



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

**Report on project implementation
for the period 1 January - 31 December 2009**



Geneva, 8 February 2010



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

The project "*National Policy Dialogue Process on Integrated Water Resource Management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*" is implemented by the UNECE under the OECD-UNECE Contribution Agreement of 31 July 2009. The project is supported by the European Union.

For questions and requests concerning the project and the report, please contact

Gulnara Roll, Regional Expert
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Gulnara.Roll@unece.org
E-mail: Gulnara.Roll@unece.org
Telephone: +41 22 917 22 57
Fax: +41 22 917 06 21



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Executive summary

National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on *integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation* is the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI). This initiative, including its component for the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), was launched at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. UNECE was requested to act as strategic partner to support the policy dialogue process on integrated water resources management, whereas OECD was requested to do so for water supply and sanitation issues.

Since 2006, UNECE has been carrying out National Policy Dialogues in four countries: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. In 2010, NPDs will start in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Since 2009, the NPD IWRM activities were implemented by UNECE under the OECD-UNECE Contribution Agreement of 31 July 2009 on the National Policy Dialogue Process on IWRM in EECCA; the agreement covers the period of 2009 - 2012.

The focus of the UNECE-supported policy dialogue is on assistance to strengthen integrated water resources management in line with the principles of the UNECE Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU Water Framework Directive and other UNECE and European Union instruments.

Policy dialogues are based on extensive consultations with all relevant ministries, agencies and institutions (including science and academia), non-governmental organizations, parliamentary bodies and other international organizations. Their main outcome are so-called “policy packages”, which include legislative acts, strategies, ministerial orders, and plans of implementation.

Progress on national policy dialogues on IWRM in 2009 has essentially proceeded according to plans as stated in the Agreement with a slight delay of activities, particularly those related to the start of new policy dialogues. The delays will be made up in the course of 2010.

At their Fifth Session (10-12 November 2009), the Parties to the Water Convention recognized that the National Policy Dialogues give added value to the Convention’s ongoing activities on IWRM. They also acknowledged the EECCA countries’ strong commitment and ownership, which is shown in the participation of high-level officials from different sectors in the NPD process, acknowledged the UNECE secretariat’s important responsibility in providing key services to its partners in EECCA countries, and mandated it to continue its role as the key strategic partner of the NPD process in EECCA countries at least until 2012.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



Table of contents

Executive summary	3
Introduction and summary of activities in 2009	7
I. Overview of the project implementation in 2009 – all countries	10
<i>A. Context of the project</i>	10
<i>B. Activities carried out during the reporting period</i>	10
<i>C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems</i>	12
<i>D. Changes introduced in implementation</i>	13
<i>E. Use of funds</i>	13
<i>F. Work plan for 2010 including objectives and indicators of achievement</i>	13
II. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Armenia	14
<i>A. Context of the project</i>	14
<i>B. Activities carried out during the reporting period</i>	14
<i>C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems</i>	15
<i>D. Changes introduced in implementation</i>	15
III. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Kyrgyzstan.....	16
<i>A. Context of the project</i>	16
<i>B. Activities carried out during the reporting period</i>	16
<i>C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems</i>	17
<i>D. Changes introduced in implementation</i>	17
IV. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Moldova.....	18
<i>A. Context of the project</i>	18
<i>B. Activities carried out during the reporting period</i>	18
<i>C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems</i>	19
<i>D. Changes introduced in implementation</i>	19
V. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Ukraine	20
<i>A. Context of the project</i>	20
<i>B. Activities carried out during the reporting period</i>	20
<i>C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems</i>	21
<i>D. Changes introduced in implementation</i>	21
VI. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in other EECCA countries	22
<i>A. Context of the project</i>	22
<i>B. Activities carried out during the reporting period</i>	22
Azerbaijan	22
Georgia.....	22
Tajikistan	23
Turkmenistan	23
<i>C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems</i>	24
<i>D. Changes introduced in implementation</i>	24
VIII. Lessons learned	25



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Annexes

Annex I. Excerpts from the Report of the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, 10 – 12 November 2009, Geneva.....	26
Annex II. Excerpts from the Report of the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resource Management.....	28
Annex III. Excerpts from the Report of the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism (AHPFM) under Protocol on Water and Health.....	30
Annex IV. Action plan on improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation	31
Annex V. Action plan to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals in Kyrgyzstan: setting targets and dates under the Protocol on Water and Health.....	31
Annex VI. Ministerial Order to establish a River Basin Council for the Chu basin ...	31
Annex VII. Draft evidence base on climate change and water in the Dniester basin ..	31
Annex VIII. Draft implementation plan based on the relevant UNECE Guidelines on adaptation to climate change in water management	31
Annex IX. Exchange of letters	32
Annex X. Financial report - please see in a separate file	



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



Introduction and summary of activities in 2009

National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on *integrated water resources management* (IWRM) and *water supply and sanitation* (WSS) is the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI). This initiative, including its component for the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), was launched at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. UNECE was requested to act as strategic partner to support the policy dialogue process on integrated water resources management, whereas OECD was requested to do so for water supply and sanitation issues.

Since 2006, UNECE has been carrying out National Policy Dialogues in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; these activities were implemented under grant agreements between the European Commission and UNECE that covered the period November 2006 - October 2008.

Since 2009, the NPD IWRM activities were implemented by UNECE under the OECD-UNECE Contribution Agreement on the National Policy Dialogue Process on IWRM in EECCA; the agreement covers the period of 2009 - 2012.

Progress on national policy dialogues on IWRM¹ has essentially proceeded according to plans as outlined in the OECD – UNECE agreement with a slight delay of activities due to the late signature of the Contribution Agreement². As a consequence, the final versions of the policy packages foreseen for Moldova and Ukraine are still to be approved in 2010 and fact-finding missions to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan had to be shifted into 2010. A dialogue meeting in Moldova, planned for December 2009, took place on 20 January 2010, due to the political situation in the country before the new Government was set in place this October. It is expected that delays incurred under the policy dialogue process in 2009 will be caught-up in the course of 2010.

