ANNUAL REPORT

on the Activities of the ICPDR in 2000

Information

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Foreword

2000 was the first year of full operation of the ICPDR Secretariat and its Expert Groups. After the support formerly provided by the UNDP/GEF and the Phare multi-country programme phased out in 1999 and 2000 respectively, the full responsibility for the implementation of the work programme remained with the Expert Groups and the Secretariat, which have since then proven their technical and managerial capacities.

The setting up of structures and the development of a work programme to coordinate the implementation of the EU Water Framework was a major achievement in 2000. At the 3rd Plenary Session of the ICPDR in Sofia the implementation of the EU WFD was considered as the highest priority for the ICPDR. It was agreed that the ICPDR would provide a platform for the co-ordination necessary to develop and establish the River Basin Management Plan for the Danube River Basin.

The 2001-2005 Joint Action Programme for the Danube River Basin (JAP), which reflects the general strategy for the implementation of the DRPC in the forthcoming five years, has been prepared. The JAP defines large-scale and integrated measures for attaining a highly effective water quality status in the Danube River Basin. The investment portfolio contains 252 projects for the reduction of pollution from municipal, industrial and agricultural point sources as well as for the restoration of wetlands and flood plains.

The accidents in Baia Mare and Baia Borsa confirmed the efficiency of the Accidental Emergency Warning System of the ICPDR. However, the accidents have shown the need to develop preventive measures and to prepare a basin-wide inventory of potential accident risk spots for the Tisza River Basin and further for the whole Danube River Basin.

The transfer of the activities of the Bucharest Declaration to the ICPDR in accordance with Article 19 of the DRPC was another important milestone marking this period. The transfer ceremony was held in June 2000 in Bucharest, where the first institutional and operational framework for the protection of international waters in the Danube River Basin had been established 15 years before.
We take this opportunity to thank the international organizations and cooperating agencies, in particular the European Commission and the UNDP/GEF, for the assistance provided in the past to build the structures and mechanisms for regional cooperation of the ICPDR. We are further encouraging international cooperation for the implementation of projects and programs of the ICPDR and we invite all countries and international organizations to reinforce their joint measures and actions for pollution control and the protection of aquatic ecosystems in the Danube River Basin and the wider Black Sea region.

Emil Marinov
President of the ICPDR

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1. Operational and Institutional Framework

2000 was the first year of the full operation of the ICPDR including the activities of the Permanent Secretariat. The Seat Agreement between the ICPDR and the Republic of Austria was signed on 14 December 2000 and it is expected to enter into force after its ratification by the Austrian parliament by mid 2001. The organizational structure under the DRPC in 2000 is shown below.

In the Steering Group Meeting on 4 and 5 September 2000, all Contracting Parties recognized the need to establish cooperating relations with the FR of Yugoslavia. However, in relation to Article 25 of the DRPC, and in regard to Resolution 777/1992 of the Security Council and 47/1992 of the General Assembly of the United Nations suspending the participation of the FR of Yugoslavia at the UN works, full membership could not be granted. Considering that all these restrictions have since then been lifted, and taking into account that the FR of Yugoslavia is now also eligible for support by the European Community, the ICPDR in its 3rd Plenary Meeting welcomed the request of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to accede to the Danube River Protection Convention with all the rights and duties of a Contracting Party.

In 2000, three standing and two ad-hoc Expert Groups dealt with the technical issues arising from the implementation of the DRPC:

- The Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management Expert Group (MLIM EG) was responsible for issues concerning water quality assessment and classification including the operation of the Transnational Monitoring Network, AQC, laboratory analysis and monitoring data distribution.

- The Accident and Emergency Prevention and Warning System Expert Group (AEPWS EG) was involved in the operation of the Danube Accident Warning System giving priority to communication of alarm/ warning messages during accidental pollution incidents. An additional task of this EG was pollution prevention and precautionary control in the whole river basin.

- The Emission Expert Group (EMIS EG) focussed its activities on the reduction of pollution as a result of the emissions into waters of the Danube and its tributaries. A priority issue was harmonization with the EU water policies, e.g., compliance with the EU WFD List of Priority Substances. Steps necessary for preparing the 2001-2005 Joint Action Programme (JAP) in 2000 were taken by EMIS/EG in 1999.

- The ad-hoc River Basin Management Expert Group (RBM EG) defined and prepared the steps and activities the ICPDR should take in the 2001-2004 period for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Danube River Basin. In the ICPDR Plenary Session in November 2000 this EG was transformed into a permanent Expert Group based on its agreed-upon Terms of Reference.

- The ad-hoc Strategic Expert Group (S EG) was mandated to deal with the administrative and financial matters in the build-up phase of the ICPDR.

In November 2000, an ad-hoc Ecological Expert Group (ECO EG) was established with the aim to support the ICPDR activities related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the aquatic ecosystems and those terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on them. This ad-hoc expert group should also contribute to the implementation of the ecological issues of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Organizational Structure under the Danube River Protection Convention

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River - ICPDR

- Implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention
- Decision making, management and coordination of regional cooperation
- Approval of annual work program and budget
- Monitoring the activities and evaluating the results or Expert Groups

Programme Management Task Force (PMTF)

- Coordination and implementation of donor supported activities
- Development of financing mechanisms for project execution

Permanent Secretariat (PS)

- Supporting the ICPDR sessions
- Supporting Expert Groups, PMTF
- Coordinating Work Programme
- Supporting project development and implementation
- Maintenance of Information System

Emission Issues (EMIS/EG)

- Point sources
- Diffuse sources
- Joint action programmes
- Basic information and guidelines

Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management (MLIM/EG)

- Trans National Monitoring Network
- Laboratory quality assurance
- Respective information management

