

**ICPDR Principles
for Cooperation and Relations
with
Business and Industry**

Introduction

Changes in corporate practice are essential to achieve progress in meeting the obligations and activities under the Danube River Protection Convention.

Corporate engagement is essential to transform markets and to adopt and promote best practice. Corporate entities can also financially and materially support actions planned or carried out with the ICPDR. Relations between business and industry and the ICPDR are therefore important to meet commitments under the convention.

Why Do We Need Principles

- To ensure a more coordinated and strategic approach to Business and Industry.
- To define the goals of cooperation and relation with business.
- To minimize risks to the ICPDR of relations and cooperation with business and industry.

Principles

Companies and business with which the ICPDR formally cooperates should be interested and active in supporting the work of the ICPDR in fulfilment of the objectives of the DRPC.

The ICPDR will not endorse particular products.

Cooperation with a particular business or industry should not diminish the right for self-determination or action of the ICPDR or any of its structures.

The cooperation (Memorandum of Understanding or other form of agreement) should specify the nature of communication related to the cooperation.

Formal agreements would be sought only with a company which demonstrates commitment to the goals of the DRPC and is working towards those ends. The corporate entity should have plans and actions to address problems that may exist.

The relationship will contribute to raising a positive awareness of the ICPDR and the DRPC and contribute to the goals of the Convention and where applicable engaging a company's employees and customers.

The cooperation must be based on transparency and the parties (including the ICPDR) commit themselves to monitoring and evaluating the relationship.

It must be ensured that any formal agreement on cooperation have an escape clause that allows for termination of the relationship based on changed circumstances or at specified a time.

If agreements or special relations with business or industry are established regular reporting should be undertaken by the Secretariat to the Ordinary meeting of the ICPDR.

Cooperation should as much as possible be focused on transboundary benefits. Cooperation at a basin wide transboundary level, however, should not imply national level endorsement of activities, or specify specific actions at the national level, unless agreed to with the representative to the ICPDR from that country.

Cooperation with business and industry that involves financial support for activities should only be for additional special projects and activities outside the core activities of the ICPDR.