With exception of the dialogue on IWRM in the Republic of Moldova, which is scheduled to be phased-out under the grant, the policy dialogues in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine will continue in 2010. New requests for NPDs have been received formally from Georgia (IWRM) and Azerbaijan (IWRM and WSS); starting the NPDs is being discussed with governments of Uzbekistan (IWRM and WSS), Tajikistan (IWRM) and Turkmenistan (IWRM).

At their Fifth Session (10-12 November 2009), the Parties to the Water Convention recognized that the NPDs give added value to the Convention's ongoing activities on IWRM. They also acknowledged the EECCA countries' strong commitment and ownership, which is

¹ For details on the NPD IWRM project, see www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_2009_6_e.pdf (English) and www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_2009_6_r.pdf (Russian)

² The agreement for the project that started on 1 January 2009 has been signed on 31 July 2009



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



shown in the participation of high-level officials from different sectors in the NPD process, acknowledged the UNECE secretariat's important responsibility in providing key services to its partners in EECCA countries, and mandated it to continue its role as the key strategic partner of the NPD process in EECCA countries at least until 2012. The corresponding work programme has been agreed both by the Meeting of the Parties and by the EUWI EECCA Working Group at its 13th meeting in Bucharest (24-25 November 2009). The Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (see Annex I) and the Bureau of the Water Convention positively assessed the quality of inputs of UNECE.

Summary of activities under NPD IWRM in 2009 is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Support for EUWI national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management

Meetings and documents planned and realized under the national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management				
Country	Planned 2009	Actual 2009	Planned 2010	Outputs/documents 2009 - 2010
Armenia	3	2	2	<u>1 policy document:</u> Action plan on improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation - Annex IV in a separate file
Kyrgyzstan	4	4	2	<u>2 policy documents:</u> Action plan to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals: setting targets and target dates under the Protocol on Water and Health – Annex V in a separate file Ministerial Order to establish a River Basin Council for the Chu basin – Annex VI in a separate file



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Meetings and documents planned and realized under the national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management				
Country	Planned 2009	Actual 2009	Planned 2010	Outputs/documents 2009 - 2010
Republic of Moldova	3	3	1	A draft policy document is under preparation ³
Ukraine	4	3	2	<p><u>2 draft policy documents:</u></p> <p>Draft evidence base on climate change and water in the Dniester basin (<i>draft preliminary version attached</i>)</p> <p>Draft implementation plan based on the relevant UNECE Guidelines on adaptation to climate change in water management (<i>preliminary version attached</i>)</p>
Preparatory activities in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan	4	0	4	Draft policy documents will be developed during 2010 - 2012

³ A draft implementation plan is being drawn up – with the assistance of the Tacis projects on the Black Sea and Water Governance in the Western EECCA countries - on the Governmental Order on wastewater discharges from municipal sources



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



I. Overview of the project implementation in 2009 – all countries

A. Context of the project

The Contribution Agreement lays down specific tasks of UNECE as key strategic partner of the EECCA countries. The following is based on the tasks described in the annex to the Agreement.

B. Activities carried out during the reporting period

The Terms of References (annex to the Partnership agreement between the OECD and UNECE) stipulate, *inter alia*, the following activities of UNECE as a key strategic partner:

Achievements based on the indicators of the Contribution Agreement	
Terms of reference/ Activity indicator	Outputs/documents
Organization in each country covers regular meetings with policy-makers	<p>Meetings under the policy dialogue process have been carried out in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (see the countries' chapters below). The meetings included consultations with stakeholders as well as official Steering Committee meetings with policy-makers (Ministry of Environment, State Committee for Water Management and other relevant ministries/governmental agencies) and major stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, Academy of Science, private sector representatives).</p> <p>Meeting logistics for official meetings in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine have been provided by non-profit organizations (Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre of Armenia, Institute Vodavtomatika in Kyrgyzstan, and NGO MAMA-86 in Ukraine) on the basis of grant agreements.</p> <p>In addition to the above, a Roundtable on the national policy dialogue process was held on the occasion of the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention during which the chairpersons of the national Steering Committees or their representatives (as well as UNECE, OECD, EC and the Romanian Chair of the EUWI EECCA WG) shared their experience with other countries and organizations</p>
Participation of UNECE and facilitation of discussions during those meetings	One or more representatives of UNECE participated in the meetings, assisted the chairpersons and serviced the meetings.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

<p>Managing and ensuring the quality of analytical inputs that are being prepared by local consultants and foreign experts to support the dialogue</p>	<p>UNECE as key strategic partner ensured a high quality of analytical inputs for the meetings on the basis of contributions by local consultants, national ministries/agencies, and a representative of Moldova (for Kyrgyzstan) as well as representatives of WHO/EURO (for Armenia and Kyrgyzstan).</p>
<p>Preparation of Roadmaps; issues/discussion papers, presentations or support for preparation by other</p>	<p>Work plans that were part of the Roadmaps (Roadmaps included agreed objectives, schedules and distribution of tasks), have been developed and updated for Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine; these were approved by the Steering Committees.</p> <p>Issue and discussion papers for Steering Committee meetings were prepared by UNECE and or by local consultants and country experts.</p>
<p>Reporting on progress of national policy dialogues during relevant international meetings (annual meeting of the EUWI EECCA WG, annual meetings under the UNECE Water Convention⁴ and its Protocol on Water and Health⁵)</p>	<p>The reporting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activity report 2008/2009 under the EUWI, part EECCA/IWRM, submitted through OECD to the EC - Activity report for the 2009 meeting of the EUWI EECCA Working Group (Bucharest, November 2009) including the draft work plan for 2010 - Meeting document for the 5th session of the meeting of the Parties on theme “European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues” - Meeting document for the annual meeting of the Convention’s Working Group on Integrated water Resources Management on the theme “European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues” - Working papers for the 2009 meetings of the Bureau of the Water Convention - Working paper for the 2009 meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, established under the Protocol on Water and Health - Briefing notes for the UNECE Executive Secretary for his missions to Central Asia and other countries <p>Note should be taken of the fact that UNECE organized during the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties a special session on the EU Water Initiative (for the outcome see annex I)</p>

⁴ See annexes I and II with excerpts from the meeting

⁵ See annex III with excerpts from the meeting



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

<p>Providing input to communications papers and to the EUWI-EECCA web site</p>	<p>In addition to inputs for the web site (provided through OECD), leaflets were prepared (also distributed at the Rome⁶ meeting) on the policy dialogue process in Kyrgyzstan (ongoing) as well as Tajikistan and Turkmenistan (planned).</p>
--	---

C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

Difficulties encountered

Difficulties encountered in project implementation were due to three circumstances, which were beyond the control of the programme manager as follows:

- A substantial delay in the drawing up of the main body of the Contribution Agreement and the late signature of the Agreement on 31 July 2009;
- The transfer of funds by OECD to UNECE after the signature of the Agreement, done on 19 August 2009;
- The decision of the UNECE – based on the hiring of retired staff – to discontinue Mr. Enderlein’s contract effective 1 January 2010; and the need to appoint as soon as possible a successor to guarantee a smooth continuation of project activities.

