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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and
Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 17 April 2007

To: All OSCE Delegations
Partners for Co-operation
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Subject: Second Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and
Environmental Forum: "Water Management", Zaragoza, Spain,
12-13 March 2007

Attached herewith is a document consisting of the Consolidated Summary of the Second Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum: "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: water management", which took place in Zaragoza, Spain, on 12-13 March 2007.



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**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 17 April 2007

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

SECOND PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO THE
FIFTEENTH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

“KEY CHALLENGES TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE OSCE AREA: WATER MANAGEMENT”

ZARAGOZA, SPAIN, 12-13 MARCH 2007

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Second Preparatory Conference for the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum was held on 12-13 March 2007 in Zaragoza, Spain. The main focus of the Conference was “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Water Management”.

The 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum focuses on “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, Soil Contamination and Water Management”. According to the PC Decision No. 735, the Forum is to be held in two stages. The First part of the Forum took place on 22 and 23 January 2007 in Vienna. The Second Part of the Forum will be held from 21 to 23 May 2007 in Prague. A First Preparatory Conference, focusing mainly on “Land degradation and Soil Contamination” was organized in Bishkek, on 16-17 November 2006.

The Zaragoza Conference was organised by the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).

A Background Note was circulated by the OCEEA to introduce the topic of the Conference (SEC.GAL/44/07).

The Conference was opened by Mr. Ricardo Berdie Paba, Deputy Mayor of Zaragoza, Mr. Antonio Serrano Rodríguez, Secretary General for Territory and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Spain, Mr. Emilio Fernández-Castaño y Díaz-Caneja, General Organizer of the Zaragoza Expo 2008, and by Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE.

H.E. Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, addressed the audience in a Special Session on Monday, 12 March, in the afternoon.

Over 190 participants, official representatives from OSCE participating States, International and Non-Governmental Organization, Business Community and the Academic Community, as well as OSCE Field Offices attended the Conference and engaged in discussions. Speakers and panellists presented their inside knowledge and their views thereby stimulating the discussion in each session. Throughout the deliberations all the participants freely expressed their views and contributed to formulating concrete suggestions for further consideration by the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee of the Permanent Council and the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Numerous documents and presentations were circulated. A list of these documents is included as an annex in the Consolidated Summary. The documents will be published on a CD-Rom available upon request from the OCEEA. Further information on the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Economic and Environmental Forum process can be found on the **OSCE Website**: www.osce.org/eea.

Structure of the Conference

The Conference consisted of both opening and closing plenary sessions and five plenary working sessions and one panel discussion. The sessions were dedicated to the following topics:

Plenary Session I:	Fostering water co-operation: international and regional experiences
Plenary Session II:	OSCE experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on water management
Plenary Session III:	Economic governance aspects of sustainable water management

Plenary Session IV - Part I:	Prevention of water related conflicts: the role of good governance
Plenary Session IV - Part II:	Prevention of water related conflicts: water management in regional initiatives
Plenary Session V:	Emergency response, disaster preparedness and drought plans
Panel Discussion:	The Role of the OSCE: Follow-up to the 15 th Economic and Environmental Forum

Suggestions

The Zaragoza Conference accomplished its main goal of adding more information and knowledge on water management related issues and existing initiatives in the OSCE region, contributed to a better prioritization of issues and areas of activity, bringing thus more clarity with regard to the possible role of the OSCE. It complemented the previous deliberations during the Economic and Environmental Forum process and represented a useful exercise ahead of the Prague Forum.

In terms of substance the Zaragoza Conference emphasized the importance water cooperation has for economic development and for security. Water cooperation is a highly political issue and for that reason it has a high profile on the OSCE agenda. In Zaragoza participants were updated on various OSCE activities and initiatives in this field and also heard about various other examples of co-operation in managing water resources. A number of best practices that could be further replicated were identified.

One of the main conclusions was that water management is very much linked with good governance. Therefore, the OSCE should continue to promote the principles of good governance in the water sector. Second, sustainable water management is a complex exercise requiring a long term involvement and cooperation at various levels, between countries and also within countries, between state institutions, civil society and the business community. The OSCE, based on its existing experience, has a role to play in that regard as well. Third, the OSCE should reinforce its cooperation with regional and international organizations and direct its efforts toward building political will and local capacities, filling existing gaps and strengthening and enforcing existing cooperation mechanisms.

The overviews of the discussions and the suggestions stemming from each session are presented in the **Rapporteurs' Reports** which are included in this Consolidated Summary. It is envisaged that the Economic and Environmental Committee discusses these suggestions, in order to streamline the preparatory process for the Forum.

A list of preliminary ideas and suggestions is presented below, for easy reference.

PLENARY SESSION I : Fostering water co-operation: international and regional experiences

- The OSCE has a clear role in local capacity building enabling better civil society contributions to water management and providing political impetus to intra and interstate cooperation and policy integration.
- The OSCE, as a neutral actor, can work to create the political will to manage more effectively water resources when water cooperation does not create the necessary political momentum to fully address the problems.

- The OSCE can join other international organizations in promoting intra and international water cooperation by examining what is not currently working well and complementing and coordinating its work with existing actors to fill these gaps.
- The OSCE participating States have already found effective ways to enhance water cooperation and the Organization has a role on collecting and disseminating the best practices of these states, including the relationships formed in the Danube River Basin and between Spain and Portugal.

PLENARY SESSION II: OSCE experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on water management

- The OSCE could assist in the introduction of new water saving technologies and the establishment of payments for ecosystem services by fostering transfer of technology and experience from other countries and transboundary basins (new water saving technologies were particularly mentioned as a top priority for Kazakhstan; payments for ecosystem services are of particular interest to Ukraine).
- The OSCE should ensure better coordination of OSCE projects with those of bilateral donors to minimize the risk of overlapping and duplication of efforts.
- The OSCE could work on awareness-raising on rational use of water in countries with scarce water resources.
- The OSCE should further integrate the sustainability concept in its projects.
- The OSCE should continue to consistently promote public involvement in its projects.
- The OSCE could assist in the establishment of transboundary early warning systems in the Dniester river basin, which will help prevent disastrous consequences of floods and man-made accidents.

PLENARY SESSION III: Economic governance aspects of sustainable Water management

- OSCE water related projects offer valuable lessons and can be the basis for future cooperation on current water issues.
- OSCE can cooperate with the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat in further adoption and implementation of the Convention principles.
- OSCE's potential cooperation in future pilot projects involving Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) could help advance the model's application throughout the OSCE region.
- OSCE field presences allow for cooperation among upstream and downstream countries in water projects that could contribute to reducing environmental and societal tensions.

PLENARY SESSION IV - PART I: Prevention of water related conflicts: the role of good governance

- The OSCE should facilitate participative planning in water projects.
- The OSCE should promote better prioritization and accountability at the local level.
- The OSCE should contribute toward strengthening public voice in water management.
- The OSCE should play a bigger role in preventing corruption in water related projects.

PLENARY SESSION IV - PART II: Prevention of water related conflicts: water management in regional initiatives

- The OSCE is well placed in facilitating dialogue and open discussion and offers a balancing role and guidance relevant to this subject.
- The OSCE should facilitate agreements on solving water related issues and facilitate existing regional efforts and mechanisms.

- The OSCE can step up its efforts in education and training with regard to water issues (and also on related issues such as *inter alia* agriculture and energy), disseminate water technologies, and facilitate services and consultations.
- As water management and governance are interlinked, the OSCE could in particular strengthen information exchange, public participation and ensure a genuine dialogue among different stakeholders.

PLENARY SESSION V: Emergency response, disaster preparedness and drought plans

- The OSCE should support the establishment of national coordination mechanism, national plans and response mechanisms to disasters (e.g. dams safety, droughts, flooding, accidental pollution etc.), and disseminate best practices in that regard.
- The OSCE should play particular attention to the involvement of local communities and local authorities and facilitate the exchange of information, including through public campaigns, media, etc.
- The OSCE should continue providing a platform for inter-state dialogue aimed at preventing pollution and degradation of transboundary watercourses.
- The OSCE could highlight the transboundary effects of pollution and consequently support inter-state agreements, provide training and capacity building programmes for experts dealing with extreme situations. It could also support the creation of joint bodies to address such problems.
- When needed, the OSCE could organize field assessment missions.

PANEL DISCUSSION: The Role of the OSCE: Follow up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum

- The OSCE should continue and further develop its activities towards promoting sustainable water management, water co-operation and enhancing water security, including through the activities under the ENVSEC Initiative and through the OSCE field presences.
- Special attention should be paid to mainstreaming water related environmental security issues into the political agendas, enhancing coordination among partners and stakeholders, fostering regional cooperation and promoting public participation, training and capacity building.
- As priority areas for future OSCE involvement in water issues, Central Asia (e.g. encouragement to regional cooperation; streamlining and implementation of agreements, dam safety; Amu-Darya River Basin), the Caspian Sea and the South Caucasus region (e.g. Kura-Araks Project, reservoirs in the Nagorno Karabakh region, hot-spots identification and training) were singled out.
- The OSCE should continue to promote existing international conventions and should contribute to the spread of best practices.

Annexes

A number of annexes - *Agenda, List of Participants and List of Distributed Documents* - have been attached to give you a more complete picture of the Zaragoza Conference. For further reading, please note that background documents from this conference can be found on the OSCE web site under www.osce.org/eea or on CD Rom that can be requested at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (gabriel.leonte@osce.org or andrea.gredler@osce.org).

**ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE, MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, H.E. MIGUEL ÁNGEL MORATINOS AT THE
SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE SECOND PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO THE 15th
OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

**Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable
development in the OSCE area: Water management**

Zaragoza, Spain, 12 March 2007

Authorities of the Autonomous Communities,
Local authorities,
Ambassadors,
Delegates from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to welcome you to the city of Zaragoza, where we have gathered to share our thoughts and experiences at the Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. This Conference, which is being organized under the auspices of the Spanish Chairmanship, is dedicated to environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area, with a special emphasis on water management.

It is no accident that Aragon and the city of Zaragoza, with their long history of water conservation, management and treatment, are the venue for this forum, which serves as an opening act of sorts for the International Exposition on Water and Sustainable Development. The capital of Aragon will be a global reference point in the twenty-first century in terms of the prospects for this essential and scarce resource, given the uncertain future.

Expo-Zaragoza 2008, with its focus on water and sustainable development, is planned as an international meeting at which participants will analyse water resources, their management, treatment, study and culture against the backdrop of climate change. Here in this city people will be addressing vital issues that highlight water's importance as a geo-strategic element in sustainable human development and the co-operation that is needed to face this global challenge. The effects of climate change and sustainable development are issues that are assigned high priority and urgency on the international agenda today, both at the European and Mediterranean levels and within multilateral organizations and the United Nations system.

The Spanish Chairmanship will devote greater attention to the second dimension of the OSCE because sustainable development and environmental protection, along with the generation of renewable or green energy sources, are more necessary today than ever before. As you know, this is a central focus of the latest meeting of the Council of the European Union and a goal of European Union countries and those of us that have signed the Kyoto Protocol. We must achieve the objectives of this historic agreement to ensure the future of the European Union. By 2020 we need to be generating 20 per cent of our production output using clean energy sources in order to reduce pollution related to consumption.

At the First Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which took place in Kyrgyzstan, the topics of discussion were land degradation and soil contamination, processes that are closely linked to water management and climate change. These effects are already a reality, as reflected in the reports of international organizations and groups of experts, which see them as part of an irreversible phenomenon on a global scale. Changes in the climate point directly to human activity and above all to development that ignores environmental ramifications.

The international community has recognized that security today goes beyond traditional approaches and is broadening its focus to include new areas of concern and interest to the OSCE participating States and partner countries. We need to tackle the challenges of climate change and the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, which can be met only through co-operation, because there is much more at stake than degradation of the natural environment. Security is also at risk.

The overuse of resources and alteration of the natural environment have given rise to differences and conflicts in the past, but today we need to overcome them by means of concerted political and diplomatic efforts, through effective remedial measures and also through the exchange of science and technology, coupled with international co-operation in the development sphere. These are issues that will be addressed within the framework of Expo-Zaragoza 2008.