Accidental Emergency Prevention and Warning System (AEPWS/EG)

- Accidental pollution incidents
- AEWS operation
- Accident prevention

Stratetic Expert Group (S/EG)

- Strategic issues
- Legal issues
- Administrative and financial issues

Ad-hoc Expert Group on WFD and RBM (WFD/RBM)

- Implementation of Water Framework Directive
- River Basin Management

Ad-hoc Ecological Expert Group (ECO/EG)

- Implementation of ecol. issues of EC WFD
- Evaluation of riverine ecology and habitats
- Determine need to prepare 'eco' annex to the DRPC

Four meetings of the Programme Management Task Force (PMTF) were organised in 1998 and 1999 back to back with the Steering Group and the Plenary Sessions of the ICPDR. However, since the achievements of those meetings were deemed unsatisfactory, it was felt that the efficiency of the PMTF meetings was rather limited. Most of the interested NGOs, who were members of the PMTF, had in the meantime obtained observers status and started actually participating in the ICPDR meetings. Concerning donor representatives, they had the possibility to participate at the ICPDR meetings as invited guests. It was therefore agreed at the 3rd ICPDR Plenary Session in November 2000 that PMTF meetings should be suspended.

2. Financial Contributions and Budgetary Situation

The 1st Plenary Session of the ICPDR (Vienna, 29 October 1998) approved the budget for the year 2000 providing an overall total of 9,829,357.00 ATS. States for which the DRPC entered into force in the course of the years 1999 or 2000 were asked to pay 5% of this overall total. This money is considered as an input to the budgetary reserve in the Working Capital Fund (Financial Rules, Article 6.3).

The final form of the budget contribution keys for the year 2000 was proposed by the Steering Group of the Interim International Commission in its 8th meeting held at Budapest on 26 to 27 May 1998.

The contributions of the Contracting Parties (CPs) for the year 2000 were made in three different ways: 1) Outstanding carried over from the year 1999, which was 742,911.08 ATS for the year 2000. Out of this amount 490,320.37 ATS was paid, while the dues from Hungary – 6,933.93 ATS and Moldova – 245,734.00 ATS is still pending. 2) Regular payment of contributions 2000 was made by all CPs. 3) Contributions of New CPs, which was duly paid by Bulgaria – 491,467.97 ATS and not paid by Moldova – 491,468.00 ATS. Moldova is still facing financial difficulties due to its transitional period.

The breakdown of budget expenditures is based on the proposal made by the Consultant Bourel Group, which had analysed several alternatives. Since the year 2000 was the first real full year of the new Secretariat, the actual expenditures did not always match the planned figures. Therefore, reallocations of funds were deemed necessary and a budgetary revision was signed by the President in November 2000. The final expenditures per budget line are as follows:

1. Staff	5,145,000.-
2. Services	1,653,316.-
3. Equipment	333,500.-
4. Other	1,000,000.-
5. Operational costs	833,600.-
Carried over balance	863,941.-
Overall total	**9,829,357.-**

All funds or financial provisions to support special activities are considered as Special Contributions. Thus, all financing of studies and contributions to the purchase of equipment are considered Special Contribution, and are entered separately in the ICPDR accounting system.

Austrian Support to Purchase Equipment and Furniture

The Austrian Government has contributed through the purchase of computer equipment to the development of the ICPDR Information System. Since these funds were not fully utilised by the project, the remaining amount was transferred on 6 September 1999 to the Permanent Secretariat for the purchase of furniture. This amount of ATS 43,018.97 was fully utilised during the year for the purchase of the required office furniture.

Study on Bio-Indicators

In the frame of the Balkan Task Force the Austrian and German Governments have jointly decided to finance with ATS 451,776.43 a study on bio-indicators in the Danube River to detect the impact of NATO bombing of industrial sites in the Yugoslavian stretch of the Danube River. The funds were transferred into the account of the PS on 22 and 29 October 1999, respectively. After submission of the Final Report on 12 December 2000, a decision was made to pay 80% of the contractual amount to Vituki, with the understanding that following the approval of the Final Report by the concerned Expert Groups, the remaining 20% would be paid in 2001. As a result an amount of ATS 90,355.20 remained in the Special Accounts.

3. Policy Development: The Joint Action Programme

The Joint Action Programme - JAP (January 2001 - December 2005) spells out the general strategy for the implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention.

Particular consideration is given to:

- Developing a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube River Basin, including an analysis of the characteristics of the basin, a review of the impact of human activity, and an economic analysis of water use, in line with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive

- Maintaining and updating emission inventories (point and diffuse sources of pollution) and implementing large-scale measures for the reduction of pollution loads

- Restoring wetlands and flood plains to improve flood control, increase nutrient absorption capacities and rehabilitate habitats and ecosystems

- Enhancing the operation of the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN) to assess the ecological and chemical quality status of rivers, including the establishment of respective water quality classification

- Establishing lists of priority substances and revising recommendations on BAT and BEP to assure prevention or reduction of those substances

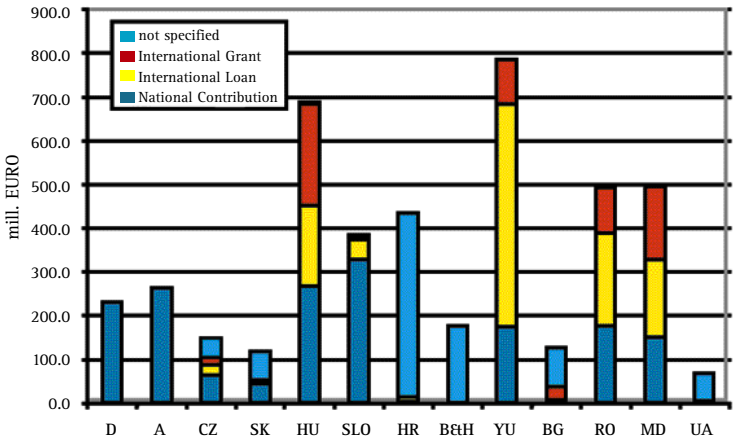
- Operating and improving the accident emergency warning system (AEWS), considering its use also for flood warnings, establishing classified inventories of accident risk spots and developing preventive measures

- Strengthening cooperation with the Danube Commission on preventing and controlling pollution from navigation

- Developing a voluntary agreement with the detergent industry concerning the use of phosphate-free detergents

- Minimizing the impact of floods by applying the UN-ECE Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention and developing action programs for sustainable flood prevention

- Developing methodologies and establishing domestic and basin-wide water balance.