The above had implications on the substantive work that UNECE was expected to undertake in the course of 2009 as well as implications on the use of the available financial resources.

The programme manager of OECD and UNECE, in consultation with the Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group and the European Commission, have agreed on measures to make up the delay in carrying out some activities foreseen for 2009 (which was laid down in the draft work plan for 2010, approved at the meeting of the EUWI EECCA Working Group, Bucharest, 24-25 November 2009). Moreover, in a letter of the programme manager to OECD of 18 November 2009, OECD’s consent on an amended use of the budget was also sought.

Measures taken to overcome problems

For the period from January to August 2009, in order to carry activities related to the Contribution Agreement, UNECE had to take extra-ordinary measures to continue, as far as possible, the dialogue process. This included the agreement of Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to exceptionally advance

⁶ Third EU-Central Asia High-level Conference “Platform for environment and water cooperation”, Rome, 5-6 November 2009



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

voluntary un-earmarked contributions of other donors on a monthly/two-monthly basis from the Water Convention's trust fund in order to meet EUWI project expenses, i.e. staff costs, travel of staff and preparations for high-level Steering Committee meetings, pending receipt of funds from OECD. Without this arrangement, UNECE would have been unable to implement most of the envisaged activities as reported in the following chapters.

Taking into account the above, adjustments to budget were made and OECD was informed as follows: "The deviation in the cost category "Human resources" is to some extent due to an increase in [Mr. Enderlein's] salary but mainly due to the unbudgeted staff costs of Ms. Gulnara Roll, who took up her work on the project on 9 November 2009 in order to allow a proper hand-over of the process by working around two months closely with [Mr. Enderlein] in order to become familiar with the dialogue process. The deviation in the cost category "Travel and subsistence" is due to the fact that less missions were carried out (in particular the shift of the pre-missions to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan from 2009 to 2010), and the deviation in the cost category "Other costs and services" is due to the shift of money to the "Human resources" category".

In the same letter to OECD, the programme manager expressed its hope "that the changes in the budget and the explanations given in this letter will meet with [OECD's] understanding and consent, and that OECD appreciates the measures taken by the UNECE and in particular the Secretariat of the Water Convention to make sure that the dialogue process was not interrupted in spite of the absence of funding for almost 8 months. UNECE as well as OECD have faced an extra-ordinary situation in 2009, but to my mind we have coped well and we are well positioned to continue our joint efforts under the EUWI in 2010-2012".

D. Changes introduced in implementation

The changes introduced in project implementation are explained in the following chapters.

E. Use of funds

The use of funds provided under the Contribution Agreement for the period 1 January – 31 December 2009 is reported in a separate document. These figures are preliminary estimates as of 31 December 2009 and are not certified.⁷

F. Work plan for 2010 including objectives and indicators of achievement

Please find the 2010 work plan as a separate document.

⁷ The certified financial report for the above period is due on 30 April 2010.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

II. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Armenia

A. Context of the project

The policy dialogue process in Armenia is carried out since 2006. The Steering Committee involves, apart from national stakeholders, representatives of UNDP, USAID and the EU/TACIS water governance project for Western EECCA. Thus, the Steering Committee helps to coordinate national water management activities with inputs by various organizations and assistance programmes. The development of policy packages also benefits from the involvement of these organizations and programmes.

The policy packages adopted in the course of the policy dialogue process dealt with the implementation of principles of the Water Framework Directive by Armenian authorities and other stakeholders and its application in a pilot basin – the Mamarik river basin. The dialogue process also looked at issues, stipulated by the UNECE Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. An agreement between the French basin authority Artois-Picardie and the Armenian Agency for Water Management, which originated from the policy dialogue process, was prepared in 2008 and signed in early 2009.

For 2009, the Contribution Agreement has set out the following tasks:

Continuation of the policy dialogue process, which started in 2006, as agreed upon by the national Steering Committee and laid down in the respective Roadmap. The main aim for 2009 is to finalize/implement policy packages to assist the country in the implementation of principles of the Water Framework Directive in a pilot river basin (Marmarik basin).

- *3 dialogues meetings*
- *2 policy documents*

B. Activities carried out during the reporting period

As planned, the dialogue process has led to one policy document, formally adopted at the Steering Committee meeting on 9 December 2009, which provides ways and means of implementing the Protocol on Water and Health, and more specifically its article 6 regarding the setting of targets and target dates to achieve sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Under the guidance of UNECE, WHO/EURO and the WHO country office, this document was mainly drawn up by representatives of the Agency for Water Management, the Agency for Water Systems, the Ministry of Health, and the NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Table 2. Achievements in Armenia based on the indicators of the Contribution Agreement			
NPD meetings in 2009		Outputs/documents	
Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
3	2	2	<u>1 policy document:</u> Action plan on improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation Annex IV in a separate file

A preliminary version of this policy document was submitted by Armenia on 1 July 2009 to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanisms (AHPFM), established by the Parties to the Protocol on Water in order to provide access to sources of finance for water-and-health related activities (see annex III).

The UNECE secretariat has approached Finland with the request to consider financing the drawing up of the action plan under the forthcoming “Finnish Wider Europe Initiative”; in autumn 2009, Finland informed the secretariat about its readiness to financially support this activity.

C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

The start of work on the second policy document – now called “Policy brief on IWRM and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive under the National Policy Dialogue Process in Armenia” - was postponed to early 2010, as UNECE was unable to conclude consultancy contracts not having resources foreseen under the Contribution Agreement at its disposal (see Chapter I).

