilitation

15

Dniester II – Action Programme

- New draft bilateral agreement
- Shared information system
- Broadened cooperation – with regard to themes (water ecosystems and quality)
- Broadened cooperation – stakeholder involvement, dialogue with Transdniester region

16

Concludingly ...

- Dniester I and Dniester II projects have helped to improve the cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova
- UNECE-OSCE cooperation is a contributing factor to success of projects
- Can we do more on the political level? - Political will is always necessary to resolve conflict situations.

17



**Inauguration of the Chu-Talas bilateral
commission 26 July 2006**

18



**Environmental Impact Assessment in a
Transboundary Context: Pilot implementation
project in Central Asia**

19

www.unece.org
bo.libert@unece.org

20