In response to the above indicated policies and strategies an investment programme has been elaborated with inputs from all Danube countries and with the assistance of the UNDP/GEF – the Five Year Nutrient Reduction Programme.

The total investment foreseen in the 2001-2005 period is estimated at about 4.404 billion EURO, covering the following sectors:

- Municipal wastewater collection and treatment plants: 3.702 billion EURO

- Industrial wastewater treatment: 0.2667 billion EURO

- Agricultural projects and land use: 0.1126 billion EURO

- Rehabilitation of wetlands: 0.323 billion EURO

The total investment cost by country is presented in graphical form showing national contributions and other sources of financial support.

For the downstream countries in transition, the investment needs in relation to their per-capita income represent an enormous burden.

Countries affected by the Balkan crisis have the highest investment needs. Many Danube countries are presently lacking the financial capacity to respond to the investment needs and depend on financial support in responding to the international and EU environmental standards.

The ICPDR Expert Groups shall perform tasks related to the implementation of the proposed actions and shall develop a harmonized timetable for the implementation of the JAP. The final document of the JAP will be sho on the ICPDR Homepage.

4. Water Quality and Hydrological Situation in the Danube River Basin

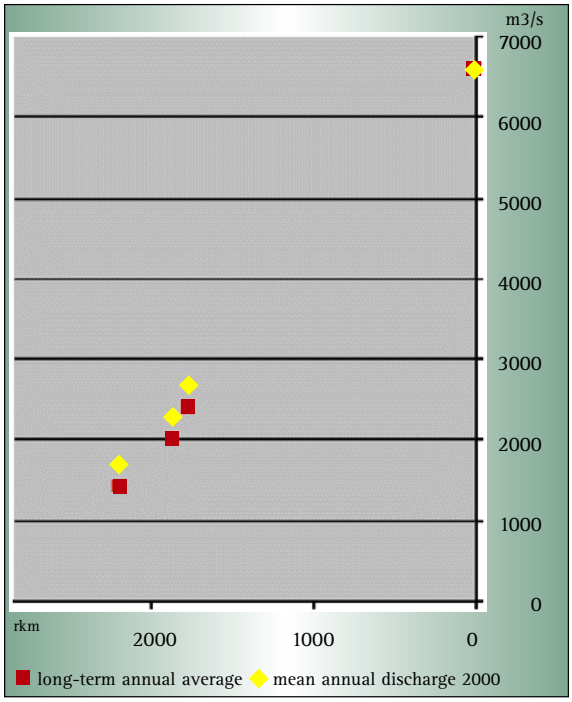
The long-term daily mean flow of the Danube River at its mouth is about 6500 m^3s^{-1}, which represents an average annual discharge of 207 km^3. The real mean flow and discharge in 2000 were equal to the long-term average values.

Hydrological Situation

The annual precipitation in the upper Danube River Basin was slightly above the long-term average while in the lower Danube area large deficits of rainfall were observed. Total precipitation values in 2000 as well as the relative precipitation in 2000 as compared to the long-term annual average are shown in the following table:

Country	Total annual precipitation in 2000 (mm)	Relative annual precipitation in 2000 (%)
Germany	1211	103
Austria	1040	103
Hungary	402	67
Croatia	310	46
Romania	431	66

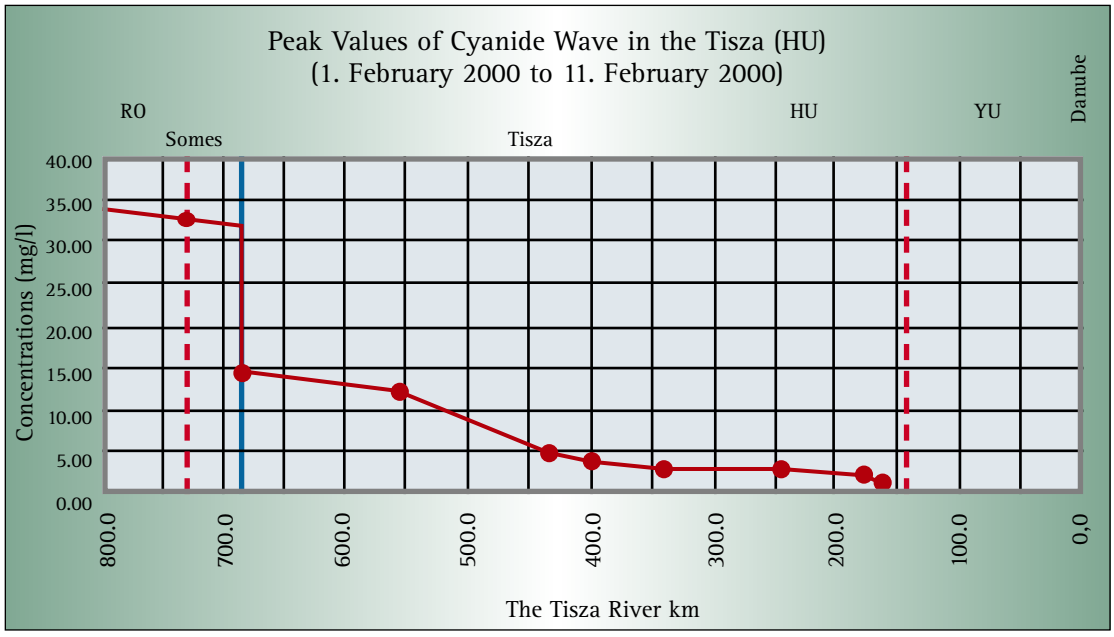
In Germany and Austria, extensive precipitation occurred in March and July; the dry period was in April and June. In the downstream part of the Danube River Basin, heavy rainfall and occasional rapid snowmelts occurred in the beginning of the year causing flash floods with serious consequences. This situation also triggered spill accidents in the Tisza River. On the other hand, in the next part of the year until late autumn, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary suffered extreme droughts. In Hungary, 2000 was the driest year in the 21st century. In August, the discharges of Slovenian streams were about 52% lower than the long-term average. These hydrological conditions resulted in an increased annual streamflow in the upper Danube, which continuously dropped reaching the level of the long-term average discharge as recorded in the Danube Delta.