As of 31 December 2009, a consultancy contract is in its final stage of preparation so that at the next meeting of the Steering Committee (spring 2010) a preliminary version of the “policy brief” would be available for examination.

D. Changes introduced in implementation

Apart from the measures taken above, no other changes were introduced.

It should be noted that OECD in consultation with UNECE would commence in 2010 with a new activity related to financing water management activities. Thus, the Steering Committee will likely examine: (a) progress under the policy brief on IWRM; and (b) progress on financing water management.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



III. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Kyrgyzstan

A. Context of the project

The policy dialogue process in Kyrgyzstan started in mid-2008; so far, three Steering Committee meetings were held in October 2008, June 2009 and October 2009.

The “Common Understanding” on the NPD process 2008-2011 sets out the major NPD-IWRM activities and stipulates that the Steering Committee will also coordinate to the extent possible existing and forthcoming assistance programmes in the field of IWRM, including those carried out under the auspices of UNECE, UNDP, the World Bank, the EU/TACIS Water Governance project for Central Asia (Kyrgyz component) and projects by Germany (GTZ) and Switzerland.

For 2009, the Contribution Agreement has set out the following tasks:

Continuation of the policy dialogue process, which started in mid-2008, as agreed upon by the national Steering Committee and laid down in the respective Roadmap. The main aim for 2009 is to finalize/implement policy packages to strengthen the institutional framework, specifically to prepare the ground for the setting up of a River Basin Council for the Chu basin. The drawing up of a plan on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and sanitation is foreseen to start in early 2009.

- *4 dialogue meetings*
- *2 policy documents*

B. Activities carried out during the reporting period

As planned, the dialogue process has led to two policy documents adopted at the Steering Committee meetings in 2009 (see table below).

CAREC, the joint Kazakh-Kyrgyz Commission on the Chu and Talas, the World Bank (through the company SMEC carrying out activities on water management under the respective World Bank project) and Moldova provided expertise for the drawing up of the first policy document. The (former) Ministry for Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industries, the Ministry of Health, an international NGO (Women in Europe for a Common Future) and a number of national NGOs were involved in the preparation of the second policy document, prepared under the guidance of UNECE and WHO/EURO.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Table 3. Achievements in Kyrgyzstan based on the indicators of the Agreement

NPD meetings in 2009		Outputs/documents	
Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
4	4	2	<u>2 policy documents:</u> Ministerial Order to establish a River Basin Council for the Chu basin - Annex V in a separate file Action plan to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals: setting targets and target dates under the Protocol on Water and Health - Annex VI in a separate file

C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

The work under the policy dialogue process proceeded as planned.

D. Changes introduced in implementation

With the reform of the Government that took effect after the third Steering Committee meeting in October 2009, the newly established Ministry of Natural Resources will become the main partner of UNECE in the dialogue process in 2010 and thereafter. The necessary adaptations to the “Common Understanding” will be made in early 2010.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

IV. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Moldova

A. Context of the project

In the course of the policy dialogue process, which started in 2006, three policy packages were adopted: (a) a Governmental Regulation on wastewater discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants; (b) a draft Order of the Agency Apele Moldovei on the establishment of river basin management authorities and river basin councils; and (c) an Action plan on setting targets and target dates on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to comply with the provisions of article 6 of the Protocol on Water and Health”. The implementation of the latter started in August 2009 with financial assistance of Switzerland under an agreement between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and UNECE.

For 2009, the Contribution Agreement has set out the following tasks:

Finalization of the policy dialogue process, which started in 2006, as agreed upon by the national Steering Committee and laid down in the respective Roadmap. The main aim for 2009 is to finalize the remaining policy package, i.e. the plan of implementation of the recently adopted Government regulation on wastewater discharges from municipal sources.

- *3 dialogue meetings*
- *1 policy document*

B. Activities carried out during the reporting period

Under the guidance of UNECE, the draft policy document on the work of river basin councils from October 2008 has been updated – as planned - in early 2009 in order to take into account further inputs by Steering Committee members as foreseen. In March 2009, it was submitted by the lead agency, Apele Moldovei, to a governmental consultation process; regretfully work discontinued due to the reasons given in section C.

Work on the implementation plan for the wastewater regulation started in early 2009 with the assistance of the two EU/TACIS programmes on the Black Sea and on water governance in Western EECCA; regretfully, work discontinued due to the reasons given in section C.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Table 4. Achievements in Moldova based on the indicators of the Contribution Agreement			
NPD meetings in 2009		Outputs/documents	
Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
3	3	1	No draft policy document available yet

C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

As stated in section B, the draft policy package on the work of river basin councils from October 2008 has been updated in early 2009 and was submitted by the lead agency, Apele Moldovei, to a governmental consultation process. Due to the reform of the Government after the election in spring 2009, the relevant ministries and governmental agencies were unable to submit officially their observations. In autumn, the process was further delayed, as the former Agency Apele Moldovei became part of the newly established Ministry of Environment.⁸

Due to the reform of the Government, a similar delay occurred in the drafting process of the implementation plan of the wastewater regulation. Despite the strong commitment and will of the Ministry of Environment to continue with the dialogue process – expressed by the Minister for Environment at the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in November 2009 – it was unlikely to expect that the policy documents would be adopted by the Steering Committee at the end of 2009.

In order to assist Moldova to overcome the above problems with the finalization of the policy document, a series of consultations with the Ministry of Environment started in mid-December and continued in January 2010 under the above-mentioned project on setting targets and target dates on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, financed by Switzerland. The latter activity, to be finalized by autumn 2010, includes in depth considerations of financial consequences of upgrading wastewater treatment installations and would therefore be of value for the drawing up of the implementation plan for the wastewater regulation.

D. Changes introduced in implementation

Shift of the final 5th meeting of the Steering Committee from 2009 to 2010.

⁸ According to oral information by staff of the Ministry of Environment on 20 January 2010, the specific new terms of reference of Apele Moldovei were still not specified and most of the senior managers were still not appointed.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



V. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Ukraine

A. Context of the project

The NPD process started in 2008 with Steering Committee meetings, which were jointly organized by UNECE, the Ukrainian State Committee for Water Management, and OSCE (in 2008), respectively the NGO MAMA-86 (in 2009).

