

Decisions 6th DCG Meeting

Ohrid, 30 May 2012

1. The Report of the 5th DCG meeting was adopted.
2. The Secretariat was requested to prepare revised rules of operation for the DCG, in line with the mandate of the DCG under the Drin MoU i.e. to be the coordinating body for the implementation of the MoU. The draft revised Rules of Operation should be sent to the representatives of the Parties for comments, and then presented for discussion in the 7th DCG meeting.
3. The DCG will have two ordinary meetings per year, tentatively in May and November. Extraordinary meetings may be organized on the initiative of the Parties in accordance to the Annex, point (vi) of the MoU.
4. Accepting the offer of the representative of the EC Delegation in Albania, the 7th Meeting of the DCG will be organized in the premises of the Delegation of the EU in Tirana, Albania.
5. The Meeting of the Parties (Ministerial Meeting) will take place in November 2012 in Tirana, Albania.
6. The Meeting of the Parties (Ministerial meeting, November 2012) will be requested to consider inviting the EU to be a full member of the DCG.
7. The Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Drin MoU was approved. The DCG will propose to the Meeting of the Parties to adopt the Action Plan; the following timeline of activities was adopted in this regard:
 - The DCG Secretariat amends the Action Plan with detailed steps and circulates the updated document to the DCG for comments;
 - The DCG provides comments by the end of July;
 - The DCG Secretariat incorporates comments made by the DCG and prepares the final Action Plan by the end of September;
 - The Action Plan is presented for discussion to the Meeting of the Parties (November 2012).
8. UNECE and GWP-Med was requested to take the necessary action in cooperation with the UNDP for the submission of the PIF for consideration to the GEF Council of November 2012.
9. Should the project proposal not be approved by GEF, alternative sources of financing for the activities for the implementation of the MoU will be sought, one option being through a donors conference.
10. The Secretariat was given the mandate to make an official request to the H2020 project, should an extension is granted by the European Commission, to include among the capacity building activities to be implemented in the SEE a number of workshops with a focus on the Drin Basin in line with the point 5 of the Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Drin MoU.
11. The ToRs of the three Expert Working Groups i.e. (i) Water Framework Directive implementation EWG; (ii) Monitoring and Information exchange EWG; (iii) Biodiversity and Ecosystems EWG, were endorsed. Furthermore, the DCG adopted the following timeline of activities with regard to the establishment of the EWGs and the preparation of their respective workplans:
 - Establishment of the Expert Working Groups (EWG)
 - The ToRs endorsed by the DCG, are adopted by the Parties through an official letter sent by July 2012 (sent by the Parties to the Secretariat).
 - Each of the Parties, through the respective representative to the DCG, appoints an institution as focal point and proposes a member and an alternate for each one of the EWGs by September 2012.
 - Preparation of the Workplan for each of the three EWGs - Functioning of the EWGs

- Background documents -one for each EWG- including an outline of a workplan is prepared by September 2012 by the Secretariat.
 - The members of each EWG provide comments on the respective background document and elaborate on the related workplan via email/other electronic media to the Secretariat - by October 2012.
 - Each EWG discusses and agrees on the respective workplan in a meeting to be organized in October 2012.
 - The workplan of each of the three EWGs is discussed for approval in the 7th DCG meeting.
12. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a provisional budget regarding the meetings of the Expert Working Groups and bring it to the attention of the Meeting of the Parties to decide upon the following two points of the respective ToRs: point 8.1 (i) the expenses related to the participation of the EWG Members as well as of additional experts in the EWG meetings will be borne directly by the Parties -each Party will cover expenses for its representatives- unless financial assistance from international organizations, donor countries or projects is secured" and; point 8. the costs for a meeting room, technical equipment etc, if needed, will be borne by the Party or subordinate institute / organization hosting the EWG meeting.
 13. The Parties to the MoU share information regarding on-going and planned projects related to the management of the Drin Basin and its sub-basins. The Secretariat was requested to facilitate this task by creating a template for the Parties to use. In addition the Secretariat was asked to prepare a table containing all the legal documents related to the management of the Drin Basin and its sub-basins; the Parties will review the table.
 14. The representative of the GIZ participated in the 6th DCG, was requested to explore opportunities for the creation of operational linkages between the project "Protection and sustainable utilization of the biodiversity in the area of Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder" and the DCG. It was proposed that a representative of the project would participate in the EWG Monitoring and Information Exchange.
 15. The ToRs regarding the study for the actions and steps necessary for the preparation of coordinated RBM plans for the parts of the Drin Basin extending in the territory of the Riparians, were adopted by the DCG. The representatives of the Parties will assist in the identification of the persons to be interviewed and provide contact details. The Secretariat of the DCG was requested to undertake the coordination.