Pollution Accidents

The major pollution accidents in 2000 were the spills at Baia Mare (30 January) and Baia Borsa (10 March). The spill at Baia Mare (100,000 m^3 of wastewater containing cyanide and heavy metals) led to immediate and very severe effects on plants and aquatic life in the Tisza River. Due to the non-persistent nature of cyanide and the relatively natural condition of the upper Tisza River system, once the pollution plume had passed the river ecosystem was able to begin to recover. The chemical and biological survey performed by the Landesamt für Wasserwirtschaft Rheinland-Pfalz in the Tisza and the Somes in July 2000 did not identify any remaining damages that might have originated from the cyanide spill. The impact of cyanide pollution on the Danube mainstream was remarkably reduced due to the dilution effect. The highest concentration measured in the Bulgarian reach was 0.13 mg/l; the highest cyanide concentration in the Danube Delta measured by the UNEP/OCHA mission was 0.058 mg/l. The tailing dam burst at Baia Borsa resulted in the release of 20,000 tons of heavy metals containing sediments into the Novat River, a tributary of the Viseu and the Tisza. This spill posed the greatest risk of medium-term impacts because of the persistency and the accumulation ability of heavy metals. The long-term effects of the Tisza accidents have to be investigated via specific surveys in future (e.g., Joint Danube Survey currently being prepared).

No other major relevant pollution events were recorded in 2000. A general record of all accidents in 2000 is given in Chapter 6.



4. Water Quality and Hydrological Situation in the Danube River Basin

Improvements in Wastewater Treatment

The continuous slight reduction in pollution loads in the Danube River Basin is a result of improvements in the wastewater treatment (mostly in the upper Danube) and of the changes in industrial and agricultural activities (mostly in the lower part of the basin). Intensive wastewater treatment in the upper part of the basin (2,200 municipal biological wastewater treatment plants in the German part of the basin; 1,250 biological purification plants in Austria) has resulted in increased costs for each further decrease in pollution loads. Despite this fact, remarkable reduction in loads was achieved at two WWTP in Munich (Germany). In the Austrian Bundesland Kärnten, the urban WWTP of the towns Spittal (110,000 PE) and Villach (200,000 PE) were upgraded with P-elimination equipment and the urban WWT plant of Klagenfurt (300,000 PE) was upgraded for N-elimination. In the Czech Republic, activities continued on the řeconstrůction of WWTPs in Prostejov, Prerov, Breclav and Hranice na Morave. Similarly, the extension of wastewater collection systems and an increase in the total wastewater treatment capacity continued in Hungary and Slovakia. In Romania, 1,441 WWTP were in operation out of which about 50% worked properly. Another 24 units were under construction.

Water Quality Trends

The general water quality, especially in the upper part of the basin, was controlled by the flow conditions. Reduction of emissions due to the upgrading of WWTPs and changes in industrial and agricultural practices have led to slight improvements in some reaches of the Danube (Austria). In principle, however, no significant changes in water quality were recorded in 2000.

Extreme accidental spills in the Tisza River Basin caused a temporary deterioration in the water quality of the Tisza River, but a rapid recovery was observed by the summer of 2000.

5. Work towards Harmonised Emission Policies in the Danube Basin

Updating of Emission Inventories for Municipal and Industrial Discharges

With contribution from all signatory States to the Danube River Protection Convention, the first complete basin-wide emission inventories of point sources for 1996-1997 were finalized in 2000. The estimations of the diffuse emissions were not yet available and were therefore not included in the inventory.

Germany is currently funding a project to create a harmonized inventory for point and non-point (diffuse) sources of Nitrogen and Phosphorous in the Danube River Basin. The final results are expected in the summer of 2002.

The EMIS EG is currently initiating a revision of the emission inventories of municipal and industrial discharges (point sources) with the reference year 2000, which are due to be finalized by 2002. In order to improve data collection and evaluation and allow the presentation of the data by geographical information systems (GIS), geographical coordinates will be attributed to the discharge locations.

Development and Adoption of the ICPDR Recommendations

In 2000 the ICPDR adopted the following recommendations/guidelines:

- Recommendation concerning the treatment of municipal wastewaters including reporting format
- Guidelines for the monitoring of wastewater discharges
- Recommendation on best available techniques in the chemical industry
- Recommendation on best available techniques in the food industry
- Recommendation on best available techniques in the chemical pulping industry
- Recommendation on best available techniques in the paper industry

In 2001, the recommendations will be published in DANUBIS in all the administrative languages of the Danube catchment area, for the benefit of both the regulators (the local water authorities) and the regulated entities (municipalities and industries).