The Scientific Committee on Climate Change has warned us of the most immediate and visible consequences of damage to the environment. The symptoms are: global warming, a decline in water resources, loss of ecosystems, shrinking of coastlines and soil erosion, as well as intensification of natural phenomena such as hurricanes, prolonged droughts and torrential rains.

It stands to reason that climate change will have a decisive impact on security, on our economies, societies and cultural transformations. Instead of becoming a source of tension or conflict, however, climate change could be a powerful stimulus for a political commitment to broaden dialogue and promote the achievement of consensus, to deepen these efforts and to promote the modernization and reform of multilateral systems and organizations.

These challenges urgently require political will on the part of the international community and the adoption of measures that will minimize climate change and expand our capacity to react to these processes. Spanish communities such as Aragon recognize that we are on the front line in dealing with these effects, even though they can be felt throughout the entire planet.

We cannot allow the decline in precipitation, poor water management and progressive soil degradation to threaten food security in countries that have structures which are outdated and have little degree of cohesion. Co-operation within the OSCE and other international organizations should be extended to this realm, and also to the impact of climate on demographic processes and on migration flows.

Desertification and continuing droughts are hindering the sustainable development of agriculture and other sectors of the economy in areas of the Mediterranean, Asia and Africa. The situation is driving young people from their home countries in growing numbers as they

flee poverty and emigrate to improve their prospects in life. Migration also has climatic and environmental causes that require a political and diplomatic dialogue, as well as the rapid adoption of agreements and urgent measures to respond to the demands of a globalized future.

The principal focus of the OSCE Conference in Zaragoza will be integrated water management, an environmental security challenge that also involves land degradation and soil contamination. Some political analysts predict that control of and access to water will be at the heart of future conflicts. Sustainable management of this asset that belongs to all mankind must encourage us to be more responsible and to make a commitment to open up new avenues for dialogue and the achievement of consensus.

In the OSCE area, the scarcity of water and water pollution threaten development in Central Asian countries. Many of them depend on melt-water and the scientific community tells us that in this region, as well as in Switzerland and Austria, glaciers are receding or disappearing and snowfall will decline in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

These thoughts bring to mind conflicts in which, as in the case of those in the Middle East, aquifer and underground reservoir water resources play an important role in feeding an escalating spiral of violence. In today's interdependent and globalized world the "butterfly effect", an expression coined in climate studies, has taken on renewed meaning and relevance because "the beating of the wings of a butterfly, no matter where it is, will be felt at the other end of the world".

The problems of security, and particularly the consequences of the uncontrolled use and abuse of environmental resources, cannot be isolated by a "*cordon sanitaire*" because nothing like that will be able to stop global warming, droughts or floods. We need not be alarmists, as James Lovelock, a climate geophysicist, has pointed out, but we do have to promote measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and work together following a global model for sustainable development that encourages even greater awareness and commitment among the international community.

The responses to these challenges and concerns require a concerted international effort, with collaboration of forums such as the OSCE and other multilateral organizations. I believe that the convening of the Zaragoza Conference will make the necessity and urgency of this approach clear.

This morning you heard an analysis of the development of international co-operation in water management, for which the OSCE has allocated resources in Central Asia. During the following sessions there will be a discussion of good governance and sustainable water management, conflict prevention and the role played by sound management practices. Finally, emergency response and disaster prevention mechanisms will be examined.

I believe that it would be a real achievement for the OSCE, its participating States and partners for co-operation to contribute to the maintenance of security and to the establishment of security reinforcement mechanisms in the context of climate change and sustainable water use. We should draw on our own experience, since the OSCE has a track record in conflict prevention, in the development of confidence-building measures among neighbouring States

and in the rational use of resources — as in the case of the Chu and Talas rivers, which are featured in the exhibition that accompanies this forum.

The Spanish Chairmanship supports an environmental security document for the OSCE area and we would like to take this opportunity to encourage the representatives of the Governments and States to collaborate on this undertaking, because it will lend weight to the reinforcement of goals supported by the Organization.

I believe that the hospitality of the people of Aragon, coupled with their tradition of and sensitivity to sustainable water management and development, will inspire our work. Without a doubt, these factors are also part of Expo-Zaragoza 2008, which is increasingly becoming an international symbol that reflects our commitment to mitigating climate change. Between 14 June and 14 September of next year, Spain, Aragon and Zaragoza will serve as an international platform for the dissemination of information and perspectives regarding the relationship between man and water and sustainable development.

Zaragoza will be a reference point for urgent co-operative action in regions that need drinking water and in the eradication of diseases related to unsafe drinking water. The research, technology and economic dimension will also be covered here, since sustainable development and institutional complexity do not make sustainable management more expensive, but rather turn it into an engine driving value-added activities and savings in terms of corrective environmental measures cushioning the effects of climate change. Within this context we should be talking not about stand-alone remedies, but about integrated solutions. Because this is a global and multi-faceted problem, we need to strengthen institutional relationships and create information and co-operation networks that can be put into place at Expo-Zaragoza 2008.

This city will become a showcase for water-related sectors of the economy, as well as those involving innovation, infrastructure, management systems, clean energy, and sanitation and treatment technologies. Zaragoza and the Community of Aragon are turning into world leaders in activities related to water management in agriculture, industry and the urban environment, as well as the relationship of water management to health and leisure.

The International Exposition has already received confirmation that 80 countries representing all of the world's eco-geographical regions are planning to attend and it is expected to welcome some 10 million visitors, who will have an opportunity to learn first-hand about best practices in water management and sustainable development strategies.

Authorities and ambassadors,
OSCE delegates and distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for your participation and your commitment, since solidarity is needed in order to manage climate change, water resources and sustainable development. These issues have been brought together here for the first time to clear up some of the uncertainties of the future and the process will most certainly be continued at Zaragoza-2008.

Thank you very much.

WELCOMING REMARKS

by the OSCE Secretary General,
Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut,

“Furthering the Coherence of the OSCE”

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and honour to welcome all of you to this second preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Before referring to the issues to be discussed at this Conference, **let me extend my warmest thanks and appreciation to our hosts**, the City of Zaragoza and the Region of Aragon, for their hospitality and for the work done in preparing this conference.

I wish to thank also the Spanish Chairmanship, both the teams in Vienna and Madrid, for their excellent co-operation with the Secretariat in preparing this event. I very much look forward to the special address by the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé. We regard his presence here as an additional sign of the Chairmanship’s strong commitment to make this year’s EEF a success.

May I say also that **I had the pleasure to follow directly the First Part of the Forum** that took place in Vienna, on 22-23 January 2007. As you know, this focused on “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management.”

That meeting provided a clear demonstration to us all that there exists a strong political will among OSCE participating States to tackle these issues and to work towards improving the environmental security and the environmental governance in our region.

Today and tomorrow, here in Zaragoza, we will take an additional step towards the 2nd part of the Forum, in Prague. The topic of water management and the possible OSCE role is of vital importance.

Indeed, the modern challenges, faced by our States and societies, such as that of water management, are complex and multi-dimensional. The first line of response to new risks remains the responsibility of States. So much, indeed, can be done at the State and national levels in order to design well-targeted policies in reply to difficult new challenges.

However, responding at the State level to such complex issues as water management is not enough. Such challenges require States to co-operate in new and innovative ways with each other. The importance of our meeting today lies here.

Comparing notes between ourselves, debating ideas, resolving on common action – all of these are, indeed, key to building an international society of States in the OSCE area that is effective in responding to difficult new challenges, such as water management. I see our

meeting today, therefore, as an example of the kind of network for innovation and common purpose at the international level that is so crucial for crafting the 21st century that we wish to see emerge.

The OSCE is unique in its ability to forge precisely the networks of innovation and partnership that are required to face the complex challenges of the 21st century. On water management, I have no doubt, the OSCE has an important role to play.

At the conceptual level, it is important that the OSCE has recognized very clearly the strong link between water and security, and that the Forum in 2002 focused on water management and co-operation. This has led to a number of concrete activities, in which the OSCE is currently supporting projects related to water. These activities include data gathering, the drafting of bi-lateral and multilateral agreements, capacity-building exercises and facilitating partnerships.

Please allow me to provide you with a bit more detail on OSCE activities. In South Eastern Europe, the OSCE has provided continued support to the co-operation process in the Sava River basin, shared by Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. Establishing a network of local actors concerned about water resource management and offering them a platform to meet and discuss regularly has been an integral part of the OSCE approach.

In the case of the Dniester River, the OSCE developed a project together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in support of the governments of Moldova and Ukraine. The project consisted of a diagnostic study of the river basin produced by national and international experts with the aim of enhancing regional co-operation. A follow-up project is currently being implemented, with the key output being an agreed Action Programme including a revised legal framework for the cooperation.

In Central Asia, the OSCE has worked, in co-operation with the UNECE and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), to support the project of establishing an inter-governmental transboundary water commission between the governments of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, including developing the Commission statute and other actions aimed at effective implementation of a bilateral agreement on Chu-Talas, signed in 2000. Supporting public participation in the management of Chu and Talas rivers and empowering local stakeholders to promote their interests was another important component of the OSCE involvement.

Water management issues are one of the key environmental issues in the South Caucasus countries, and they are also an important confidence-building activity in a region featuring protracted conflicts. In this regard, the OSCE and NATO (Security through Science Program) have facilitated a regional project on monitoring the water quality of the Kura-Araks river basin in the South Caucasus. This regional project has supported co-operation between scientific communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

So, the OSCE has been working at very different levels, on different aspects of the issue and in different contexts.

After five years, it is time now to evaluate the experience that we have obtained and knowledge we have gained. Such is our collective task over the next two days. I am

certain that, together, we will be able to identify new areas for follow-up activities and to forge new partnerships with other relevant actors.

I wish to take this opportunity, therefore, to welcome to our meeting the experts from State institutions across the OSCE region, the representatives of various international and regional organizations, of NGOs, of the academic community, as well as of the business community.

I am also glad to see many Ambassadors and delegates from Vienna. The Secretariat is looking forward to working closely with you under the leadership of the Spanish Chairmanship in defining the recommendations that will emerge from such meetings and in clarifying future actions we should take.

I am also delighted to see here our Economic and Environmental Officers, working in the OSCE field presences. I do not see them often enough, but, rest assured, I know that we can all count on them, as they represent the backbone of our Organization and play a singular role in implementing our decisions, principles and commitments.

The substance of this Conference is substantive and wide-ranging. First, we will assess international and regional experiences regarding water co-operation, such as the UNECE Water Convention, the EU Water Initiative, etc. On this basis, we will look then more closely into existing OSCE experience in various regional contexts (for example, on Sava, Dniester, Chu and Talas rivers). Later today, we will focus on economic governance aspects of sustainable water management, such as the value of water-related ecological services. And tomorrow, we will deal with one of the core items of OSCE business – conflict prevention.

The key themes of our discussions are clear. Throughout our deliberations, we will emphasize the importance of good governance, as well as the need for strengthening regional co-operation initiatives. These twin objectives should guide our thinking and our action.

Water management and water co-operation are political issues in their nature and are presently high on the international agenda. Numerous regional and international organizations have started tackling these issues from different perspectives, and this is only correct. Water is a vital resource for the well-being of people, it supports economic development, and is vital for agriculture and for the industry. Given its importance, good planning is crucial -- emergency response, disaster preparedness and drought plans are needed before events require them. In addition, we recognise that water supply and allocation can lead to tensions that may spill-over into conflict.

It should be clear, therefore, that sharing and protecting water resources has now become an important item on the agenda for international co-operation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The OSCE has an important role to play in making use of water issues as a strategic factor of development and peace. Within the OSCE region, there are some 180 watercourses extending over the territory of more than one country. Co-operation is the only way to enhance development, security and stability throughout our common area.

Improving governance of water resources is, therefore, of high priority for the OSCE. It is also a prerequisite for achieving the goals as set out in the Maastricht Strategy Document for the economic and environmental dimension. The stakes are high.