A “Common Understanding” which sets out the major NPD-IWRM activities until 2010 includes the development of policy packages related to adaptation to climate change in water management, including flood management. A first policy package, approved by the SG in 2008, was a plan to achieve sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The implementation of the latter started in June 2009 with financial support by Norway and in-kind contributions by Israel. Moreover, the dialogue process was at the root of a Partnership agreement between the Ukrainian State Committee for Water Management and the Office International de l’Eau (France) on IWRM issues.

For 2009, the Contribution Agreement has set out the following tasks:

Continuation of the policy dialogue process, which started in late 2007, as agreed upon by the national Steering Committee and laid down in the respective Roadmap. The main aim for 2009 is to finalize/implement policy packages related to climate change adaptation in water management as well as sustainable flood management, based on Directive 2007/EC of 23 October 2007.

- *4 dialogue meetings*
- *2 policy documents*

B. Activities carried out during the reporting period

In the preparatory process for the third Steering Committee meeting in October 2009, a draft evidence base was drawn up to help to assess the possible impact of climate change on water management in the transboundary basin of the Dniester River. Moreover, work started on a draft implementation plan based on the relevant UNECE Guidelines on adaptation to climate change in water management. These activities relied on the input by the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Both draft policy documents were examined at the Steering Committee meeting, which encouraged the representatives of the State Water Committee to explore, together with Moldova, the opportunities of joint activities in the Dniester basin.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Table 5. Achievements in Ukraine based on the indicators of the Contribution Agreement			
NPD meetings in 2009		Outputs/documents	
Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
4	3	2	<u>2 draft policy documents:</u> Draft evidence base on climate change and water in the Dniester basin – Annex VII in a separate file Draft implementation plan based on the relevant UNECE Guidelines on adaptation to climate change in water management - Annex VIII in a separate file

C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

Following an exchange of letters between the Ministry of Environmental Protection, UNECE, OECD, the European Commission and others (see Annex IX), measures have been taken (just prior to the third Steering Committee meeting end of October 2009) by the said ministry for its better involvement in the dialogue process led by the State Water Committee. Note should be taken of the fact that due to reform of the Ministry of Environmental Protection in late 2008 and early 2009, its former staff involved in the dialogue process has left the ministry and that the ministry was not in a position until late 2009 to designate its new members in the Steering Committee. On the occasion of the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties, the representative of Ukraine assured the other Parties about Ukraine's commitment to the dialogue process.

D. Changes introduced in implementation

Given the outcome of the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, with all likelihood a joint Moldovan-Ukrainian project on adaptation of water management in the Dniester basin will commence in 2010 with the financial support of one of the Parties to the Convention. The work plan of the Steering Committee for 2010 will be adapted accordingly, given progress in the development of a project document.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

VI. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in other EECCA countries

A. Context of the project

For Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Contribution Agreement has set out the following tasks:

In the second half of 2009, preparatory missions (one per country) in order to: (a) define with the countries the overall and specific objectives of the National Policy Dialogue process; (b) guide the countries in the drawing up of a “Common Understanding on a National Policy Dialogue on water-related issues”; and (c) make preparations for the establishment of a high-level Steering Group with representatives of relevant major groups to be involved in the NPD process, including representatives of national/local governmental authorities and NGOs. The preparation phase will continue until early 2010, which will focus on the preparation of the Roadmap (with agreed objectives, schedules and distribution of tasks); thereafter the implementation phase will start, including the preparation of policy packages.

- 4 preparatory meetings (one per country)
- 4 preliminary draft documents (one per country), e.g. draft “Common Understanding”)

B. Activities carried out during the reporting period

Azerbaijan

A preparatory mission of the project manager could not take place due to the reasons given in chapter 1. However, representatives of Azerbaijan were briefed about preparatory steps for the policy dialogue, including an in depth discussion on the occasion of the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties. In January 2010, the Ministry of Environment has officially requested UNECE to start with the dialogue process, which should focus on the implementation of the MDGs related to safe drinking water supply and has committed itself to the activities. A preparatory mission is planned for early 2010.

Georgia

A preparatory mission of the project manager could not take place due to the reasons given in chapter 1. However, representatives of Georgia were briefed about preparatory steps for the policy dialogue, including in depth discussion on the occasion of meetings under the Protocol on Water and Health, the Convention’s Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties. In late 2009, the Ministry of Environment has officially requested UNECE to start with the dialogue process. A preparatory mission was preliminary scheduled to take place in March 2010.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Tajikistan

A preparatory mission for the policy dialogue process, conducted by the Regional Adviser on Environment, took place in March 2009. The potential lead entities (Ministry of Environment Protection, Water Committee) were briefed about the work expected to be done in the preparatory phase (e.g. draft Common Understanding, draft Roadmap). The scheduled follow up mission of the project manager could not yet take place for reasons explained in chapter 1. It will take place in 2010 should the representatives of Tajikistan officially request the start of the process and commit themselves to the implementation.

Turkmenistan

On the occasion of the EUWI EECCA Working Group meeting (Ashgabat, 4 December 2008), the Minister of Water Economy and his staff were briefed about necessary preparatory activities and related written information was mailed in mid-December 2008. Despite many follow up attempts by UNECE – also involving the UN and the European Commission’s offices in Ashgabat– as well as consultations with the Turkmen delegation attending the Rome⁹ meeting, no official reply was received yet from the respective Turkmen authorities. However, through the above channels, representatives of Turkmenistan have informed UNECE about the potential themes of the policy dialogue process, including the following:

“Specific emphasis should be put on policy issues of water management in Turkmenistan’s transboundary river basins, notably the Murgab and Tejen basins. In addition to policy issues of sustainable water management, such issues as reduction of water losses and improved water efficiency, new technologies for water monitoring, irrigational agriculture as well as capacity building of ministerial staff, staff of agencies, and water users (including farmers) should be considered as topics for the dialogue process”.

Table 6. Achievements in other EECCA countries based on the indicators of the Contribution Agreement			
NPD meetings in 2009		Outputs/documents	
Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
4	0	4	No draft policy document available yet

⁹ Third EU-Central Asia High-level Conference “Platform for environment and water cooperation”, Rome, 5-6 November 2009



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

See Chapter B of the report.