The ICPDR List of Priority Substances

The EMIS/EG had initially developed a Table indicating the use/occurrence in the Danube Basin countries of the 32 priority substances featuring on the draft List of the EU. The Table was then further discussed and reviewed. The final results of Component VI “Identification of Sources and Amount of Pollution for the Substances on the EU List of Priority Substances” of the PHARE Project ZZ 9725 ”Strengthening of Water Quality Management in the Danube Basin” provided valuable support in performing this task and in choosing the relevant parameters to be measured in the Joint Danube Survey (foreseen to be carried out in mid-2001). Based on the final EU List of Priority Substances, which should be adopted by the European Union in 2001, the ICPDR will also finalise its list by the end of the year 2001.

6. Operation of the Danube Accident and Emergency Warning System

Brief information on the accidents during which the AEPWS was activated is given below. The table contains only accidents having trans-boundary impact confirmed by at least one of the countries involved.

Site of Accident / Date	Affected River	Primary Pollutant	International Satellite Messages	Tranboundary Impact
Romania/2000.01.30	Lapus-Szamos-Tisza	Cyanides	PIAC-05k PIAC-08 "Warning"k Belgrade	RO: Yes Sk: Yes H: Yes Yu: Yes
Romania/2000.02.26	Kraszna	Color	PIAC-08k PIAC-05 "Warning"	RO: No H: Yes
Romania/2000.03.10	Vaser (Viseu)-Tisza	Heavy metals	PIAC-08k PIAC-05 "Warning"k PIAC-10 PIAC-05k PIAC-04 "Warning"k PIAC-08 k Belgrade	RO: Yes Ukr: Yes H: Yes
Hungary	Public media in reported pollution in Romania on the Crisul Negru River, which enters Hungary	Uranium ore	PIAC-05k PIAC-08 "Info?" PIAC-08k PIAC-05 "End-of Alert"	RO: No (False news in public media)
Czech Republic/2000.07.22	Dyje at Hodonice - Thaya (Dyje)	NH3 (ammo-nia)	PIAC-03k PIAC-02 "Warning" PIAC-03k PIAC-02 "End-of Alert"	CZ: Yes A: Yes
Slovenia/2000.09.21-29	Krupa - Sava	Textile no toxic color	PIAC-07k PIAC-06 "Info?" PIAC-06k PIAC-07 "Warning"	SL: Yes CR: Yes
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2000.11.02	Bosanski Brod - Sava	Oil	PIAC-07k PIAC-08 "Warning" PIAC-07k Sarajevo Mrs. Bezdrob "Info?"	CR: Yes
Bulgaria/2000.11.01	Danube – Novo Selo / Danube – 845 and 634-38 km	Oil	PIAC-09k PIAC-08 "Info?" PIAC-08k PIAC-09 "End of alert"	BG: Yes

Activities and Improvements of the AEWS in 2000

Besides reporting overall satisfaction with the operation of the AEWS during the Baia Mare and other accidents, the AEPWS EG identified and discussed several problems related to the system's operational performance and made the following improvements:

- Changes in the International Operations Manual to include the Secretariat in the operational information flow;

- Introduction of the First Warning Message to be distributed via satellite communication system, with the following, more descriptive information to be exchanged via e-mail, fax, etc.

In all its activities related to the Baia Mare and Baia Borsa accidents the AEPWS EG made continuous efforts to harmonize its work with the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Baia Mare Task Force (BMTF).

As a follow-up on the cyanide spill, a detailed analysis of the AEPWS EG work was made during the 21st AEPWS EG meeting (Brno 25-26.02.2000). Based on the lessons learned, the experts proposed the following measures for improvement of the AEWS:

1. Changes in the emergency information flows
2. Recommendation on the adoption of the Standard Operational Procedures for sampling and determination for emergency cases
3. Proposal on the role of the national reference laboratories
4. Proposal of projects to improve and upgrade the AEWS tools

7. Development of the ICPDR Information System

With the fast-growing demand for information in the Danube riparian countries and within the different bodies of the ICPDR, it was necessary to revise the information management policy of the ICPDR. Earlier, only the MLIM/EG had a sub-group dealing with the special needs for information for MLIM/EG. Once the ICPDR Information System became operational, with the quickly increasing activities of the Permanent Secretariat and those of the Expert Groups, this solution proved to be insufficient and there was an urgent need to design a new approach to deal with the information management problems of the whole ICPDR.

In 2000, a new concept of access rights to the ICPDR Information System was introduced. The idea underlying this approach was to create a forum for active participation of all ICPDR Expert Groups and of the Permanent Secretariat.

In order to satisfy the information needs within the Danube River Basin (DRB) countries and to better assist the different bodies of the ICPDR in their internal work, the folder structure was revised to include in the Information System a newly created Public Area and an Internal Working Area. The Public Area is where all public information will be accessible to any public user browsing the website.

The Internal Working Area is strictly reserved for internal work of the PS and the Expert Groups (EG) to allow them to exchange information and prepare final documents and other final information for the public. All databases of the Information System are part of the Internal Working Area. This area is exclusively used by registered users having special access rights.

The Danube PCU ended its activities by the end of October 2000. A considerable amount of information was transferred to the DANUBIS website. This task was prepared and performed by the technical staff of the ICPDR PS and of the Danube PCU.

EMIS Inventory

The new version of the Emission Inventory was first placed on a temporary website within the Internal Working Area, where EMIS/EG members could check it. Explanatory Notes on the interpretation of the content of the inventory were prepared by the EMIS/EG. Once the EMIS/EG has checked it, the new EMIS Inventory will also be available on the Public Area of DANUBIS.