In this respect, I especially look forward to the final discussions of our meeting, on ‘The Role of the OSCE: Follow up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum.’ I hope that we will, indeed, be able to identify relevant recommendations for our future joint action.

I look forward to hearing your views. Thank you for your attention.

RAPORTEURS' REPORTS

PLENARY SESSION I: **Fostering water co-operation: international and regional experiences**

Moderator: **Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado y de la Válgoma**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, OSCE Chairmanship

Rapporteur: **Mr. Curtis Peters**, Delegation of Canada to the OSCE

Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, outlined five necessary factors to manage water resources successfully to meet growing challenges. First, it is necessary to create legal frameworks, such as conventions, that promote cooperation, have enforcement and dispute mechanisms and provide needed assistance. Second, the establishment of joint institutions at national and regional levels that engage local actors will reduce the current lack of coordination. Third, there must be policy integration among all national governmental actors that seeks to define medium and long-term goals. Fourth, more emphasis should be placed on sharing both benefits and costs. In particular, mutually beneficial actions should be defined. Finally, there is a need to adapt mechanisms; this is not a static endeavour.

Ms. Bernardini went on to describe future challenges to water management of which joint transboundary water management and climate change impacts are of paramount importance. The way forward, according to the panellist, is to work towards effective management through the ratification of conventions, secure funding for water management processes and promote policy integration. She believes the OSCE has a clear role in local capacity building enabling better civil society contributions to water management and providing political impetus to inter and intrastate cooperation and policy integration.

Mr. Philip Weller, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), provided a clear example of successful international water cooperation in the OSCE area. He enumerated six elements of the successful water cooperation coordinated by the ICPDR: a) strengthened international cooperation; b) better management strategies; c) conservation and rational use of water; d) reduction of inputs of nutrients and hazardous material; e) flood management; and f) reduction of Black Sea pollution. He went on to elucidate the reasons for this success, namely the legal basis for cooperation, institution building, a commitment to an evolving process and the involvement of multiple stakeholders. Mr. Weller highlighted the need to engage and secure the commitment of the people of the region. These factors have concretely led to basin and sub-basin cooperation, monitoring, reporting and action plans that provide for national and international work plans.

Mr. Anders Berntell, Executive Director of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), noted that water, a public good, is shared most of the time by two or more countries and for this reason diplomatic engagement is imperative. More emphasis needs to be placed on the benefit sharing potential of water cooperation and effort should be made to build a sense of water as a source of cooperation, not conflict, which, according to a study cited by Mr. Berntell, is currently the case. He further noted that long-term processes at national and international levels (such as conventions) are very important and that process financing should be used to create lasting, stable institutions of water cooperation. This cooperation creates political momentum in and of itself, but is sometimes insufficient to overcome existing political barriers. In order to effectively address these political barriers and undertake complex projects, power dynamics need to be understood (e.g. "water hegemony" vs. weaker actors), the role of donors being to help level the playing field.

Mr. Berntell stressed the OSCE had a clear role to play in promoting water cooperation. The Organization, as a neutral actor, could work to create the political will to manage more effectively

water resources when water cooperation did not create the necessary political momentum to fully address the problems.

Mr. Pierre Hecq, Policy Officer and Co-ordinator for the EU Water Initiative, DG Environment, European Commission, highlighted that this initiative seeks to address questions of supply and integration management in the context of balancing human and environmental needs. The approach of this work is to engage into partnerships with all concerned parties (EU and non-EU countries and NGOs) along with modules aimed at developing regional cooperation and addressing horizontal issues (finance, research and oversight). The objectives are to improve coordination and cooperation, both at regional and sub-regional levels that reinforce partnerships and sectoral actors. Mr. Hecq focused his presentation on the EU's engagement with Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), underlining the efforts to develop work programmes that are regional and are agreed to by all parties through National Policy Dialogues, bringing benefits to transboundary river basins and regional seas. He stressed that there are real benefits for EECCA because of access to experts, finances, best practices and other tools. The EU benefits due to access to local stakeholders and greater donor coordination.

Mr. Hecq concluded with a look to the future hoping that individual EU states would direct their interest to this initiative. He also sees increased policy dialogue with ownership of these efforts transferred to EECCA. He noted that there was already good cooperation with the UNECE and OECD. Mr. Hecq envisions deeper cooperation with international organizations including the OSCE in areas of common concern.

Mr. Jamie Palop, Director General for Water, Spanish Ministry for the Environment, examined the evolution of water management in Spain since these policies were inaugurated almost one hundred years ago. The shift has been from a concept of water surplus to one of scarcity, reflecting the significant changes in Spain's society. He emphasized that this shift has been influenced through water cooperation with Portugal. A key component of this shift and cooperation is the notion there are two basic types of water: life water needed by humans to drink and sustain a healthy ecosystem and water needed for economic purposes. Mr. Palop noted that the partnership with Portugal was a success due to transparency, public participation, a good decision making methodology, crisis management and joint management and responsibility, all invaluable for water cooperation.

During the **discussion**, one participant questioned how could the OSCE do better and suggested that environmental aspects should be included in the mandates of all field missions, which is not currently the case. Two other participants agreed with the previous participant and urged greater OSCE activity in all areas related to the environmental issues in Moldova.

A further participant inquired how the process of developing National Policy Dialogues with the EU could be furthered. Mr. Hecq replied that a partner for the EU Water Initiative needs to be found and soon would be in the framework of each National Policy Dialogue.

Another participant questioned the value of the OSCE examining power relations as a component of water cooperation stating that the second dimension should avoid becoming a venue and tool for political coercion. The participant argued that the effort of the Organization should focus on building cooperation not preventing conflict. Mr. Bertell answered that effective policy requires understanding power dynamics. A final participant asked on what aspects the OSCE Environmental Strategy should focus. Mr. Bertell suggested looking at existing efforts and filling gaps where initiatives are not working well.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

- The OSCE has a clear role in local capacity building enabling better civil society contributions to water management and providing political impetus to intra and interstate cooperation and policy integration.

- The OSCE, as a neutral actor, can work to create political will to manage water resources when water cooperation does not create necessary political momentum to fully address problems.
- The OSCE can join other international organizations in promoting intra and international water cooperation by examining what is not currently working well and complementing and coordinating its work with existing actors to fill these gaps.
- The OSCE participating States have already found effective ways to enhance water cooperation and the Organization has a role on collecting and disseminating the best practices of these states, including the relationships formed in the Danube River Basin and between Spain and Portugal.

PLENARY SESSION II: OSCE experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on water management

Moderator: **Ms. Francesca Bernardini**, Secretary of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Rapporteur: **Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk**, Environmental Activities Officer, Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine

Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission, made a presentation about the transboundary cooperation in the Sava River Basin. Mr. Komatina summarized the key elements of the Sava River Initiative (launched in June 2001) and noted the important role played by the OSCE in this process. This Initiative resulted in the signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) and in the establishment of the Sava Commission. He then outlined the provisions of the FASRB, the structure of the Commission and its ongoing activities. The Commission's involvement in the OSCE project "Network of Local Actors (from the Sava River Basin on Water Resource Management)" was also highlighted. Mr. Komatina analyzed the challenges to the implementation of the agreement, which included differences between the riparian states in terms of economic development and their status with regard to EU membership, financing problems and resolution of conflicts of interests between various water users.

Ms. Natalia Zakorchevna, Head of Environmental Protection and Water Issues Department, State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management, talked about the Dniester process in which, she said, the joint OSCE-UNECE project on transboundary cooperation and sustainable management of the Dniester River played an essential role. Ms. Zakorchevna drew the attention of the audience to important linkages between environmental and human security in this transboundary river basin. She elaborated on the positive impact of the OSCE-UNECE project, including its pivotal role in mobilizing the efforts of both Ukraine and Moldova to improve the environmental situation in this basin.

The first phase of the project culminated in the drafting of a transboundary diagnostic study for this basin, which analyzed the current state of the basin, defined transboundary environmental problems and outlined international legal tools for transboundary cooperation. The report concluded that further development of transboundary cooperation was needed. Based on this, governmental bodies of Ukraine and Moldova responsible for water resources management and protection signed, in the framework of the project, the Protocol of Intentions regarding Cooperation for the Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dniester River Basin as a basis for further joint work. In 2006-2007 further cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova continued in the 2nd phase of the project. The project was now run by the OSCE and the UNECE in cooperation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal. The objectives were to develop an action programme to improve the existing international legal framework for interstate cooperation, emergency response cooperation and cooperation on "Water and Health", and to develop basin systems for information exchange. In conclusion, Ms. Zakorchevna made four

recommendations with regard to further transboundary water cooperation in the Dniester basin: a) development by Ukraine and Moldova of a River Basin Management Plan for the Dniester as envisioned by the EU Water Framework Directive, including the development of an action plan; b) supporting the creation of a joint body for transboundary basin management; c) creating transboundary early warning systems to prevent disastrous consequences of floods and man-made accidents; and d) assessing the opportunity to introduce payments for ecosystem services in the Dniester river basin.

Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, Project Manager, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, made a presentation entitled “Chu and Talas Rivers Public Participation (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan)”. Ms. Alexeeva talked about institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the 2000 intergovernmental agreement on the use of shared water infrastructure on Rivers Chu and Talas. In particular, she described the activities aimed at developing a formal mechanism for ensuring a two-way communication between the bilateral Commission and the stakeholders. Given the need to develop mechanisms for public participation, the specific component on public participation was incorporated in the OSCE/UNECE-supported project “Creation of a Commission between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the Chu and Talas Rivers”. Ms. Alexeeva drew a number of conclusions. As the public cannot participate in the Commission’s work, public awareness on the activities of the Commission should be raised by means of the mass media. A Water Council should be established under the Commission to involve stakeholders and experts. It is necessary to promote the research and development potential in the region by involving the local scientific communities in the development of joint water management programmes. Ms. Alexeeva recommended to develop more concrete mechanisms under the Commission for public involvement and to take further efforts to continue bilateral transborder cooperation.

Mr. Nurlan Atshabarov, Deputy Chairman of the Water Resources Management Committee, Ministry of Environment of Kazakhstan, talked about the balance of water resources in the Republic of Kazakhstan. He detailed water consumption in different sectors of economy, outlined the use of irrigated lands and presented Kazakhstan’s legal and budgetary frameworks for water management. Given the active development of irrigated agriculture especially in the south of Kazakhstan, rational use of water resources and the establishment of new water saving technologies were considered to be of priority. The key factors adversely affecting the development of irrigated agriculture in Kazakhstan could be summarized as follows: inadequate legal framework and management, deterioration of the land quality, difficult financial situation of agricultural land users and their lack of experience in irrigation, and the increasing shortage of water management specialists. He also listed other most important areas where Kazakhstan could benefit from support such as: further development of the legal framework for water management and safety of hydroelectric power and other related facilities; and the exchange of experience with such advanced transboundary basins as the Danube basin.

During the **discussion** following the presentations, one participant asked the speakers to elaborate on the role of the OSCE and of NGOs in the listed activities. The need to further integrate the concept of sustainability into OSCE projects was also highlighted. Another representative shared information about US-led programmes in Central Asia and called for enhanced coordination of OSCE activities with those of bilateral donors. He also stressed the confidence-building dimension of OSCE projects and asked Ms. Zakorchevna how the OSCE-UNECE project on the Dniester River involved the authorities of the Transdnestrrian region. Another participant also noted the importance of such projects.

Mr. Komatina responded to one of the questions by describing the OSCE role in the Sava River Initiative as that of the organization which helped re-establish cooperation between the riparian states. Ms. Alexeeva noted that the OSCE had been actively engaged in the development of the public participation process in the Chu and Talas River basins. Ms. Zakorchevna said that the OSCE helped Moldova and Ukraine to strengthen bilateral relations in the Dniester basin and to resume a negotiation process on the management of the Dniester basin at a new level. The OSCE and the UNECE were instrumental in bringing in European experience for sustainable transboundary water management.

A country representative noted the importance of contributions by international organizations for his country. The Moderator of the session, Ms. Francesca Bernardini of UNECE, pointed out that the political will to work together was of utmost importance for donors' activities in the regions. She also mentioned the lack of resources as one of the major obstacles for international projects and highlighted the need to avoid overlaps in donors' activities.