D. Changes introduced in implementation

Preparatory missions to Azerbaijan and Georgia have been scheduled for early 2010 based on the official letters of commitment by both countries. It is to be expected that the delay that has occurred in 2009 will be made up in the course of 2010.

As to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, UNECE will start in early 2010 with consultations with representatives of the relevant ministries and agencies through UNECE countries' experts involved in UNECE activities in Central Asia. Thereafter, the work plan for 2010 will be adapted accordingly.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

VIII. Lessons learned

Documents and information notes prepared under the national policy dialogue process (e.g. EUWI EECCA Working Group, Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention) contain a number of lessons learned. The following items are those lessons learned on the “integrated water resources management” pillar of the EU Water Initiative’s component for EECCA countries, brought jointly forward by UNECE and OECD under the National Dialogue process in 2009.

A successful dialogue process on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) requires:

- ✓ A strong country commitment and cooperation with other international organizations (e.g. European Commission, OECD, UNDP, OSCE, WHO) and other UNECE countries;
- ✓ A holistic, rather than piecemeal consideration of issues, as the selected topics of the dialogue process are of relevance to all water-related sectors and cover one or more of the four pillars of IWRM (enabling environment, institutional framework, management instruments, and cross-cutting issues as financing and public involvement);
- ✓ Taking advantage of the experience of UNECE and the Parties to the Water Convention, as the topics for the National Policy Dialogues should be closely linked to the Convention’s provisions, particularly those on prevention, control and reduction of pollution as well as the work of joint bodies, consultations among Parties, and joint monitoring and assessment;
- ✓ Using the Environmental Performance Review (EPR), conducted by UNECE in EECCA countries following an OECD approach, as a solid basis for choosing the right topics for the policy dialogue and for developing a holistic understanding of environmental problems and sustainable solutions;
- ✓ Stressing that the focus of the dialogue process should be on policy issues rather than technical problems, and be designed as a platform where representatives of all competent sectors and the public can meet;
- ✓ Involving all major stakeholders in the respective countries as well as representatives of relevant international organizations, institutions and programmes as an important aim of the dialogue process is the implementation of policy packages (e.g. new governmental regulations), the involvement of representatives of Parliamentary bodies responsible for environmental issues is crucial in all countries.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Annex I. Excerpts from the Report of the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, 10 – 12 November 2009, Geneva¹⁰

- European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues -

54. The secretariat reported about the progress achieved under the European Union Water Initiative and its National Policy Dialogue (NPD) process regarding integrated water resources management facilitated by UNECE in countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/6) and presented the planned follow up activities for 2010–2012.

55. A representative of the European Commission expressed appreciation to the partners in the process, in particular to UNECE, OECD and Romania, for the results achieved and confirmed the Commission's commitment to continue supporting the activity. He also called upon other countries and organisations to join in supporting the programme.

56. A representative of Romania, which chaired the EU Water Initiative's Working Group for EECCA Countries, expressed appreciation of the tangible results achieved thus far and confidence in the successful continuation of the work. He also expressed appreciation to UNECE, as a strategic partner to the process.

57. A representative of OECD expressed his organisation's commitment to continue to be a partner to NPD in the area of water supply and sanitation and praised the effective cooperation established with UNECE, which would be further reinforced in the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

58. Representatives of Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova valued the results achieved so far in implementing NPD and stated their expectations on a successful continuation of the programme. The representative of Kyrgyzstan underlined the important support that the NPD has provided to its country to prepare for the ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health and informed the Meeting that Kyrgyzstan would start the national ratification procedure.

59. Delegations also underlined the link between the NPD and the UNECE Programme on Environmental Performance Review (EPR), highlighting that recommendations of EPR could be applied on the ground through NPDs. Delegations welcomed the launch of EPR in Kyrgyzstan, containing recommendations to embark in a NPD and to ratify the Protocol on Water and Health. Uzbekistan confirmed its commitment to implement the EPR's recommendations, including those related to IWRM, and the fact that it would consider ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health. Switzerland recommended the inclusion of Uzbekistan in the NPD process and informed about its readiness to provide funds to this end. Georgia recalled its formal commitment to initiate a NPD in 2010.

¹⁰ UNECE document ECE/MP.WAT/29, paragraphs 54-62



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

60. The Meeting of the Parties considered NPDs as one of the most important activities under the Convention and as an excellent example of coupling expertise and resources of the European Commission and UNECE. Hungary, Finland and Estonia confirmed their readiness to continue supporting the programme. A representative of the Republic of Moldova also offered to share the experience in implementing NPD in her country. GWP-Central and Eastern Europe offered to support NPD through both its expertise and financial means.

61. The Meeting of the Parties expressed its gratitude to the programme manager of the NPD in UNECE, who would leave the secretariat in the end of 2009, for his dedication and high professionalism that significantly contributed to the success of the programme.

62. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Recognized that the NPDs give added value to the Convention's ongoing activities on IWRM, and that they provide an excellent opportunity for furthering implementation of the Convention and the Protocol;

(b) Acknowledged the EECCA countries' strong commitment and ownership, which was shown in the participation of high-level officials from different sectors in the NPD process;

(c) Agreed to continue with the policy dialogue process beyond the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and to include relevant activities in the work plan for 2010–2012 (see Part Two of the present report, ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.1);

(d) Welcomed the intention of more EECCA countries to join the process and note that this would require extra resources for the activities in addition to available extra-budgetary contributions from the European Commission;

(e) Expressed its gratitude to the European Commission and to EU Member States for the financial contributions already made and foreseen for 2010-2012;

(f) Invited Parties to the Convention to consider providing additional funding for the activities, including in-kind contributions by experts and the conclusion of cooperation agreements, if appropriate, or other kinds of arrangements for assistance, stressing the high cost-efficiency of the NPDs;

(g) Acknowledged the UNECE secretariat's important responsibility in providing key services to its partners in EECCA countries, and mandate it to continue its role as the key strategic partner of the NPD process in EECCA countries;

(h) Encouraged other Parties to the Convention to consider co-chairing, together with Romania, the EUWI EECCA Working Group in the period 2010–2012.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Annex II. Excerpts from the Report of the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resource Management¹¹

- European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues -

61. The Working Group took note of the report by the secretariat on progress made in implementing the National Policy Dialogues (NPD) in EECCA countries under the EU Water Initiative, mainly financed by the European Commission (informal document WGIWRM-Inf.4). It welcomed the information that more countries wanted to join the process and noted that this would require additional resources for the activities in addition to extra-budgetary contributions from the European Commission. The Working Group acknowledged the added value of the process, the countries' strong commitment and ownership, and the participation of high-level officials from different sectors in the dialogue process.