TNMN Database

All data and programmes were transferred through the Secretariat to the new Slovak TNMN Database Management Unit. Since numerous discrepancies were detected in the process, the head of the unit proposed that the transfer of TNMN Database into DANUBIS should be further postponed.

Bucharest Declaration Database

The database of the Bucharest Declaration was transferred from Romania to the Secretariat and placed on a temporary website within the Internal Working Area, where MLIM/EG members could check it. An Explanatory Note on the interpretation of the content of the data-base was prepared by the MLIM/EG. Once the MLIM/EG has checked all data, the database will also be available in the Public Area of DANUBIS.

8. Special Activities of the ICPDR

8.1 Study on Bioindicators

The Study on Bioindicators, Inorganic and Organic Micropollutants in Selected Bioindicator Organisms in the River Danube was performed in 2000 by VITUKI Plc, Budapest, Hungary, in co-operation with the ICPDR Secretariat in Vienna. The activity was a follow-up on the UNEP/OCHA Balkan Task Force Mission, which investigated the environmental impacts of the Kosovo conflict in FRY in 1999.

The major aim of the Study on Bioindicators was to investigate the accumulation of organic and inorganic micropollutants in sediments and biota and to analyse the macrozoobenthos in the Danube reach impacted by the Kosovo conflict. The Study was financially supported by the governments of Germany and Austria and prepared and supervised by the ICPDR Secretariat.

The sampling mission was carried out on 17 - 23 July 2000 by the VITUKI team with the support of Yugoslavian authorities. The samples were analysed at VITUKI and at VUVH, Bratislava, Slovakia. The findings, interpretations and conclusions of the Study contributed to the mapping of the quality status of the Danube reach, which had until then been excluded from the regular monitoring activities of the ICPDR (Transnational Monitoring Network). The draft final report on the Study was submitted to the MLIM Expert Group for assessment of results.

8.2 Preparation of the Joint Danube Survey

The Joint Danube Survey (JDS) was proposed by the Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management Expert Group (MLIM EG) of the ICPDR. The major goal was to obtain comparable and reliable information on the occurrence of specific substances (organic and inorganic micropollutants) in different compartments of the aquatic ecosystem (water, sediments, suspended solids, biota) for the whole length of the Danube River.

The intention was to use sampling and laboratory expertise and resources in the Danube countries that have the necessary level of analytical instrumentation, operating with proven acceptable AQC procedures. The survey plan also responded to the need to characterise the water status as required by the EU Water Framework Directive, especially with respect to the List of Priority Substances.

The Joint Danube Survey has the following general aims:

- To produce a homogenous data set for the Danube River based on a single laboratory analysis of specified determinants;
- To identify and confirm specific pollution sources;
- To screen the water for pollutants as specified in the proposed EU Water Framework Directive;
- To provide a forum for riparian/river basin country participation for sampling and intercomparison exercises;
- To facilitate specific training needs and improve in-country experience;
- To promote public awareness.

With the Phare support, the MLIM EG in 2000 prepared general guidelines for the location of stations, the selection of sample types and determinands as well as ships and staffing. These guidelines were used to develop the JDS budget model and the Cruise Manual.

8. Special Activities of the ICPDR

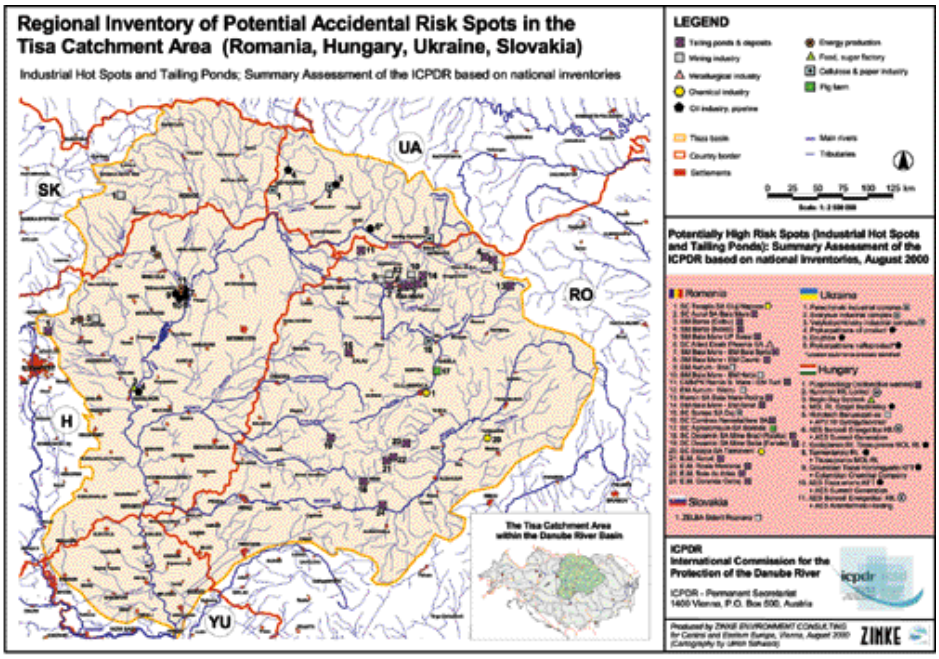
8.3 Inventory of Accident Risk Spots

The preparation of a Regional Inventory of Potential Accident Risk Spots in the Tisza catchment area of Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia was initiated in response to the accidental spills in the Tisza basin in 2000. The inventory was prepared using national criteria for activities with hazardous and polluting substances, and by arranging them into a prescribed format table. The inventory lists 139 accident risk spots, 42 of which have been characterized as high-risk, and the remaining 97 as lower-risk spots. 24 of the high-risk spots are present in Romania, 11 in Hungary, six in Ukraine and one in Slovakia.

