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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

**Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

Fourth meeting

St. Michielsgestel, Netherlands, 12-13 September 2003

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING**

1. Opening statements.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the third meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2002/2).
4. Monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters:
  - (a) Monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers;
  - (b) Monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters;
  - (c) Monitoring and assessment of transboundary/international lakes;
  - (d) Monitoring, warning and alarm, and notification systems: links with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
  - (e) Monitoring, surveillance, early warning, and response systems: links with the Protocol on Water and Health.

5. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention's work on monitoring and assessment:
  - (a) Evaluation of the rivers' pilot projects;
  - (b) Evaluation of the monitoring guidelines.
6. International Water Assessment Centre.
7. Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development.
8. Monitoring strategy until 2006 and beyond.
9. Other business.
10. Closing.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be held in Hotel de Ruwenberg, St. Michielsgestel, Netherlands. It will start on 12 September 2003 at 9.30 a.m. and close on 13 September at 4 p.m., contrary to what was announced in the invitation.

The meeting will be chaired by Mrs. Lea Kauppi (Finland) and Ms. Zsuzsa Buzas (Hungary), Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group, respectively. The working language will be English.

For practical information, delegations may wish to refer to the annex and contact the organizers or the secretariat.

The secretariat and the Finnish Environment Institute will send the working papers to the pre-registered participants. Documents of the Working Group and unofficial working papers for the fourth meeting can be downloaded from the Convention's web site at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents.htm>.

### Item 1: Opening statements

A representative of Finland and the Director of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) will make opening statements.

### Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

### Item 3: Adoption of the report of the third meeting

The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its third meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2002/2).

### Item 4: Monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

#### (a) Monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers

On the basis of a working document prepared by Mr. John Chilton (British Geological Survey) under the auspices of IWAC, the Working Group will examine the progress in the implementation of the pilot projects on the rivers Bug, Latoritca/Uzh, Ipoly, Morava and Mures.

On the basis of information by country representatives and the Tacis project team, the Working Group will also evaluate ongoing work on the Tacis projects on the rivers Kura, Pripyat, Severski Donets and Tobol.

(b) Monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters

On the basis of a working document prepared by the Chairman of the core group on groundwaters, Mr. Geo Arnold (Netherlands), the Working Group will examine the progress made in: (i) the preparation/implementation of pilot projects on groundwater monitoring and assessment; (ii) the activities undertaken or planned in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) under the Internationally Shared (Transboundary) Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) project.

(c) Monitoring and assessment of transboundary/international lakes

The Working Group will, on the basis of a working document prepared by the Chairman of the core group on lakes, Mr. Pertti Heinonen (Finland), examine the progress made in the preparation/implementation of pilot projects on lake monitoring and assessment.

(d) Monitoring, warning and alarm, and notification systems: links with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

The secretariat will invite the members of the Working Group to contribute to the monitoring-related activities of the joint ad hoc group on water and industrial accidents, established by the governing bodies of the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, as set out in the minutes of the second meeting (<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/doc/jeg4.e.pdf>).

(e) Monitoring, surveillance, early warning, and response systems: links with the Protocol on Water and Health

The Working Group will take note of the discussion and decisions of the second meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health (MP.WAT/AC.2/2003/2), and is expected to express its readiness to assist, upon request, the Meeting of the Signatories in monitoring-related issues.

Item 5: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention's work on monitoring and assessment

(a) Evaluation of the rivers pilot projects

On the basis of a working document prepared by Mr. John Chilton, under the auspices of IWAC, the Working Group will examine the achievements and lessons learned from the rivers' pilot projects, as assessed at the workshop on the pilots evaluation held in the Netherlands on 9-10 May 2003.

(b) Evaluation of the monitoring guidelines

The Working Group will consider a working paper on the evaluation and recommendations for improvement of the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers reflecting the conclusions of the workshop on the evaluation of the rivers' pilot projects.

The Working Group will also consider a paper prepared by the secretariat on the results of the survey of the implementation of the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and transboundary groundwaters, and make arrangements to report to the Parties at their third meeting (26-28 November 2003).

Item 6: International Water Assessment Centre

In a working paper, the Director of IWAC, Mr. Wim Cofino (Netherlands), will inform the Working Group about the achievements and activities of the Centre in 2002-2003.

Under agenda item 8, the Working Group will discuss the role of IWAC under the Convention, its planned activities and proposed priorities, on the basis of the outcome of the meeting of the International Core Group that acts as its steering committee.

Item 7: Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the EU and the 12 countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia launched their Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development. It aims to improve urban water supply and sanitation, and covers work on innovative financing mechanisms for water infrastructure and water resources management, and issues affecting transboundary river basins and regional seas.

Following the invitation of the Kiev Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to countries in the region and other interested parties to consider joining the Strategic Partnership (see ECE/CEP/94/Rev.1, para. 51), the Working Group will consider a document prepared by the secretariat on cooperative arrangements to support activities under this Partnership, including cooperative arrangements with the Global Water Partnership.

The Working Group will discuss future activities related to monitoring and assessment of water resources in the framework of the Partnership under agenda item 8.

Item 8: Monitoring strategy until 2006 and beyond

On the basis of a paper prepared by the Chairperson, Mrs. Lea Kauppi, with contributions from the various core groups, the Working Group will establish a priority list of possible activities including lead countries, and consider opportunities for continuing its mandate to guide the implementation of the 2003-2006 work-plan. It will make work-

sharing arrangements with a view to finalizing a draft work-plan on monitoring and assessment to be submitted to the Parties at their third Meeting.

Item 9:        Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 10:      Closing

A representative of Finland will close the meeting of the Working Group on Saturday 13 September at 4 p.m.

Annex

**VENUE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will take place in Hotel de Ruwenberg, in St. Michielsgestel (Netherlands), at the following address:

Conference and Training Centre De Ruwenberg B.V. Holland  
Ruwenbergstraat 7  
5271 AG Sint-Michielsgestel  
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