62. Representatives of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, speaking on behalf of the two countries' Steering Committees for the NPD, informed the Working Group about the activities carried out in their countries under the NPD framework as well as about forthcoming activities, which would include considerations of the principles of the EU WFD. A representative of Georgia stressed that country's commitment to starting the NPD process in 2010, which should be devoted to transboundary water management issues in the Alazani basin, shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia. CAREC expressed its wish to share its experience, particularly in the NPD process in Kyrgyzstan, with respect to the theme of "payment for ecosystem services in the Lake Issyk Kul basin".

63. Romania, which chaired the EU Water Initiative's Working Group for EECCA Countries, expressed its appreciation of the tangible results achieved thus far and its confidence in the successful continuation of the work.

64. The Working Group welcomed the positive experience gained through the process and complimented the participating countries on the progress achieved. It noted that both components of the dialogue process – (a) integrated water resources management with UNECE as a key strategic partner and (b) water supply and sanitation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a key strategic partner – were efficient instruments for helping countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In its view, the NPDs were very important for the Convention's ongoing activities on integrated water resources management. The Working Group also encouraged other EECCA countries to consider initiating similar policy dialogues.

65. The Working Group acknowledged the secretariat's important role in providing key services to its partners in EECCA countries. It invited Parties to the Convention to consider providing additional funding for activities, including in-kind contributions by experts and the conclusion of cooperation agreements, if appropriate, or other kinds of arrangements for assistance, stressing the activities' high cost-efficiency. In this regard, Hungary indicated that it would support work on flood management in Ukraine and assist in the work on target setting and reporting under the

¹¹ UNECE document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2009/2, Paragraphs 61-66



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova. Estonia underlined its readiness to continue contributing to the programme, which could focus on one of the Caucasian countries.

66. The Working Group agreed that continuation of the policy dialogue process beyond the fifth meeting of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention should be included in the work plan for 2010–2012.



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Annex III. Excerpts from the Report of the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism (AHPFM) under Protocol on Water and Health, Geneva, 1 July 2009¹²

- New project proposals: status of progress in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan -

15. Since its first meeting, two project proposals have been drawn up – one by Kyrgyzstan and one by Armenia – and submitted for the Mechanism’s consideration at the present meeting. Both related to setting targets and target dates under the Protocol’s article 6.

16. Work on the first of the two proposed projects, “Target and target dates to achieve sustainable water management, safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation according to the Protocol on Water and Health in Kyrgyzstan”, had been initiated in 2008 in the framework of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on integrated water resources management under the EU Water Initiative. The proposal had been further developed with the assistance of UNECE and the Mechanism’s Facilitator from WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO-EURO). It had been approved at the meeting of the Kyrgyz Steering Committee for the NPD in June 2009, and would be led by the Water Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industries of Kyrgyzstan. Other major stakeholders included the Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs, Finance and Justice, the State Agencies for Geology and Mineral Resources and for Environment Protection and Forestry, the Agency for Local Governments, the enterprise “Bishkekvodokanal”, the National Academy of Sciences and NGOs. The full proposal could be found online at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_AHPFM.htm.

17. Participants also took note of the project proposal by Armenia on “Improving health in Armenia through target-setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation”. As with the Kyrgyz project, it had been developed in the framework of the EU Water Initiative’s NPD on integrated water resources management. The project in Armenia would be jointly led by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Nature Protection. The full proposal could be found at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_AHPFM.htm.

18. Participants noted the willingness of UNDP to cooperate with both Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, as UNDP runs projects in both countries that could support the target-setting work and there were a number of areas for cross-fertilization between UNDP projects and the projects submitted under the Protocol. The work of the WHO country officer in drawing up both proposals had been key, and there was a potential for the further involvement of the network of country offices in future proposals from other countries. The meeting underlined the importance of involving NGOs in early development and implementation stages to establish a fair and transparent framework for public involvement in decision-making with respect to the targets and target dates. The importance of involving the NPD Steering Committees in drawing up project proposals was also stressed, as this was a prerequisite for enlisting all relevant stakeholders from the outset as well as for supervising the implementation process.

19. A representative of the WHO-EURO secretariat noted that health aspects had been covered more explicitly than in the previous project proposals submitted in 2008 for the Republic of

¹² UNECE document ECE/MP.WH/AC.1/2009/2-EU/09/5086361/4



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Moldova and Ukraine. Some participants pointed out that proposals should focus more on local sanitation issues and should include hygiene education.

Annex IV. Action plan on improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation

See in a separate file

Annex V. Action plan to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals in Kyrgyzstan: setting targets and target dates under the Protocol on Water and Health

See in a separate file

Annex VI. Ministerial Order to establish a River Basin Council for the Chu basin

See in a separate file

Annex VII. Draft evidence base on climate change and water in the Dniester basin

See in a separate file

Annex VIII. Draft implementation plan based on the relevant UNECE Guidelines on adaptation to climate change in water management