The ICPDR Steering Group called upon the Baia Mare Task Force (BMTF) and the Governments of the Tisza Basin Countries to ensure the necessary follow-up in terms of a quick assessment of the risk sites. The ICPDR also asked that the implementation of short-term measures with the aim of preventing similar accidents during the coming winter period should be carried out as soon as possible.

The BMTF received assurances from Ministers of the Environment of Romania, Hungary and Slovakia that they would undertake preventive actions such as on-site risk assessment, improvement of safety, upgrading of operational and accident/emergency procedures and regular surveillance of all sites including daily inspection and tests in times of adverse weather conditions.

In order to also put under control accident risk sites in other Danube countries, the ICPDR asked all Contracting Parties to elaborate national Inventories of Potential Accident Risk Spots so that a common basin-wide Inventory for the whole Danube River Basin could be available in the summer of 2001.



9. International and Regional Cooperation

9.1 EC Phare/Tacis Multicountry Programme

The EU Phare Multicountry Programme ended in October 2000. The project entitled Strengthening Sustainability of Water Quality Management in the Danube Basin (ZZ 97 25) was part of the Strategic Action Plan Implementation Programme (SIP) of the Environmental Programme for the Danube River Basin (EPDRB) as developed in 1996. The project aimed to guarantee the sustainability of ongoing long-term actions (MLIM, AEWS, etc.), enhance the accession process and compliance with EU Directives, provide support for the implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention and back the completion of some actions. The important project components were:

- Component I: Implementation of the (proposed) Water Framework Directive.
- Component II: Preparation of Guidance Notes for Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management (MLIM).
- Component III: Strengthening the Danube Accident and Emergency Warning System (AEWS).
- Component IV: Management Action to support the implementation of the Joint Danube Survey (JDS).
- Component V: Setting up a proficiency testing organisation for the TNMN.
- Component VI: Identification of sources and amount of pollution for substances on the EU Priority List of Chemicals.

9.2 Preparation of the New UNDP/GEF Danube Project

In the frame of the UNDP/GEF Pollution Reduction Programme a first outline for a new regional project (Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the Danube River Basin) had already been prepared in 1999.

In order to apply for funding for the preparation activities, a Project Document for the PDF-B Grant (Project Development Facility – block B) was elaborated, endorsed by requesting countries and approved by the GEF Secretariat in November 1999.

The PDF-B activities started in April 2000 and continued throughout the year. Necessary information was collected at national and international levels and supporting documentation was prepared. National experts and international consultants were involved in the elaboration of the Project Brief.

The overall objective of the Danube Regional Project is to support the activities of the ICPDR required to provide a regional approach and global significance to the development of national policies and legislation and the definition of priority actions for nutrient reduction and pollution control with particular attention to achieving sustainable transboundary ecological effects within the DRB and the Black Sea area.

The Project Brief was reviewed by HODs and - following the incorporation of comments received from the countries - submitted to the UNDP and GEF Secretariat at the end of August 2000.

9. International and Regional Cooperation

The project was technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat at the Bilaterals on 18th September 2000. However, due to some financial constraints the Danube Regional Project was postponed for the next GEF Council meeting in May 2001.

9.3 Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for Southeastern Europe

The implementation of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for Southeastern Europe (REReP) is an important dimension of the Stability Pact since environmental cooperation can significantly contribute to the Stability Pact objectives in the region. The Task Force for the Implementation of the REReP had its initial meeting in Cavtat, Croatia on 6 to 7 July 2000 and the second meeting was held in Brussels on 9 November 2000. Increased donor commitment was recognised in these meetings and the Task Force welcomed the steps taken by the donors to co-ordinate project financing.

Three groups of projects were identified for the REReP support, all focused on the scope of work of the ICPDR to assure pollution reduction in the Danube River Basin with an effect on the Black Sea. The first group contains projects from the REReP Quick Start Projects portfolio, Priority Area 4.1 "Participation in the ICPDR", which were accepted by the REReP Task Force in Brussels in November 2000. The second group contains the other project proposals from the "REReP Quick Start Projects" portfolio not under the ICPDR label, but which are also considered to contribute to pollution reduction in the Danube River Basin. The third group contains committed projects from the Joint Action Programme for the Danube River Basin.

9.4 Cooperation Between the ICPBS and the ICPDR

The draft version of the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (ICPBS) and the ICPDR, which was adopted by the ICPDR during its 2nd Plenary Meeting in Sinaia, was forwarded to the ICPBS for evaluation. The ICPBS dealt with this document at its 5th Session and the amended version was presented to the ICPDR Plenary Session in November 2000. It is expected that the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed in 2001. The GEF is expected to provide support for the implementation of the tasks addressed in this document. This will also assist the revitalisation of the ad-hoc Joint Technical Expert Group of the ICPBS and the ICPDR.

