

20th anniversary of the entry into force of the UNECE Water Convention

## Testimonial Austria

Please allow me to refer with my testimonial to the Danube River Protection Convention and to the work of the International Commission for the Protection of River Danube which is well known to most of us. The Danube River Protection Convention was signed in June 1994, two years after the UN ECE Convention has been adopted. The UN ECE Water Convention has been the inspiring basis, the blue print for the Danube Convention, has influenced substantially the outcome of the negotiations of the Danube River Protection Convention and is now an integral part of it.

This Danube River Protection Convention and its ICPDR has proven to be a real success story for nearly 20 years. Work covers a broad range of issues, starting with flood risk management, abatement of pollution and ending with rehabilitation of the sturgeon or adaptation to climate change. We don't want to lose many words about the success story since we assume that most of you will be aware of it. Austria is really honored that its permanent secretariat is located in Vienna. We from the Austrian side consider the Danube River Protection Convention with its 15 contracting party to be the perfect testimonial of the viability and also the flexibility of the UNECE Water Convention.

Therefore we are strongly convinced that the UN ECE Water Convention is an excellent basis for transboundary cooperation around the globe. This is why we have supported the global opening of the Water Convention from the very beginning on. We welcome the broad interest from countries around the globe in this Convention and can – based on our excellent experiences – really recommend warmly its use.



International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River adoption ministerial declaration 2016 (picture credit: ICPDR)