A representative of Kazakhstan made a recommendation that the OSCE should involve itself in raising awareness on rational water resource management in Central Asia.

Another participant asked the speakers to comment on which factors encouraged the countries to choose the OSCE as opposed to other organizations. The Moderator noted the successful cooperation between the OSCE and UNECE as they have complementary advantages (UNECE expertise on water and OSCE field presences and political mandates). A representative of the OSCE/OCEEA, noted that the current OSCE activities built upon recommendations of the 2002 Economic Forum and were a result of joint discussions between all participating States and of definition of common priorities. A representative of an OSCE field presence pointed out that the OSCE enjoyed good relations with civil society. The representative of the UNDP Regional Center in Bratislava and of the current Chairman of the ENVSEC Initiative, referred to the ENVSEC Initiative as an effective coordination mechanism. Ms. Zakorchevna said that the involvement of other stakeholders and organizations in project meetings and regular information exchange helped avoid duplication in the Dniester process. A representative of a NGO from Moldova noted that the OSCE Mission to Moldova had a good understanding of the situation on the ground.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

- The OSCE could assist in the introduction of new water saving technologies and the establishment of payments for ecosystem services by fostering transfer of technology and experience from other countries and transboundary basins (new water saving technologies were particularly mentioned as a top priority for Kazakhstan; payments for ecosystem services are of particular interest to Ukraine).
- The OSCE should ensure better coordination of OSCE projects with those of bilateral donors to minimize the risk of overlapping and duplication of efforts.
- The OSCE could work on awareness-raising on rational use of water in countries with scarce water resources.
- The OSCE should further integrate the sustainability concept in its projects.
- The OSCE should continue to consistently promote public involvement in its projects.
- The OSCE could assist in the establishment of transboundary early warning systems in the Dniester river basin, which will help prevent disastrous consequences of floods and man-made accidents.

PLENARY SESSION III : Economic governance aspects of sustainable water management

Moderator: **Mr. Manuel Varela**, Department for Groundwater Resources, Ministry of Environment, Spain

Rapporteur: **Ms. Helen Santiago Fink**, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Niloka Marjanovic, Director, Serbian Water Authority, said at the beginning of his intervention that water supply is a key issue in Serbia. According to the Law on Ministries, the Directorate for Water is responsible for multipurpose water usage, protection from water, and protection of water.

Public utility companies are state owned with their management being under the responsibility of local government authorities. As a member of ICPDR, the country is implementing the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive. The EU objectives and the globalization process have underscored the need to focus more on management of water resources and to strengthen sustainable development policies and practices in the country. Public private partnerships are seen as an important vehicle to encourage future financial investments in the water sector. Funding for infrastructure development will also be dependent upon the proper pricing of water. Total investments for sewerage facilities have significantly surpassed those of other waterworks.

Ms. Cristina Garcia Orcoyen Tormo, Managing Director Fundacion Entorno (WBCSD-Spain), stated that from a global perspective the availability of fresh water is very limited. Fresh water accounts for only 0.5% of the world's water supply of which 97% is seawater and 2.5 % is fresh water yet frozen. In Spain, the agriculture is the greatest consumer of water accounting for 63% of total usage, yet it is also one of the most efficient sectors with irrigation efficiency recorded at 66%. Nevertheless, greater water efficiency could be attained through re-evaluating tariff structures, improving transport and distribution channels and developing alternatives to conventional irrigation practices. Despite the industrial sector being the most efficient in water utilization in Spain, water treatment needs to be improved. Human consumption of water is growing rapidly, representing currently 25% of total water use for Spain, and will require new planning and construction methods coupled by efficient practices and technologies to ensure effective water use, particularly in urban areas and in the service sector.

Sustainable water management requires commitment on the political, economic and social levels. The business community and civil society are an important part of the solutions for increasing resource efficiencies with applications on the global, regional, national and local levels. Dialogue and cooperation are an essential part of the multi-sector process that must gauge demand for water in consideration of how best to improve the quality and protect broader ecosystems aiming towards an integrated water management system. Foundation Entorno, Spain's affiliate of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, is implementing a project in this vein by promoting a framework for cooperation among business and other stakeholders, incorporating training and the use of new technologies, for improved sharing of responsibilities in the sustainable use and management of water resources.

Ms. Josefina Maestu, Special Adviser on the European Water Directive, Ministry of Environment, Spain, referred to the economic dimension of water and stressed that good water management is a strategic factor for development and stability. Issues such as water allocation and investment and the impact and valuation of eco-systems form an important part of the policies and mechanisms needed to ensure sustainable natural resource management.

Spain's experience in the water sector and its implementation of the Water Framework Directive can lend some lessons in this challenge. In water scarce regions (and countries) good governance practices contribute to sustain economic growth. Proper pricing policies and tariff structures are necessary for improving the efficiency in water use and water allocation, where water scarcity exists. High incomes lead to greater water usage, and therefore, water pricing is an important incentive for economic efficiency. Proper pricing structures for the agricultural sector is important and has resulted in higher priced water areas specializing in more profitable crops. Flexibility of water rights to allow necessary water transactions to resolve specific needs for additional water can be a means to avoid building additional infrastructure and contribute to conflict resolution. Market instruments such as centres for water exchange authorized to manage water resources can facilitate cooperation and enforce tariff structures to regulate markets and safeguard against negative environmental impacts and price speculation. Water transactions between urban and agricultural users in Spain have proven effective in addressing consumption while reducing pressures on ecosystems.

Dr. Eszter Kovacs, from the Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water, presented a paper developed in co-operation with the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat. In recent years, sustainable water management policies and practices have increasingly recognized the value and role of forests, wetlands and other water-related ecosystems. The UNECE recommendations highlight the importance of water-related ecosystems in relation to irrigation, quality of water (surface and ground), pollution control, and mitigation of the effects of climate change. Moreover, an eco-system approach can be a cost effective alternative to infrastructure development, as evidenced by the best practice of the New York City – Catskill model of improved water basin management and water quality (for drinking water).

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) is a scheme that can contribute to an integrated water resources management strategy. Given the number of contributing factors, PES schemes can be complex undertakings with various structural forms and involve a number of financial arrangements for buyers, e.g.: eco-tourists, and sellers. Yet, the fundamental pillars for their development include partnerships of a multi-disciplinary nature in which the private sector has an important role not only financially but also for its wealth of practical experience. Availability and access of reliable information and data between and among upstream and downstream regions is essential and, more so, among systems in a transboundary context. The strengthening of capacities on the local and national levels to understand and apply conservation and ecosystem management principles as well as employing different economic instruments, e.g.: user fees, credits, taxes, and new and clean technologies, can help balance the responsibilities for water resources. Lastly, adoption and enforcement of national legislation and international agreements is an instrumental part of recognizing the ecosystem approach as a holistic means to water management and natural resources sustainability.

During the ensuing **discussion**, participants reached the conclusion that the management of water resources depends on economic governance structures to design appropriate pricing policies and that multi-disciplinary cooperation is needed to develop a shared vision of the sustainable use of water and other related natural resources. A comprehensive approach to water management and the recognition of the important link to and valuation of ecosystems can contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change, land degradation, and may prove to be a cost effective alternative to infrastructure development.

As water is never free, water pricing is therefore an important incentive for its economic efficiency. In the agricultural sector proper pricing structures are essential, and particularly where water scarcity exists, good governance policies to improve the efficiency of water use and its allocation are required to ensure sustained growth. Market instruments such as water centers to manage water resources and payment for ecosystem services schemes are tools to promote sustainability and multi-sector cooperation. Similarly, public-private partnerships can help finance future investments in the water sector. The main conclusions of the working group can be summarized as follows:

- Centres for water exchange can be an effective market instrument to address consumption needs and reduce environmental and societal pressures.
- Proper water pricing policies and tariff structures are essential for fostering economic efficiency and enhancing sustainable water use.
- Structures that involve the private sector/ business community and promote cooperation with government and civil society in integrated water management systems can have greater impact and sustainability; public-private partnerships are a vehicle to finance investments in the water sector.
- PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services) is a valuable tool to mainstream economic governance issues among many sectors in the pricing and management of natural resources and can promote sustainability of such systems in the future.
- Environmental education is important for future generations to understand the value of water.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

- The OSCE water related projects offer valuable lessons and can be the basis for future cooperation on current water issues.
- The OSCE can cooperate with the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat in further adoption and implementation of the Convention principles.
- The OSCE's potential cooperation in future pilot projects involving PES could help advance the model's application throughout the OSCE region.
- The OSCE field presences allow for cooperation among upstream and downstream countries in water projects that could contribute to reducing environmental and societal tensions

PLENARY SESSION IV - PART I: Prevention of water related conflicts: the role of good governance

Moderator: **Mr. Sumter Lee Travers**, Director, Water and Sanitation, Europe and Central Asia Region, the World Bank

Rapporteur: **Ms. Lyale Nazarova**, Economic and Environmental Assistant, OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

Mr Jose Luis Alonso Gajon, President of the “Confederacion Hidrografica del Ebro” of the Ministry of Environment of Spain, used management of the Ebro River Basin as an example of the Spanish experience in integrated water management. The Ebro River Basin Authority undertakes a basin-wide, integrated, approach consistent with the EU Water Directive. Spanish River Basin Authorities manage river basin water resources at the basin level, resources that cross administrative boundaries within Spain and require the harmonization of user interests across government levels, within both rural and urban space, and across economic uses that include power generation, irrigation, industrial and potable water supply. The presentation briefly outlined the history of the River Basin Authorities, which have evolved to an ever broader scope of basin control, incorporating basin-level public interests under the overall guidance of the national government, functioning within the Ministry of Environment. One of the most important recent developments has been that of reflecting and meeting environmental requirements and not simply those of production and consumption. Spain has a history of periods of drought and the most recent drought demonstrated the success of the River Basin Authority in maintaining supply to the most critical needs by mediating trade-offs among potential users. This was achieved in part through a high degree of participation of consumers at all levels. The River Basin Authority ensures that while providing water to meet various needs, the quality of water and the environmental dimensions of water use are maintained. Mr. Alonso Gajon concluded that resolution of various water related conflicts lies in:

- a greater involvement of administrative competences;
- participative planning;
- use of modern technology and monitoring equipment; and
- establishment of a basin management body.

Mr. Henry Russell, Deputy Director, Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure, EBRD, in his presentation on “Political Reform and Development through Municipal Infrastructure Financing” explained that the EBRD's focused on the power of Bank-financed projects to advance local level accountability and contribute to conflict resolution while meeting critical environmental and social needs. These projects demand a level of commercial and financial discipline and transparency that works to ensure sustainability. Mr. Russell showed how the design of conditionality in bilateral and multilateral projects helps reduce mismanagement and corruption, thus contributing directly to good governance. In some instances, economies of scale can be achieved only through cooperation among

local government entities, cooperation that can help build trust among communities that are emerging from conflict.

Mr. Russell used examples of EBRD-financed projects in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to highlight the above possibilities. A project in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia strengthened the decentralization agenda in that country. Another one in Bosnia and Herzegovina serves multi-ethnic communities, while yet another in Montenegro provides a regional solution to a problem that communities could not economically address on their own.

The EBRD experience working with diverse clients led to several conclusions:

- Local infrastructure investment and decentralized political accountability can, with careful design, be mutually reinforcing;
- Neighbouring communities can be assisted in cooperating for mutual benefit to address environmental challenges;
- Commercial discipline helps create sustainable political and economic solutions.

Mr. Stephen Hart, Water Sector Expert, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank, highlighted the potential of international financing to drive reform where that is backed by clear and consistent national policy and addresses real needs. Such assistance can also leverage collaboration where trust has broken down, but must respond to an interest in working together, rather than being seen as forcing such collaboration. Within the water sector, a commercial focus can improve service management and, potentially, set the stage for greater private sector involvement. But the private sector will be viable only where the public counterpart is strong. In post-conflict situations, infrastructure has typically suffered from neglect and is in need of substantial investment. However, efficient investment demands long term policies built on constructive engagement of local and national stakeholders. There is a related civil society role in building awareness of public health needs and the need for official accountability. OSCE, with its local presence and perceived neutrality can help catalyze the needed dialogue.