See in a separate file

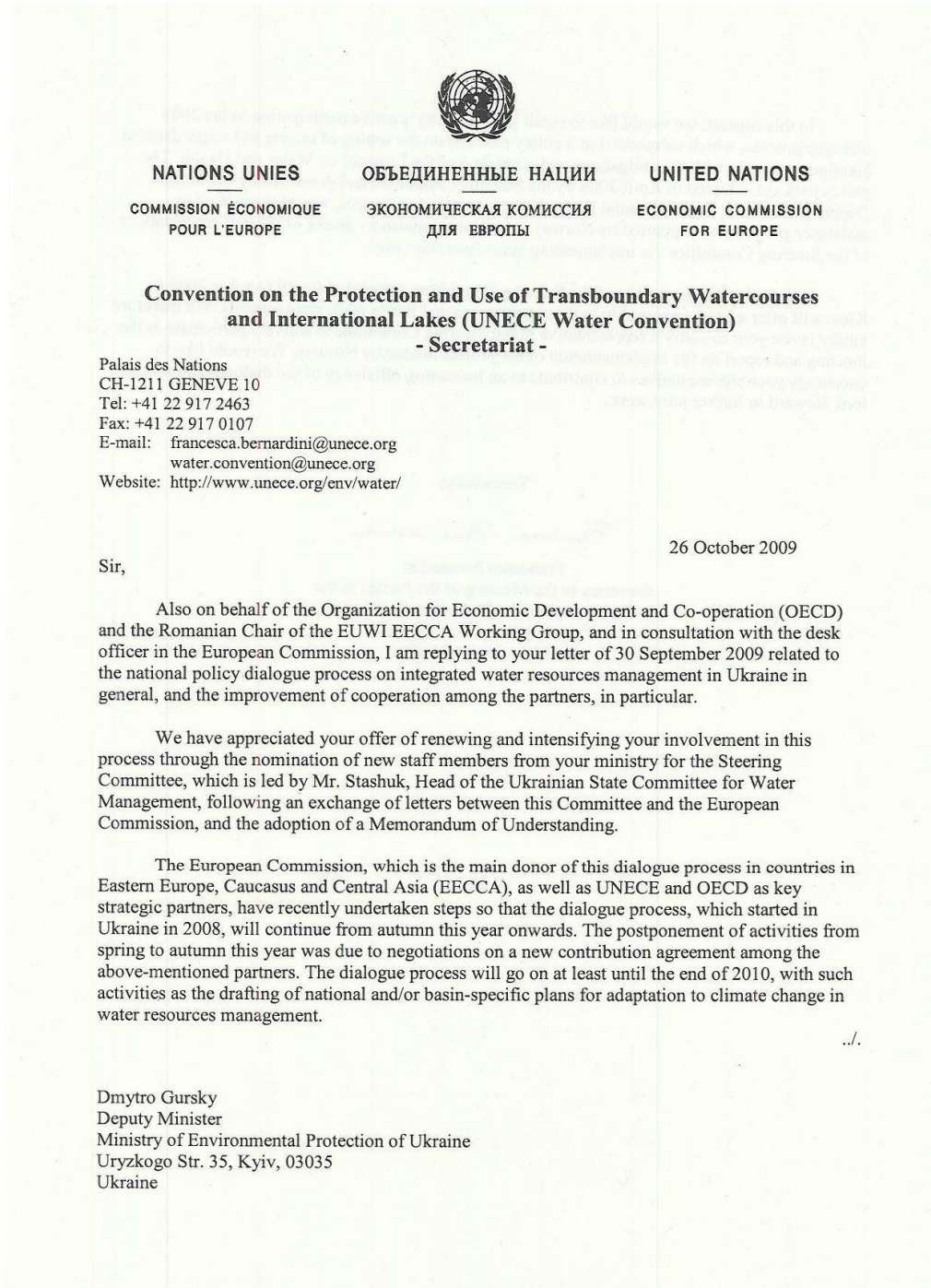


ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Annex IX. Exchange of letters





ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

In this context, we would like to recall your ministry's active participation in the 2008 dialogue process, which culminated in a policy package on the setting of targets and target dates in Ukraine to comply with the obligations under article 6 of the Protocol on Water and Health. The policy package, adopted in April 2008 by the Steering Committee and presented by the former Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection at a meeting in Geneva, was at the root of an assistance programme supported by Norway, which your ministry - as one of the key organizations of the Steering Committee - is implementing since June this year.

The forthcoming meeting of the Steering Committee, scheduled for 29 October 2009 in Kiev, will offer a good opportunity to discuss progress and future work arrangements. We therefore kindly invite your ministry's representative in the Steering Committee to actively participate in the meeting and report on the implementation of the project funded by Norway. We would like to encourage your representatives to contribute to an increasing efficiency of the dialogue process. We look forward to further joint work.

Yours truly,

Francesca Bernardini

Francesca Bernardini
Secretary to the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОХОРОНИ
НАВКОЛИШНЬОГО
ПРИРОДНОГО
СЕРЕДОВИЩА УКРАЇНИ

03035, м. Київ, вул. Урицького, 35
Україна



MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
OF UKRAINE

Urytskogo Str. 35, Kyiv, 03035,
Ukraine

355/12/09-01

UNECE Water Convention
OECD EAP Task Force
EUWI EECCA Working Group
DG Environment, European Commission
EC Delegation to Ukraine

30 September, 2009

Subject: National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in
Ukraine

Dear Partners,

Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine would like to thank for initiating the National Policy Dialogues within the EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative.

The NPD was supposed to be an effective tool to help reaching the Millennium Development Goals related to water sector of Ukraine. To achieve goals and objectives of the NPD it is of vital importance to coordinate the activities and avoid fragmentation of aid. We feel that there is an urgent necessity to evaluate the recent activities/progress under the NPD in Ukraine as well as to involve more decision-makers to the process.

Herewith I would like to make some comments on the NPD in Ukraine. We do think that Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine as well as the State Water Committee should be the leading institutions in the NPD. However, after consultations with the State Water Committee it became clear that the policy packages and other related issues are prepared by the consultants without contacting these two main institutions. Due to this fact the NPD documents and the



ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

activities do not influence water policies in Ukraine. On the other hand we do think that at least five NGOs should be involved into the process.

Considering that a lot of time lost, we would suggest that the NPD in Ukraine should be coordinated with other donor funded /development activities; the consultants should have more often meetings with the Ministry. They should work in close cooperation with the UNDP Office in Ukraine and with the EC Delegation in Ukraine.

Considering the little effectiveness of the NPD in Ukraine, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine would like to invite all donors to assess the effectiveness of the NPD in Ukraine in order to improve the situation. Herewith we nominate new members to the Steering Group on behalf of the Ministry.

They are – Mr Igor Markelov, Adviser to the Minister and Ms Maryna Dyachenko, Head of Unit for International Cooperation and Coordination of External Assistance. We do consider it important to invite the representatives of the Coordinating Unit for European Integration of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine to delegate a representative to the NPD SG.

We do hope that the assistance foreseen under the NPDs should be utilised in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness and used for the country's needs and priorities. We do believe that by joint efforts we will be able to make the NPD in Ukraine work.

Sincerely,

Deputy Minister



Dmytro Gursky