Annex 1: Composition of the ICPDR in 2000

PRESIDENT: *Emil MARINOV,*
Deputy Minister, Ministry for Environment and Water, Bd. Maria Luisa 22, BG-1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

HEADS OF THE DELEGATIONS:
Germany: *Fritz HOLZWARTH, Deputy Director General, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit*

Austria: *Wolfgang STALZER, Director General, Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Sektion IV*

Bosnia-Herzegovina: *Mehmed CERO, Secretary General, Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment;*

Borislav JAKSIC, Water Management Institute, Republika Srpska

Czech Republic: *Jaroslav KINKOR, Director of the Water Protection Department, Ministry of the Environment*

Slovakia: *Ivan ZÁVADSKÝ, Director General, Ministry of the Environment*

Hungary: *Béla HAJÓS, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of the Transport, Communication and Water*

Slovenia: *Mitja BRICELJ, Director of Nature Protection Authority, Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning*

Croatia: *Željko OSTOJIĆ, Senior Adviser on Water Protection, State Water Directorate*

Romania: *Liliana MARA, Director General, Ministry of the Water, Forests and Envi-ronmental Protection*

Bulgaria: *Nikolai KOUYUMDZHIEV, Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Environment*

Moldova: *Alexandru JOLONDCOVSCHI, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Territorial Development*

Ukraine: *Mykola STETSENKO, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources*

European Community: *Jean-Francois VERSTRYNGE, Deputy Director General, DG/Environment European Commission*

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT:
Joachim BENDOW, Executive Secretary

Hellmut FLECKSEDER, Technical Expert for Water Management, Pollution Control

Igor LIŠKA, Technical Expert for Water Management, Water Quality

Károly FUTAKI, Information Management, Administration Officer

Mihaela POPOVICI, Technical Expert for Water Management, Pollution Control (from 01.11.2000)

Marcela FABIANOVÁ, GEF Technical Support

Julia KÖLBLINGER, Support Staff, Finance & Relation with Host Country Services

Marion SCHMERBACHER, Secretary

Annex 1: Composition of the ICPDR in 2000

CHAIRMEN OF THE EXPERT GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS

Emission EG

Bernd MEHLHORN, Head of the Unit, Umweltbundesamt, Bismarckplatz 1, D - 14193 Berlin, Germany

Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management EG

Liviu POPESCU, Head of the Department, ICIM Research & Engineering Institute for Environment, Spl. Independentei nr 294, Sector 6, RO - 77703 Bucharest, Romania

Monitoring ESG

Milan MATUŠKA, Director of the Water Protection Department, Ministry of the Environment Nam. L. Stura 1, SK - 812 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Laboratory Management ESG

Péter LITERÁTHY, Director, Water Quality Institut, Water Resources Research Centre, VITUKI RT, Kvassay Jenö ut 1, H - 1095 Budapest, Hungary

Information Management ESG

Ivica RUŽIĆ, Professor, "Ruder Bošković" Institute, Bijenicka 54, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Accident and Emergency Prevention and Warning System EG

Dobri DIMITROV, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Meteorology & Hydrology, Forecasting Dept., 66 Tzarigradsko Shose boul., BG - 1784 Sofia, Bulgaria

Strategic EG

Knut BEYER, BMUNR, WA I 6B, Bernkasteler Straße 8, D – 53048 Bonn, Germany

River Basin Management EG

Helmut BLOECH, European Commission, DG/Environment, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Annex 2: Observer Status as of 31.12.2000

Danube Commission (for inland navigation)
Mr. Danail NEDIALKOV, Director General
Benczúr utca 25, H-1068 Budapest

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International)
Mr. Philip WELLER, Director, Danube Carpathian Programme,
Ottakringer Str. 114-116,
A-1160 Vienna, Austria

International Association for Danube Research (IAD; in the framework of SIL)
Dr. Herta HEGER, (until 30.04.2000)
Dr. Meinhard BREILING, (since 1.5.2000)
General Secretary, Schiffmühlenstr. 120
A-1220 Vienna, Austria

RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands
Mr. Tobias SALATHE, Regional Coordinator for Europe, Rue Mauverney 28,
CH-1196 Gland Switzerland

Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) - DAPHNE
DAPHNE, Hanulova 5/D,
844 40 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

The Regional Environmental Center For Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
Mr. Jernej STRITIH, Ady Endre ut 9-11,
H-2000 Szentendre, Hungary

International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (ICPBS)
Mr. Plamen DZHADZHEV, Dolmabahce Sarayi II, Harekat Kosku, 80680 Besiktas,
Istanbul, Turkey

Annex 3:
Financial Situation

A. CONTRIBUTIONS

According to the decision of the 1st Plenary Meeting of the ICPDR (Vienna, October 1998) the Transitional Contribution Keys and the National Contributions to the ICPDR in 2000 were as follow:

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2000 IN ATS

Contracting Parties	Contribution Key (%)	Contribution
Germany	16.50	1,621,844
Austria	16.50	1,621,844
Czech Republic	12.50	1,228,670
Slovakia	9.00	884,642
Hungary	12.50	1,228,670
Slovenia	12.50	1,228,670
Croatia	9.00	884,642
Romania	9.00	884,642
EC	2.50	245,733
Total Contribution[1]	**100**	**9,829,357**
Bulgaria[2]	5.00	491,468
Moldova[2]	5.00	491,468
Total Contribution[3]	**10.00**	**982,936**
Grand Total	**110.00**	**10,812,293**

[1] As of original Approved Budget
[2] Contributions of new CPs joining the Commission in 1999
[3] Taking into account contributions of new CPs

Annex 3:
Financial Situation

B. EXPENDITURES

The end-of-the-year status of the Budgetary Expenditures for the year 2000 originally approved by the 1st Plenary Session is given below:

	Approved Budget	Expenditures 2000	Engagements	Status as of 31.12.2000
A. Administrative costs				
1. Staff	5,145,00	4,954,428	136,682	**53,890**
2. Services	1,653,316	346,335	1,169,706	**137,275**
3. Equipment	333,500	314,383	0	**19,117**
4. Other	1,000,000	748,612	120,542	**130,846**
Sub-Total A	8,131,816	6,363,758	1,426,930	**341,128**
B. Operational costs	833,600	610,597	51,785	**171,218**
Total (A + B)	**8,965,416**	**6,974,355**	**1,478,715**	**512,346**
Carried over balance	863,941	0	0	863,941
Overall total	**9,829,357**	**6,974,355**	**1,478,715**	**1,376,287**