

Improving water quality and prevention of pollution in transboundary basin

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Aim of Water Convention

- Aim is to develop for transboundary waters harmonized policies, programmes and strategies,
- Aimed at the prevention, control, and reduction of transboundary impact, also
- Aimed at the protection of the environment of transboundary waters or
- The environment influenced by such waters, including marine environment

Obligation to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact

Convention, Art2, Art. 3, para 1

Obligation to take all appropriate measures

Implementation through the development, adoption and implementation of relevant **water management plans** including legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures

Riparian Parties shall **specify the catchment area**, subject to cooperation

Practical implementations

Minimum standards for appropriate measures

Requirements under Art. 3(1)	
Encourage low- and non-waste technology for prevention, control and reduction of pollutants (Art. 3(1)(a))	Depends on the economic development of the country
Prior licensing of waste-water discharges (Art. 3(1)(b))	It is a basic for water resource management Illegal discharges
Waste-water discharge limits based on BAT for hazardous substances (Art. 3(1)(c))	Depends on the economic development of the country, more and more in practise
Stricter requirements where receiving water/ecosystem requires (Art. 3(1)(d))	A special reason is needed e.g. ecology
At least biological treatment or equivalent applied to municipal waste water (Art. 3(1)(e))	Depends on the economic development of the country (sewerage – individual treatment)
BAT applied to reduce nutrient inputs from industrial and municipal sources (Art. 3(1)(f))	Depends on the economic development of the country, widespread approach

Practical implementations

*Minimum standards for appropriate measures

Requirements under Art. 3(1)	
Best environmental practices for diffuse sources, especially agriculture (Art. 3(1)(g))	Depends on the economic development of the country - buffer zones, good environmental practice
EIA and other means of assessment (Art. 3(1)(h))	Not well practiced in transboundary cases
Sustainable water management, incl ecosystem approach promoted (Art. 3(1)(i))	Depends on the economic development of the country, important in case of rapid water demand
Contingency planning (Art. 3(1)(j))	Mostly applied for civil protection reasons , very rare in transboundary context
Specific measures for groundwater (Art. 2(1)(k))	Drinking water resource protection, remediation
Minimise risk of accidental pollution (Art.	Strong control at the installations

Pressures due to human activities from neighbouring countries



Pressures – water quality



**Nutrient
Pollution**



**Organic
Pollution**



**Hazardous
Substances
Pollution**



**Hydro-
morphological
Alterations**

Practical implementation, EU

- Participation in licensing in case of possible transboundary effects
- Ecosystem approach (EU WFD application), water management plan
- Waste water treatment program
- BAT application during EIA process (Espoo Convention)
- Diffuse source reduction
- Accidental pollution warning, mitigation, contingency planning

Practical implementation, Est-Rus

- **Water Convention framework, Estonian-Russian joint Commission:**
- Integrated Water Resources Management of Narva river and Lake Peipsi, Joint monitoring and assessment activities, Management of joint water objects, eg Narva hydro power plant, managing risks; Improvement of status of water bodies on Estonian side, Improvement of the use of water bodies on the Russian side, Supervision over objectives for freshwater, no objectives for the marine areas
- **River basin management plans for the Lake Peipsi and Narva River**
- Plans on both sides of the border, in Estonia and Russia
- Coordination of national river basin management plans with neighbouring countries in joint commission
- **Convention for the Protection of the Baltic Sea Marine Environment**
- **Improve the status of the Baltic Sea**
- Decrease the land based pollution to the sea, including
- Improve the ecological status of the sea and protect the fish resources
- To adopt recommendations for governments to manage and protect the Baltic Sea
- **National marine strategies for the protection of marine areas**
- Plans and measures to protect and improve the status of the marine environment

Monitoring and exchange of information

Water Convention Art. 4, Art. 6 and Art.11

Establish programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters

Widest exchange of information, as early as possible, on issues covered by provisions of Convention

Riparian Parties shall establish and implement **joint programmes of monitoring**, shall harmonize rules and operation of those programs together with evaluation procedures for **assessment of water quality**

Practical implementation

Monitoring and exchange of information

Water convention Art. 4 , Art. 6 and Art. 11

National monitoring is developed, usually not harmonized with the neighbors.

Common approach shall be developed.

For joint monitoring - **joint agreement is required.**

Exchange of information: access to the database – joint agreement is needed