The Moderator of the session, **Mr. Sumter Lee Travers**, Director, Water and Sanitation, Europe and Central Asia Region, the World Bank, spoke on the potential for private sector management to increase transparency in the provision of water and sanitation services, citing examples from World Bank-supported projects in Armenia, Albania, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. However, he cautioned that such a transition needed to be handled with care. The introduction of private management disrupts the existing relationships between government, service providers, and the population and, if not carefully prepared, may lead to the termination of private management for political, rather than performance, reasons.

The presentations were followed by a **discussion**. The representative of REC Albania asked about EBRD plans in the Albanian water management sector. Mr. Russell responded that there are two ongoing projects in the country. In Tirana, the supply of water for a rapidly growing urban area poses new challenges. The EBRD looks forward to the implementation of the law that stipulates the transfer of responsibility from the central government to the local governments.

A participant noted that water management is most effective when delegated to the lowest level that incorporates the resource base. Having underlined the priority which is to encourage municipal loans for water supply and wastewater treatment, the representative asked a) whether the EBRD includes wastewater treatment as part of the loan package; b) whether there is a willingness in communities to pay for protection of water sources; and c) how are both upstream and downstream water management concerns addressed. The EBRD responded that before offering loans they look at the priority for and feasibility of wastewater treatment as part of a staged approach. As part of that process, compliance with environmental needs plays an important role and they encourage investments in upstream water

resource management as well as the protection of downstream water quality. The challenge is to build financially viable entities to achieve those goals.

Mr. Alonso Gajon was asked about policy concerning water quality. He responded that to ensure water quality, special protected areas were determined; centralized investments to protect quality in the basin were made; and the policy of including recovery of all costs was pursued – for raw water; drinking water; wastewater treatment before discharging back into the river; and environmental costs.

Another participant pointed out that the conference clearly sent a message that water was the most important commodity for the future and had sometimes become a political instrument. Unfortunately, practice showed that in big water related investment projects there could be a great deal of mismanagement and corruption. It was proposed that the OSCE should take a leading role in preventing corruption in such projects. It was also proposed that in order to reduce costs OSCE should promote a policy toward the reduction of technical losses of water as a step toward greater efficiency.

One delegation asked if a) the EBRD, while considering financing projects, takes into account conflict potential; b) if there are any lessons where water management might bring communities together; c) the same delegation proposed that OSCE in its efforts consider EBRD investments in conflict zones and conflict prevention measures. Mr. Russell noted that EBRD does, indeed, assess the risk of conflict. He cited the BiH project as an example of one that has helped bring communities together.

The representative of the OSCE Mission to Georgia asked about EBRD involvement in institution building while pursuing a policy of decentralization and good governance.

A representative of an NGO from BiH presented an example of transparency in eliminating environmental risks posed by big commercial projects.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

To ensure successful implementation of sustainable water management, it was recommended that the OSCE should:

- facilitate participative planning in water projects;
- promote better prioritization and accountability at the local level;
- contribute toward strengthening public voice in water management;
- play a bigger role in preventing corruption in water related projects.

PLENARY SESSION IV - PART II: Prevention of water related conflicts: water management in regional initiatives

Moderator: **Ambassador Christian D. Falkowski**, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Ms. Saba Nordström**, Environmental Adviser, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Ms. Fraca Schwarz, from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Germany, introduced the audience to the Petersberg Process (collaboration between Germany and the World Bank, started 1998) and the Athens Declaration Process (collaboration between Greece and the World Bank) for regional co-operation on Transboundary Water Resources Management in South Eastern Europe (including Bulgaria and Romania), mentioning that water is a catalyst for international cooperation and peace. She noted the integrated water resource management (IWRM) component of the process and the sharing of experiences between these countries. Activities can be narrowed down to

discussions and roundtables and examples include Integration of Shared Lake Basin Management in Lake Ohrid, transboundary ground water management and public participation in transboundary waters.

Mr. Pulat Umarov, Deputy Director, Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia, then held a presentation on lessons on cooperation building to manage water conflicts in the Aral Sea Basin, where he noted that water conflict can be both natural and man made. Destabilizing factors of water management include destruction of infrastructure, population changes, and climate change amongst others. He then spoke of the main political initiatives working with water management in the Aral Sea region, including the International Fund for the Aral Sea (IFAS). Political achievements include agreements by relevant Heads of States (including on energy). Shortcomings for cooperation are differences in economy and a lack of a strategy, legal norms, coordination and community participation. On the issue of coordination, the lack of such a mechanism has led to several instances of duplication. Lessons learnt from the above include the need for inter-sectoral partnerships, promotion of interstate agreements, public participation, cooperation in science, enterprises in water and donor coordination. Mr. Umarov ended his presentation with 5 priority areas for future interventions, including the need for IWRM principles, setting up training networks, encouraging water saving, facilitating strategies and agreements and finally, information exchange.

The next speaker, **Mr. Alexander Mironenkov**, Adviser on water and energy issues, EurAsEC, spoke of economic integration as a key factor for sustainable water use and security in Central Asia. The aim of EurAsEC, as an international economic organization, could be to look at the joint economic potential, including in hydropower, and to promote a joint use of natural resources. In Central Asia, water was used preliminary for the economy; therefore the ideas of joint benefits were important and transparent approaches were essential. Mr. Mironenkov mentioned possible joint approaches with the OSCE, where the Chu-Talas was a good example of cooperation.

The Moderator, Ambassador Christian Falkowski, before passing on the floor, mentioned the importance of generating mutual benefits and of promoting a balance. For example, irrigation and energy production could not always be developed hand-in-hand and, here, the OSCE could act as a facilitator, perhaps also linking more with the Petersburg/Athens processes.

Mr. Giora Sacham, former Head of the Israeli Father Plan for National Water Management, spoke of the prevention of water related conflicts and presented a methodology for regional initiatives analysis. Main factors of water conflicts were mentioned and the need to increase water use efficiency as well as creating water through technology. The obstacles to technology include the economy, the added burden for agriculture and the added cost to the user/public. On the issue of conflict resolution, in relation to hydraulic processes, Mr. Sacham mentioned 6 stages: presentation of goals; order of importance (priority of goals); policy alternatives; comparative evaluation of policy alternatives; agreement on a policy; and finally, implementation. Regarding to what the OSCE can do, it was suggested that OSCE can educate/train in methods of conserving water, disseminate water technologies, and facilitate services and consultations on legislation/agreements. Israel is able to help with capacity building, joint workshops and providing Israeli consultants.

During the **discussion** time, Ambassador Jenca, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, had an intervention stressing the importance of water management cooperation in Central Asia and specifically in relation to Uzbekistan and in the context of this year's chairmanship priorities.

Many participants agreed that from the priorities mentioned by Mr. Umarov, the most important would be training, not only in water, but also in energy and agriculture. By utilizing present training mechanisms in the region, duplication would be avoided and would further a common platform for understanding and consensus (between the public, several ministries and middle level experts).

On the Petersburg and Athens processes, there was a query on any plans to extend to other regions. This was not the case for the moment.

Mr. Mironenkov mentioned that natural (transboundary) resources may lead to joint cooperation and reminded the conference that the Aral Sea is also a global problem. He drew attention to the security aspects of dam safety.

Mr. Sacham added that the role of the OSCE could be facilitating agreements as well as training and education on water conservation.

Finally, the Moderator, Ambassador Falkowski, summed up the discussion, noting its clear link to the previous session, and stating that water management and the governance of water are interlinked. He went on to conclude that the OSCE could play a role as a facilitator in this context and in particular working with water councils and users, ensuring the participation and fair share of different groups. The Ambassador noted that OSCE could play a role on balancing interests and mutual benefits related to water, at the same time balancing economic and ecologic interests.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

- The OSCE is well placed in facilitating dialogue and open discussion and offers a balancing role and guidance relevant to this subject.
- The OSCE should facilitate agreements on solving water related issues and facilitate existing regional efforts and mechanisms.
- That OSCE can step up its efforts in education and training with regard to water issues (and also on related issues such as *inter alia* agriculture and energy), disseminate water technologies, and facilitate services and consultations.
- As water management and governance are interlinked, the OSCE could in particular strengthen information exchange, public participation and ensure a genuine dialogue among different stakeholders.

PLENARY SESSION V: Emergency response, disaster preparedness and drought plans

Moderator: Mr. Philip Weller, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Rapporteur: Mr. Ulugbek Ruziev, Programme Assistant, Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan

Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei, Environment Agency, Germany, presented the “Hazard prevention and Emergency Planning at Transboundary Rivers in the UN ECE Region”. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei provided several examples of accidents in oil-storage terminals in Germany, from which hazardous elements flooded into the Rhine River. The issue of water and associated pollution has a transboundary character and that is why the International Rhine Commission, which was created earlier for sound water use regulation by neighbouring countries, vetoed the use of water from the Rhine River for the period starting 1986. Cleaning initiatives were undertaken and sponsored by all participating countries and by 1996 the river water was cleaned. Following that, in 1996, under UNECE program, special guidelines were developed for secure pipelines use in order to avoid such accidents in the future. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei stated that in 2007 there would be a UNECE seminar that would be dedicated to the development of Guidelines to prevent the pollution of rivers by the sediments of the hazardous elements resulting from the industrialization processes. He stated that in recent years the UNECE had introduced prevention systems for the Neman and Kur rivers (2006) and that direct communication had been established between Baku and Yerevan to share information on

accidents and prevention of ecological disasters. He also stated that under a conflict prevention programme, supported by the OSCE, a system of accidents prevention had been introduced for the Dniester River. He said that sustainable development and prevention of environmental disasters required advance training on those issues.

Mr. Juan Carlos de Cea, Department of Dam Inspection, Ministry of Environment, Spain, started with a presentation of his Department, which is responsible for prevention of breaches of the dams and for provision of security for people living in the areas close to dams. In his presentation entitled “Emergency Plans for dams”, he provided general data on dams, saying that 1,200 large dams had been constructed in Spain by 2006 with the total water capacity of 56,400 m³. He said that correct design was the key to dam safety. For this purpose, Spain has developed a number of regulatory documents. The list of regulatory documents was provided during presentation. He explained that the dams are classified into three categories of security and that for two categories a special action plan is required for evacuation in case of danger. These special measures are publicly disseminated through communication campaigns, newspapers and by the local authorities. Mr. Juan Carlos de Cea said that his agency conducted regular observation tests on prevention of accidents, assessing where a breach could occur and what damage it could bring to cities, rural and other settlements. After such analyses, additional measures were undertaken to construct additional technical barriers. In case there was a breach in a dam, all the populated areas nearby and the local authorities had special instructions on how to ensure their security until special services could take the required measures.

Mr. Teodoro Estrella, Deputy General Director of Sustainable Water Use and Planning, Ministry of Environment, Spain, gave a talk entitled “National Drought Observatory and Spanish Drought Plans: Early Warning Systems”. He said that drought is being considered seriously in Spain as a natural disaster. In order to mitigate the possible damage of drought the Spanish Government introduced the Spanish Drought Management Plans and early warning systems on drought. In addition the Ministry of Environment has introduced a special guideline-document for area water users’ organizations, the work of which is being controlled by the Ministry. The aim is to provide an equal opportunity for all stakeholders and to avoid drought in some areas. The Ministry of Environment also has introduced early warning drought systems for monitoring of the situation. During a drought there is always a big incentive to use underground water sources but this must be done with due attention to the environmental consequences. That is why nearly 1,600 control stations have been constructed. Mr. Estrella said that, when there is a drought, maximum effort is provided to alert the population through newspapers and other media.

Mr. Gregor Gregorovič, Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, in his presentation “The drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe” talked about the creation of the Drought Early Warning Center for South-Eastern Europe and about two seminars carried out in 2004 and 2006, which have led to an agreement on further steps. The Ministry of Environment of Slovenia has been given a task to develop a plan for drought early warning. Mr. Gregorovič informed that there would be a seminar on 18-19 of April, where the draft of this Plan would be presented for discussion.

