



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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Conference Services

**Sixteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 1:
“Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security
and protecting the environment”
Vienna, 28- 29 January 2008**

**Session III
Inland waterways co-operation**

Cooperation in the Danube River Basin

Combining the Interests of Navigation and Environmental Protection

Philip Weller, ICPDR Executive Secretary

Cooperation in the Danube River Basin



Combining the Interests of Navigation and Environmental Protection



Philip Weller
ICPDR Executive Secretary



- ~9% Europe
- 81 M inhabitants
- 19 Countries

Most international River Basin in the World

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The Danube is heavily used



- Drinking water for over 20 M people
- Water for irrigation agricultural land
- Water for industrial production
- Water for mining
- Water for power production
- Water for cooling atomic power stations
- Waterway for inland navigation
- Recreation

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but it is of ecological importance



- Ecosystem high in biodiversity
- Home for key species: Danube sturgeons
- Important intact natural areas (Kopacki rit, Danube Delta, etc.)
- Critical ecological services: flood protection, cleansing, water, water recharge

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Legal framework



- Danube River Protection Convention (Sofia 1994) for co-operation **to assure protection of water and ecological resources** and their **sustainable use** in the Danube River Basin
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000) to ensure **“good status of all waters”** by 2015, based on the principle of **integrated river basin management** and **stakeholder participation**

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Contracting Parties



- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Germany | Bosnia & Herzegovina |
| Austria | Rep. of Serbia |
| Czech Republic | Romania |
| Slovakia | Bulgaria |
| Hungary | Rep. of Moldova |
| Slovenia | Ukraine |
| Croatia | European Union |
| Montenegro (ratification process under way) | |

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ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River



to implement the goals of the **Convention**:

- Strengthen international cooperation
- Ensure sustainable water management (conservation, rational use of surface waters and ground water)
- Control floods
- Reduce pollution loads to the Black Sea

to implement the **EU Water Framework Directive**:

- Develop the Danube River Basin Management Plan

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Main Problems



Floods /
Droughts



Nutrient /
Organic
Pollution



Hazardous
Substances
Pollution



Hydro-
morphological
Alterations

Next steps



Develop the Danube River
Basin Management Plan,
including a Joint Program
of Measures by 2009

⇒ ... to reach good water and ecosystem quality

for the Danube and its people

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SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION





Joint Statement on
**Guiding Principles for the Development of
 Inland Navigation and Environmental
 Protection in the Danube River Basin**



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Consensus building process



⇒ Inland navigation can contribute to making transport more environmentally sustainable ...

- ⇒ but it can also have significant impact on river ecosystems


⇒ Intensive, cross-sectoral consensus-building process

⇒ Over 12 months period

⇒ Joint statement on principles and criteria for sustainable navigation (incl. infrastructure development and maintenance)

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Consensus building process



The Joint Statement is a **guiding document**

- ⇒ for the development of the 'Joint Programme of Measures' requested by the EU WFD
- ⇒ for the maintenance of the current inland navigation infrastructure
- ⇒ for the planning and the investments in future infrastructure and environmental protection projects

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Consensus building process



Participating Partners:

- Ministries of Environment, Water Management, ...
- Ministries of Transport, Energy, Development, ...
- DG Environment, Transport, TEN-T Coordinator Office
- International Organisations: SECI, ...
- National Organisations: Tina Vienna, ...
- NGOs: WWF, DEF, IAD, PIANC, EBU, Danube Tourism Commission, ...
- Scientific Institutions: Universities

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Adoption by



- ICPDR in December 2007
- Danube Navigation Commission in December 2007
- International Commission for the Save River Basin in January 2008

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Application in specific projects



e.g.

- Straubing Vilshofen DE
- Project east of Vienna AT
- Serbian Master Plan on Inland Navigation RS
- Calarasi / Braila RO
- Calarasi / Iron Gate RO/BG
- Bystroye Canal UA

- Hydropower projects between RO and BG

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Sturgeon species



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Lessons for OSCE



- Criteria and principles are also applicable for other large river systems
- Such a process of dialogue would be beneficial for other river basins

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Actions for OSCE



- Promote the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles
- Help to develop more detailed guidance on specific issues
- Support the implementation activities in specific projects
- Assist using such a process (e.g. Volga River Basin)

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The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation.
Bertrand Arthur William Russell

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