In the **discussion** that followed the presentations it was generally agreed that the OSCE should continue providing a platform for a constructive inter-state dialogue aimed at emergency responses, preventing pollution and degradation of transboundary water courses.

One delegation referred to the OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to the fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region that had taken place in October 2006 and to the recommendation made to enhance regional co-operation on water management between Armenia and Azerbaijan. According to the delegation, representatives of Azerbaijan had been denied the opportunity to visit the water reservoirs in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the Sarsang Reservoir had not been properly maintained and there was a danger of a breach in the dam, with dangerous consequences for the people living downstream. The delegation proposed to the OSCE to organize a new expert group field visit to evaluate the technical conditions of the reservoirs infrastructure and to initiate a dialogue between both states on inter-state cooperation in water.

Another delegation suggested that the OSCE should continue providing a platform for a constructive inter-state dialogue aimed at preventing pollution and degradation of transboundary watercourses. It thanked the OSCE for the work being undertaken with regard of conflict prevention and sustainable environment policy development. It brought attention to the problem of transboundary pollution of water resources. It provided the examples of the Don River in the Rostov region, of the river Ilek, a tributary to the Ural River, which was being polluted by toxic elements from a neighbouring country, and of the Caspian Sea being polluted because of oil and oil products shipment. In this regard, the OSCE could play a role of platform, stimulating interstate cooperation on elimination of pollution of trans-boundary water resources.

Another delegation recommended that the OSCE should take an active part in the development of new initiatives on the Danube River. That representative added that there was an urgent necessity to further develop early warning and monitoring systems during floods. He added also that there was a need to develop the Concept of accident prevention in the Danube River.

One delegation raised following questions: i) What should be the role of OSCE in trans-boundary issues of water use? ii) A question to Messrs. Estrella and Gregorovič, who both said that in case of flood or dam breach, water use would be limited: how was this issue being regulated in trans-boundary zones, for example between Spain and Portugal? iii) what would be the content of the communication campaign and how would it be implemented?

Another delegation, responding to a previous statement, said that it would convey the message regarding regional cooperation to its Government. That delegation also stated that the reason why the programme of the above mentioned OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission did not include a visit to Nagorno-Karabakh was a lack of agreement on other aspects of the mission's itinerary.

The UNECE representative confirmed that some initiatives were underway on assessment of dams in the Central Asia region. This study was sponsored by the Government of Finland. He expressed UNECE's willingness to provide further information to all organizations working on related issues. Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei suggested that the role of OSCE in trans-boundary issues could be in providing support to implementation of the inter-state agreements, as well as training and capacity building programs for experts dealing with extreme situations. On question of participation of local communities, he stated that the press and mass-media were very important to alert the population in case of accidents. Mr. Estrella added that the press was important in disseminating knowledge to the population about how to manage extreme situations. Mr. Estrella also replied to the question on limitation of water use and said that there was a special Council which regulated interstate water sharing and use, and that special plans did exist on up to what level water should be limited for different types of use in extreme situations. These plans also calculated the potential economic impact on the agricultural and industrial sectors if extreme situations occurred.

Concluding, the Moderator of the session, Mr. Weller, stated that there was a real necessity to further develop early warning and prevention systems to avoid extreme situations. Mr. Weller said that delegates had formulated good recommendations for the OSCE and that they all would be taken into serious consideration.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

- The OSCE should support the establishment of national coordination mechanism, national plans and response mechanisms to disasters (dams safety, droughts, flooding, accidental pollution etc), and disseminate best practices in that regard.

- The OSCE should play particular attention to the involvement of local communities and local authorities and facilitate the exchange of information including through public campaigns, media, etc.
- The OSCE should continue providing a platform for inter-state dialogue aimed at preventing pollution and degradation of transboundary watercourses
- The OSCE could highlight the transboundary effects of pollution and consequently support inter-state agreements, provide training and capacity building programs for experts dealing with extreme situations. It could also support the creation of joint bodies to address such problems
- When needed, the OSCE could organize field assessment missions.

**PANEL DISCUSSION: The Role of the OSCE: Follow up to the 15th
Economic and Environmental Forum**

Moderator: **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Mr. David Swalley**, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

The Session was composed of four presentations highlighting recently completed or ongoing projects managed completely or in part by OSCE field missions or the OCEEA.

Mr. Peter Svedberg, Project Manager at the UNDP Regional Center in Bratislava, gave a presentation on behalf of the current Chairman (Mr. Ben Slay) of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).

The ENVSEC Initiative places significant importance on water resource management in all its sub-regions of operation. The partnership has identified the potential of water issues to be one of the major forces to address environmental and security risks, and to build cooperation. The notion that water security is an integral part of the broader concept of human security is clearly outlined in the 2006 UN Human Development Report. While explicitly rejecting the view that there is an absolute shortage of water quantities throughout the world, the Report clearly states that most water crises stem from poverty, inequality, and unequal power relationships.

In this context, the OSCE, particularly through its participation in ENVSEC, plays a crucial role by, firstly, mainstreaming environment and security issues into policy agendas by working through Ministries of Foreign Affairs and implementing ENVSEC activities, with the assistance of its field missions. ENVSEC also ensures a high level of coordination among all of its partners as well with other regional partners on several water-related projects including the OSCE/NATO South Caucasus River Monitoring Project, UNDP/GEF Kura-Araks Project, and a soon-to-be initiated assessment of the Amu-Darya River Basin. Since the ENVSEC Initiative is a demand-driven process by participating countries, the OSCE would be well-positioned to support the process through both political and financial support.

Mr. William Hanlon, Economic and Environmental Officer of the Mission to Georgia, provided a presentation on lessons learned from the joint OSCE/NATO South Caucasus River Monitoring Project.

The objective of this regional project, officially supported by the National Academy of Science in each of the three South Caucasus countries, is to re-establish a Kura-Araks river basin monitoring system, which had collapsed following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Since 2002, NATO and the OSCE have jointly supported this project by purchasing equipment and providing training support to the respective National Academies to monitor water quality and quantity parameters. What has resulted

from the project has been unique regional cooperation between the three South Caucasus countries to objectively assess the condition of the Kura-Araks river system, and thus remove political considerations from the environmental issue of water security.

The South Caucasus River Monitoring project has just concluded its fourth year and NATO and the OSCE are now conducting an assessment of results and potential follow-up to the project. Potential follow-up activities could include projects in environmental “hot-spots” along the river system where closed industrial plants or mining sites are polluting the river basin. Moreover, the equipment and methodology acquired by the scientists in the project could be utilized for similar monitoring exercises in the frozen conflict zones in an effort to reduce political tensions.

Ms. Spomenka Djuric of the OSCE Mission in Croatia presented the OSCE experience on the Sava Initiative to develop a network of Local Actors. This regional project followed the creation of a joint river basin commission between Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia. During this project, three workshops were organized, targeting a wide range of stake-holders including local governments, civil society actors, and water-suppliers to draft a short-term action plan to share best practices, exchange cooperative experiences, and develop bi-lateral action plans. Throughout this process, the OSCE played a key role in securing proper representation and preparation. The project aided in the creation of water commissions in Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, developed contacts in local communities, and intensified communications between government and civil society actors.

Mr. Saulius Smalys, Environmental Officer at the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, offered a presentation on water sharing and fostering regional cooperation in transboundary water resources. As water is a shared resource among all of the Central Asian countries, the OSCE should build relationships and encourage regional cooperation between all of the governments. This is particularly important since much of the water infrastructure has not been updated since the Soviet era. In the end, extensive financial resources will have to be mobilized to ensure the safety and health of water resources in Central Asia.

The ensuing discussion focused, among other things, on the comparative advantage of OSCE field missions to promote cooperation on national water issues. On the other hand, the OSCE/OCEEA also has the ability to foster regional cooperation on these issues, which field missions, lacking the regional mandate, can not stimulate on their own. Interventions from a number of countries hosting OSCE field presences welcomed the OSCE activities in water cooperation in their countries and stated that more could be done in the way of fostering more regional cooperation and promotion of international conventions in this field.

Recommendations (areas for possible OSCE involvement):

- The OSCE should continue and further develop its activities towards promoting sustainable water management, water co-operation and enhancing water security, including through the activities under the ENVSEC Initiative and through the OSCE field presences.
- Special attention should be paid to mainstreaming water related environmental security issues into the political agendas, enhancing coordination among partners and stakeholders, fostering regional cooperation and promoting public participation, training and capacity building.
- As priority areas for future OSCE involvement in water issues Central Asia (e.g. encouragement to regional cooperation, streamlining and implementation of agreements, dam safety, Amu-Darya River Basin co-operation) the Caspian Sea and the South Caucasus region (e.g. Kura-Araks Project, reservoirs in the Nagorno Karabakh region, hot-spots identification and training) were singled out.
- The OSCE should continue to promote existing international conventions and should contribute to the spread of best practices.

CLOSING STATEMENT

by Mr. Bernard Snoy
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Ladies and gentlemen,

When embarking in such a complex exercise as the Economic and Environmental Forum, when trying to address such a complex topic as water management and water cooperation, it is of utmost importance to clearly define medium and long-term goals. Our goal is to ensure meaningful and concrete follow-up to our deliberations. In doing so, emphasis should be placed on sharing both benefits and costs of water cooperation. As was rightly pointed out, more emphasis needs to be placed on the benefit sharing potential of water cooperation and effort should be made to build a sense of water as a source of cooperation, not conflict.

In order to ensure adequate water management, a number of elements have to be taken into account. First, there is a need to establish a legal framework that promotes cooperation. Then, this legal framework, which can be a piece of national legislation, a bilateral agreement or an international convention, has to be enforced. Dispute mechanisms should also be foreseen. In order to ensure enforcement, functioning institutions – at the local, national and regional level - have to be put in place. As well, the involvement of multiple stakeholders in the decision making process is extremely important as it reinforces ownership. Finally, we should be all aware that this is not a static endeavor. Therefore there is a need to constantly adapt such mechanisms of cooperation to new circumstances and new challenges. I should probably also add to this list, in particular due to this constant need to adapt, a concept used by one of the speakers earlier today – creative thinking.

So far, and ever since the 2002 Forum under the Portuguese Chairmanship, the OSCE has been involved in a way or another at all these levels. Our diverse experiences in promoting cooperation on the Chu and Talas, Dniester, Sava, or Kura Arax rivers have been extensively presented and discussed yesterday and today. It is indeed the right time to analyze our past experience and decide what and how can we do better. I think there is no doubt that there is still much to be done and that we can and have to do a lot. There are still gaps, there are still good initiatives in need of support. The OSCE should continuously focus on ensuring long term sustainability of the projects it develops and helps to implement. I was encouraged by the positive messages received from those with whom we cooperated so far, such as the UNECE, the UNDP, etc., as well as from the representatives of the countries where we operate.

Another important conclusion that we can draw from this meeting is that water management is very much linked with good governance. In particular, economic governance structures should be put in place and appropriate pricing policies need to be designed. Water pricing is an important incentive for economic efficiency. In the agricultural sector a proper pricing structure is essential and, in particular where water is scarce, good governance policies to improve the efficiency of water use and its allocation are required to ensure sustained growth. Establishment of water centers to manage water resources and payment for ecosystem services schemes are tools to promote sustainability and multi-sector cooperation. Working with local governments, supporting participative planning, increasing accountability at the local level, improving the technologies used, better prioritization, are all important elements

for sustainable water management. Similarly, public-private partnerships can help finance future investments in the water sector. The role of the OSCE in preventing corruption in water related projects was also stressed.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I think this conference clearly demonstrated that the OSCE has a clear role to play in promoting water cooperation at various levels. The OSCE can be useful in local capacity building as it can enable civil society contributions to water management. The OSCE can also provide a political impetus to inter and intrastate cooperation and policy integration. As a neutral actor, the OSCE can work to create political will to manage water resources when the political momentum to fully address problems is lacking.

I very much welcome the statements made by representatives of various regional organizations, in particular those operating in Central Asia, such as the EURASEC and the ICWC (Interstate Coordination Water Commission). They expressed their willingness to cooperate with the OSCE and their strong belief that the OSCE can support regional activities and provide assistance to capacity building projects. We stand ready to do so. The OSCE can work with other organizations in promoting intra and international water cooperation by examining what is not currently working well and complementing and coordinating its work with existing actors to fill such gaps. We can facilitate training and capacity building on specific water related topics as well as elaborating and establishing cooperation mechanisms such as intergovernmental agreements.

I also welcome the suggestions made by a number of participants, in particular those who said that deeper cooperation with international organizations including the OSCE in areas of common concern, for example in the framework of the EU Water Initiative, should be envisioned. We stand ready to further discuss how to develop such co-operation.

Many concrete suggestions were made as well by our Economic and Environmental Officers from the OSCE field presences, either here in the plenary or during corridor discussions with my colleagues. We will carefully study them and we will stay in close touch with our field presences in the process of designing and implementing follow-up activities. I take note in particular of the statement of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador Jenca, regarding the possibility of hosting a regional event.

There are many good examples of co-operation and best practices across the OSCE region. Cooperation in the Danube River Basin is one of them. Such an example is also the water cooperation between Spain and Portugal. As it was emphasized during the conference, this partnership between Spain and Portugal succeeds, *inter alia*, due to transparency, public participation, joint management and responsibility. These are all invaluable for water cooperation. Our Organization has a role in collecting and disseminating such best practices. The OSCE can also be instrumental in sharing practical experiences and information as well as in the transfer of new, efficient technologies.

All the recommendations emerging from the Zaragoza Conference will be duly analyzed in Vienna by my Office together with the Chairmanship and presented to Delegations. They will lead us, I am convinced, to a successful Economic and Environmental Forum in May in Prague and to useful follow-up activities later on.

Thank you everybody for your contribution.

OSCE SPANISH CHAIRMANSHIP CLOSING SPEECH

by Ambassador Lopez-Jorin
Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain

Coordinator, Honourable Ambassadors, Ladies, Gentlemen, all friends,

I am pleased to address you at this closing ceremony after two days of intense discussions here in the magnificent city of Zaragoza, which has impressed us all with its vitality, modernity and resolved outlook to the future. The time has come for us to return to our everyday work, but we shall leave bearing magnificent memories of our stay here.

When the Spanish Chairmanship selected Zaragoza as the venue city for this Second Preparatory Conference to the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, we knew we were making a good choice. In 2008, this city will beyond doubt be the world's capital for water, with an Expo that will attract some 10 million visitors, the greatest event in the history of this subject. The OSCE will have to participate in some way in this momentous occasion, which was described to us yesterday in detail.

In recent years, there has occurred a sea change in the concept of the environment, and a no lesser change in that of security; this meeting has helped us identify the link between the two. The OSCE, as an organization that is dedicated to security, is in a privileged position to carry out an in-depth study of the causes, effects and modes of managing the close relation between the environment and security. The impact caused in society by the reports on climate change has meant that, for the first time in history, we are aware of the necessity to act, in order to alleviate as far as possible the environmental deterioration that the planet is increasingly undergoing.

Coordinator,

We have heard in this forum that water must serve as an element to bring about the integration of territory, as a focal point of union and cooperation. In this 21st century, water must no longer be a cause of division, of conflict, but quite the contrary. Spain has successfully managed the chronic scarcity of water that affects a large part of its territory, but to do so it has had to work intensively in recent decades.

In our debates over the last two days, we have discussed the importance of the comprehensive management of water resources, taking into account the varying uses to which it is put. In addition, we have stressed the fundamental nature of comprehensive management policies for river basins, which should be based on integrating water supply and use throughout the territory in question. The management of this resource must be effected not only at local, regional and national levels, but also in the international sphere, with all countries working together in cooperation. In this room, we have heard of various successful experiences of international cooperation in water management, with models for the joint and efficient use of cross-border rivers and lakes. This is the path we wish to take, and we hope that it has been of great use for all of us to have heard about these initiatives at first hand.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Water is a scarce resource and its use must be rationalised. Its economic implications are obvious, and a correct assessment can help to prevent conflicts and plan in a more viable way. To achieve this, it is important that the appropriate technology be applied for the best possible management of water resources. We have seen in this Conference that the right technology can enable the efficient use and greater saving of water. We have also analyzed how technology can be employed for early warning and monitoring systems in cases of natural disasters, both in preventing them and in alleviating their consequences when they are unavoidable.

In this context, we believe it is fundamental for there to be a transfer of technology and for it to be developed in situ in the countries that need it. Therefore, the Spanish Chairmanship-in-Office, in collaboration with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, proposes to organize an event during the second half of 2007 on technology transfer with respect to the water management. This will be a good opportunity to view the latest advances in the field of desalination, water treatment plants, waste management, early warning systems and water-saving schemes. It is important to show our know-how and to carry out research, promoting technological progress in this vital strategic field.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The OSCE is a forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences, and constitutes an ideal context for analyzing the close relationship between the environment and security. This organization is very well placed to establish theoretical frameworks to examine this relation in detail, but at the same time it can and must promote specific actions. This is one of the main aims of the Spanish Chairmanship this year, and we hope to achieve it by means of an ample consensus between all the OSCE Participant States, as it is to the benefit of all of us.

These two days in Zaragoza have beyond doubt been highly fruitful; the debates have been of great interest, and I believe we have managed to respond to the requests of many delegations in terms of reducing the length of speakers' presentations, limiting their number and thus allowing more time for discussion. I hope all those present have enjoyed this occasion for exchanging ideas within this very special setting.

Dear Friends,

At the Prague Forum we shall continue working to achieve a more secure world, by appropriate environmental management. Thank you all for coming to Spain, to Zaragoza. It has been a pleasure to be here with you. When you return home, please let everyone know that here in Spain we are working very seriously to manage water, a scarce but vital resource, and that we have made environmental protection one of the priorities of our domestic and international policies. From our current Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE, we hope the Organization will benefit from it and in the future we will continue to develop together the paths being opened up.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities

Zaragoza, 12 March 2007

Second Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

**“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable
development in the OSCE area: Water Management”**

Zaragoza, Spain, 12-13 March 2007

(Venue: Auditorio - Palacio de Congresos de Zaragoza)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Monday, 12 March 2007

08.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.30 **Opening Plenary Session** (open to Press)

Welcoming remarks by:

- **Mr. Ricardo Berdie Paba**, Deputy Mayor of Zaragoza
- **Mr. Antonio Serrano Rodríguez**, Secretary General for Territory and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Spain
- **Mr. Emilio Fernández-Castaño y Díaz-Caneja**, General Organizer of the Zaragoza Expo 2008
- **Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**, Secretary General of the OSCE

10.30 - 12.00 **Plenary Session I – Fostering water co-operation:
international and regional experiences**

Moderator: Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado y de la Válgoma, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, OSCE Chairmanship

Rapporteur: Mr. Curtis Peters, Delegation of Canada to the OSCE

Keynote speakers:

- **Ms. Francesca Bernardini**, Secretary of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- **Mr. Philip Weller**, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River: *Water co-operation – the Danube experience*

- **Mr. Anders Berntell**, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI): *Transboundary water management challenges – current and future opportunities and constraints*
- **Mr. Pierre Hecq**, Policy Officer, Co-ordinator for the EU Water Initiative, DG Environment, European Commission: *The European Water Initiative/EECCA component*
- **Mr. Jaime Palop**, Director General for Water, Ministry for Environment, Spain

Topics:

- Security and socio-economic implications of the (un)sustainable use of water resources; the need for sound and harmonized water and land management policies
- Building global international partnerships to address these issues and mobilize resources and support capacity building, in particular training programmes
- Improve and combat inequalities in access to water, considering quality and quantity

Discussion

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee Break

12.30 – 14.00 **Plenary Session II - OSCE experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on water management**

Moderator: **Ms. Francesca Bernardini**, Secretary of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Rapporteur: **Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk**, Environmental Activities Officer, Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine

Keynote speakers:

- **Mr. Dejan Komatina**, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission. *The Sava River Basin*
- **Ms. Natalia Zakorchevna**, Head of Department of Environmental Protection and Water Issues, The State Committee for Water Management of Ukraine. *The Dniester Process*
- **Ms. Natalia Alexeeva**, Project Manager, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation. *Chu and Talas Rivers Public Participation (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan)* with **Mr. Nurlan Atshabarov**, Deputy Chairman of the Water Resources Management Committee, Ministry of Environment, Kazakhstan

Topics:

- The necessity of integrated approaches in terms of policies and instruments, including at local level and the public involvement

Discussion

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch Break

15.30 – 17.00 **Plenary Session III – Economic governance aspects of sustainable water management**

Moderator: Mr. Manuel Varela, Department for Groundwater Resources, Ministry of Environment, Spain

Rapporteur: Ms. Helen Santiago Fink, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Keynote speakers:

- **Mr. Nikola Marjanovic**, Director, Serbian Water Authority: *Water pricing policies and practices*
- **Ms. Cristina García-Orcóyen Tormo**, Managing Director, Fundacion Entorno (WBCSD). *The private sector perspective on water management*
- **Ms. Josefina Maestu**, Special Adviser on the European Water Directive, Ministry of Environment, Spain: *Prices of water services and efficiency of water use in Spain*
- **Ms. Eszter Kovács**, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary

Topics:

- Economic and ecological implications of subsidies in the water sector
- Recognising the value of water related ecological services
- Private sector involvement and contribution for sustainable use of water

Discussion

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee Break

17.30 – 18.30 **Special Session**

- **Address by H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain**

Discussion

19.00 Reception hosted by Mr. Juan Alberto Belloch Julbe, Mayor of Zaragoza (Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza)

Tuesday, 13 March 2007

10.00 – 11.00 **Plenary Session IV Part I – Prevention of water related conflicts: the role of good governance**

Moderator: Mr. Sumter Lee Travers, Director, Water and Sanitation, Europe and Central Asia Region, the World Bank

Rapporteur: Ms. Lyale Nazarova, Economic and Environmental Assistant, OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

Keynote speakers:

- **Mr. José Luis Alonso Gajón**, President of the “Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro”, Ministry of Environment, Spain: *Integrated Water Management*
- **Mr. Henry Russel**, Deputy-Director, Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): *Political reform and development through municipal infrastructure financing*
- **Mr. Stephan Hart**, European Investment Bank

Topics:

- Integrated watershed management
- How can the conditionality of bilateral or multilateral institutions reduce mismanagement and corruption in water management
- How to deal with the prevalence of monopolies
- How funding initiatives have reduced tensions and contributed to post-conflict rehabilitation

Discussion

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30 **Plenary Session IV Part II – Prevention of water related conflicts: water management in regional initiatives**

Moderator: **Ambassador Christian D. Falkowski**, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Ms. Saba Nordström**, Environmental Adviser, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Keynote speakers:

- **Ms. Franca Schwarz**, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Germany: *The Petersberg Process and the Athens Declaration Process for regional co-operation on Transboundary Water Resources Management in South Eastern Europe*
- **Mr. Pulat Umarov**, Deputy Director, Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia: *Lessons on cooperation building to manage water conflicts in the Aral Sea Basin*
- **Mr. Alexander Mironenkov**, Adviser on water and energy issues, EurAsEC: *Economic integration as the main factor of sustainable water using and security in Central Asia*
- **Mr. Giora Sacham**, former Head of the Israeli Father Plan for National Water Management: *Prevention of water related conflicts – methodology for regional initiatives analysis*

Topics:

- What can we learn from existing regional co-operation processes in transboundary water resources management, such as the Petersberg and Athens Declaration processes for South Eastern Europe
- What are the main gaps in regional co-operation in other OSCE regions and sub-regions, particularly in Central-Asia
- What activities could the OSCE undertake to promote better regional co-operation towards addressing acute water management issues in the Aral Sea Basin

Discussion

12.30 – 13.30

Plenary Session V – Emergency response, disaster preparedness and drought plans

Moderator: Mr. Philip Weller, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Rapporteur: Mr. Ulugbek Ruziev, Programme Assistant, Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan

Keynote speakers:

- **Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei**, Environment Agency, Germany: *Hazard Prevention and Emergency Planning at Transboundary Rivers in the UN ECE Region*
- **Mr. Juan Carlos de Cea**, Department of Dam Inspection, Ministry of Environment, Spain: *Emergency Plans for dams*
- **Mr Teodoro Estrela**, Deputy General Director of Sustainable Water Use and Planning, Ministry of Environment, Spain: *National Drought Observatory and Spanish Drought Plans; Early Warning Systems*
- **Mr. Gregor Gregorič**, Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia: *The Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe*

Topics:

- Security implications of flooding, emergency response and disaster preparedness
- Addressing transboundary water pollution risks (associated particularly to hazardous chemicals and radioactive wastes)
- Early warning systems and Emergency plans for dams

Discussion

13.30 – 15.00

Lunch Break

15.00 – 17.00

Panel - The Role of the OSCE: Follow up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum

Moderator: Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: Mr. David Swalley, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Panellists:

- **Mr. Peter Svedberg**, Project Manager, UNDP's Regional Center in Bratislava, representing the Chairman of the ENVSEC Initiative
- **Mr. William Hanlon**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Mission to Georgia: *Lessons learned form the Kura Araks River Basin Project*
- **Ms. Spomenka Djurić**, OSCE Mission in Croatia, *Lessons learned from the Sava Initiative to develop a network of Local Actors*
- **Mr. Saulius Smalys**, Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Dushanbe: *Water sharing - fostering regional co-operation on transboundary water resources*

Topics:

- What could be the key recommendations on water management issues in the context of a potential OSCE Environment Security Strategy
- The concrete contributions the ENVSEC initiative can make
- OSCE role in reinforcing existing international frameworks of co-operation or in fostering the emergence of new ones when necessary
- Contribution of OSCE presences and field missions' activities

Discussion

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee Break

17.30 – 18.00 **Conclusions and Closing**

- **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- **Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorin**, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, OSCE Chairmanship

20.00 Reception hosted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (Palacio de la Aljaferia)



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities

Zaragoza, 12 March 2007

Second Preparatory Conference
to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE
area: Water Management”

Zaragoza, Spain, 12-13 March 2007

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LOG OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Country	Title	Lang.
I. Opening Plenary Session				
SEC.GAL/56/07	22.03.07	OSCE Secretariat	<i>“Furthering the Coherence of the OSCE”</i> by Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut , Secretary General of the OSCE	English, Spanish
II. Plenary Session I – Fostering water co-operation: international and regional experiences				
PC.DEL/176/07	07.03.07	EU- European Commission	<i>“The European Water Initiative/EECCA component”</i> by Mr. Pierre Hecq , Policy Officer, Co-ordinator for the EU Water Initiative, DG Environment, European Commission	English
PC.DEL/177/07	07.03.07	EUWI	A mechanism to improve the water sector in the EECCA region	English
PC.DEL/231/07	19.03.07	ICPDR	<i>“Fostering Water Co-operation: Experience in the Danube River Basin”</i> , by Mr. Philip Weller , Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	English
PC.DEL/229 & a1	12.03.07	Sweden	<i>“Transboundary water management challenges – current and future opportunities and constraints”</i> by Mr. Anders Bertell , Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)	English
PC.DEL/175/07	07.03.07	UNECE	<i>“Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management”</i> by UNECE	English
PC.DEL/198/07	08.03.07	UNECE	<i>“The UNECE Water Convention: a unique Framework to foster transboundary water cooperation and security”</i> , by Ms. Francesca Bernardini , Secretary of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	English

III. Plenary Session II - OSCE experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on water management				
PC.DEL/232/07	19.03.07	International Sava River Basin Commission	“ <i>The Sava River Basin</i> ” by Mr. Dejan Komatina , Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission.	English
PC.DEL/233/07	19.03.07	Ukraine	“ <i>The Dniester Process</i> ” by Ms. Natalia Zakorchevna , Head of Department of Environmental Protection and Water Issues, The State Committee for Water Management of Ukraine.	English
PC.NGO/3/07 & a1	07.03.07	Russian Federation	“ <i>Public Participation in Chu and Talas River</i> ” by Ms. Natalia Alexeeva , Project Manager, Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation.	English
PC.DEL/183/07 & a1	07.03.07	Kazakhstan	“ <i>OSCE Experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on Water Management</i> ” by Mr. Nurlan Atshabarov , Deputy Chairman of the Water Resources Management Committee, Ministry of Environment	Russian
IV. Plenary Session III – Economic governance aspects of sustainable water management				
PC.DEL/234/07	19.03.07	Serbia	“ <i>Water pricing policies and practices in Serbia</i> ” by Mr. Nikola Marjanovic , Director, Serbian Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Directorate for Water	English
PC.NGO/4/07	04.03.07	Spain	“ <i>Economic Governance Aspects of Sustainable Water Management</i> ” by Ms. Cristina García-Orcóyen Tormo , Managing Director, Fundacion Entorno (WBCSD)	Spanish
PC.DEL/236/07	19.03.07	Spain	“ <i>Prices of water services and efficiency of water use in Spain</i> ” by Ms. Josefina Maestu , Special Adviser on the European Water Directive, Ministry of Environment, Spain	English
PC.DEL.235/07	19.03.07	Hungary	“ <i>Payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management</i> ” <i>UNECE recommendations</i> ” by Ms.	English

			Eszter Kovács , Economic Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary	
PC.DEL/238/07	19.03.07	UNECE	The UNECE Water Convention shows the way on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water management	English
PC.DEL/266/07	23.03.07	Switzerland	Statement of Switzerland to the Plenary Session III	English
V. Special Session				
CIO.GAL/52/07	03.04.07	Spain, OSCE Chairman in Office	Speech by H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé , Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain	English Spanish
VI. Plenary Session IV Part I – Prevention of water related conflicts: the role of good governance				
PC.DEL/178/07	07.03.07	Spain	<i>“Prevention of Water related Conflicts: the Role of Good Governance”</i> , by Mr. José Luis Alonso Gajón , President of the “Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro” , Ministry of Environment, Spain	Spanish
PC.DEL/179/07	07.03.07	EBRD	<i>“Political reform and development through municipal infrastructure financing”</i> by Mr. Henry Russel , Deputy-Director, Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	English
PC.DEL/305/07	03.04.07	EIB	<i>“Notes on financing reform and the role of good governance”</i> by Mr. Stephen Hart , Water Sector Expert, European Investment Bank (EIB)	English
PC.DEL/304/07	03.04.07	EIB	The EIB in the Water Sector: Supply and Sanitation Schemes – general paper	English
VII. Plenary Session IV Part II – Prevention of water related conflicts: water management in regional initiatives				
PC. DEL/248/07	22.03.07	Germany	Ms. Franca Schwarz , Federal Ministry of the Environment, Germany: <i>The Petersberg Process and the Athens Declaration Process for regional co-operation on Transboundary Water</i>	English

			<i>Resources Management in South Eastern Europe</i>	
PC.DEL/173/07	07.03.07	ICWC	Mr. Pulat Umarov , Deputy Director, Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia: <i>Lessons on cooperation building to manage water conflicts in the Aral Sea Basin</i>	Russian
PC.DEL/181/07	07.03.07	ICWC	<i>“Lessons on cooperation building to manage water conflicts in the Aral Sea Basin”</i> by Prof. Viktor Dukhovny and Mr. Pulatkhon Umarov , Deputy Director, Scientific Information Centre of the xxx	English
PC.DEL/180/07	07.03.	EurAsEC	<i>“Economic integration as the main factor of sustainable water using and security in Central Asi”</i> by Mr. Alexander Mironenkov , Adviser on water and energy issues, EurAsEC	Russian
PC.DEL/185/07	08.03.07	Israel	<i>“Prevention of Water-related conflicts: Water Management in Regional Initiatives”</i> by Mr. Giora Shaham , former Head of the Israeli Father Plan for National Water Management	English
VIII. Plenary Session V – Emergency response, disaster preparedness and drought plans				
PC. DEL/182	07.03.	Germany	<i>“Hazard Prevention and Emergency Planning at Transboundary Rivers in the UN ECE Region”</i> by Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei , Environment Agency, Germany	English
PC.DEL/254/07	22.03.07	Spain	<i>“Emergency Action Plans for dams”</i> by Mr. Juan Carlos de Cea , Department of Dam Inspection, Ministry of Environment, Spain	English
PC.DEL/306/07	03.04.07	Spain	<i>“Spanish Drought Mangement Plans Early Warning Systems National Droughts Observatory”</i> by Mr Teodoro Estrela , Deputy General Director of Sustainable Water	English

			Use and Planning, Ministry of Environment, Spain	
PC.DEL/253/07	22.03.07	Slovenia	<i>“Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe”</i> by Mr. Gregor Gregorič , Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia	English
IX. Panel - The Role of the OSCE: Follow up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum				
PC.DEL/307/07	03.04.07	UNDP	Mr. Peter Svedberg , Project Manager, UNDP’s Regional Centre in Bratislava, representing the Chairman of the ENVSEC Initiative	
PC.FR/7/07	05.04.07	OSCE Mission to Croatia	<i>“Network of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin”</i> by Ms. Spomenka Djurić , OSCE Mission in Croatia	English
PC.DEL/267/07	23.03.07	OSCE Centre in Dushanbe	<i>“Promoting Regional Cooperation on Cross-border Rivers Management – One of the Main OSCE Objectives in the Central Asia”</i> by Mr. Saulius Smalys , Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Dushanbe	English, Russian
X. Conclusions and Closing				
SEC.GAL/57/07	22.03.07	OSCE OCEEA	<i>“Closing statement”</i> by Mr. Bernard Snoy , Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	English
CIO.GAL/54/07	04.04.07		Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorriñ , Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, OSCE Chairmanship	English Spanish
XI. General Contributions				
SEC.GAL/24/07/Rev.1	06.03.07	OSCE OCEEA	Agenda	English
n/a	11.03.07	OSCE OCEEA	Draft List of participants	English
SEC.GAL/44/07	06.03.07	OSCE OCEEA	Introductory Note	English
PC.DEL/174/07	07.03.07	Uzbekistan	<i>“Major problems of transboundary water management in Central Asia”</i> by Ms. Larisa Frank , State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan	Russian
PC.DEL.195/07	08.03.07	OSCE	Key Challenges to Ensure Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in	English

			the OSCE Area: Water Management-Regional Cooperation	
PC.DEL/247/07	22.03.07	Azerbaijan	Contribution by Mr. Mamad Asadov , Head of Department, Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm OJSC	Russian
PC.DEL/249/07	22.03.07	Bosnian and Herzegovina	“A Look at Water Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina” by Mr. Rijad Tikvesa, Ekotim , Sarajevo	English
PC.DEL/251/07	22.3.07	Azerbaijan	Presentation by Mr. Mamad Asadov , Head of Department, Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm OJSC	Russian
PC.DEL/252/07	22.03.07	REC	Presentation: Trans-boundary cooperation through the management of shared natural resources” by Mr. Ors Marczin , Project Manager, Regional Environmental Centre (REC Headquarters), Hungary	English
PC.NGO/1/07	07.03.07	REC	“Report: Trans-boundary cooperation through the management of shared natural resources” by Mr. Ors Marczin , Project Manager, Regional Environmental Centre (REC Headquarters), Hungary	English
PC.NGO/2/07	07.03.07	Uzbekistan	“Private Sector Involvement and Contribution to Sustainable Water Use” by Mr. Mirakhmedov , Water Supply and Sanitation Expert-Public-Private Partnership Agreements, Islohotkonsaltservis Consulting, Uzbekistan	English
PC.NGO/5/07	22.03.07	Moldova	Integrated management of transboundary Dniester River and consolidating role of NGOs in conditions of frozen conflict, by Mr. Ilya Trombitsky , Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of River Keepers	English