
Progress and current status of the Joint Statement

The ICPDR point of view

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International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River
Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau

Joint Statement Meeting 29-30 Jan. 2009, Budapest



Philip Weller, ICPDR

Danube River Protection Convention

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Signed
on 29 June 1994
in Sofia - Bulgaria

The DRPC

is a legal frame for cooperation to assure the protection of water and ecological resources and their sustainable use in the Danube River Basin.

ICPDR -

International Commission for the
Protection of the Danube River



Implement the **Danube River Protection Convention**

- ⇒ strengthen international cooperation
- ⇒ ensure sustainable water management
- ⇒ ensure conservation, improvement and rational use of surface waters and ground water
- ⇒ reduce inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances
- ⇒ control floods and ice hazards
- ⇒ reduce pollution loads of the Black Sea

Contracting Parties



Germany



Austria



Czech Republic



Slovakia



Hungary



Slovenia



Croatia



Bosnia & Herzegovina



Serbia



Montenegro



Romania



Bulgaria



Rep. of Moldova



Ukraine

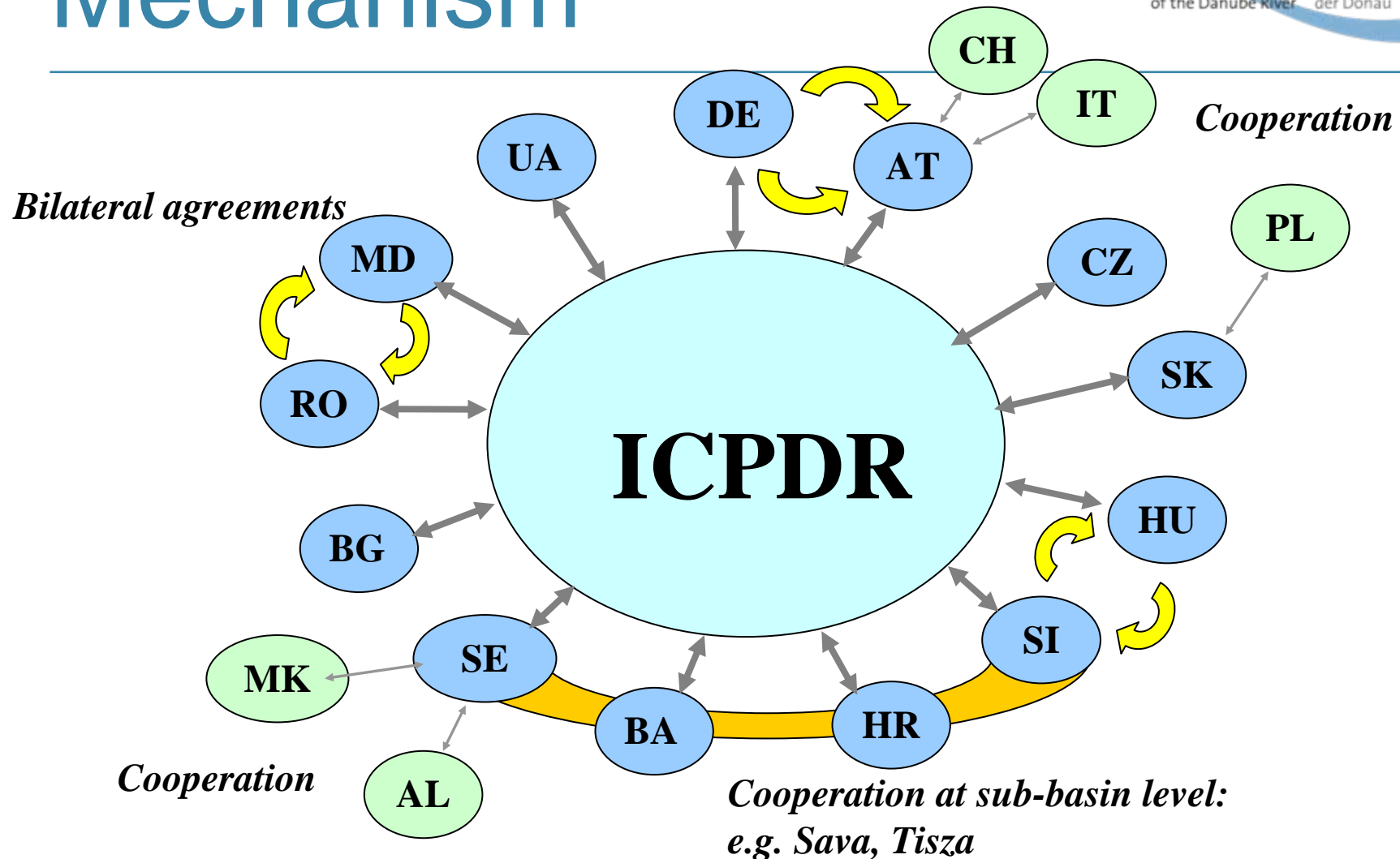


European Union

Coordination Mechanism

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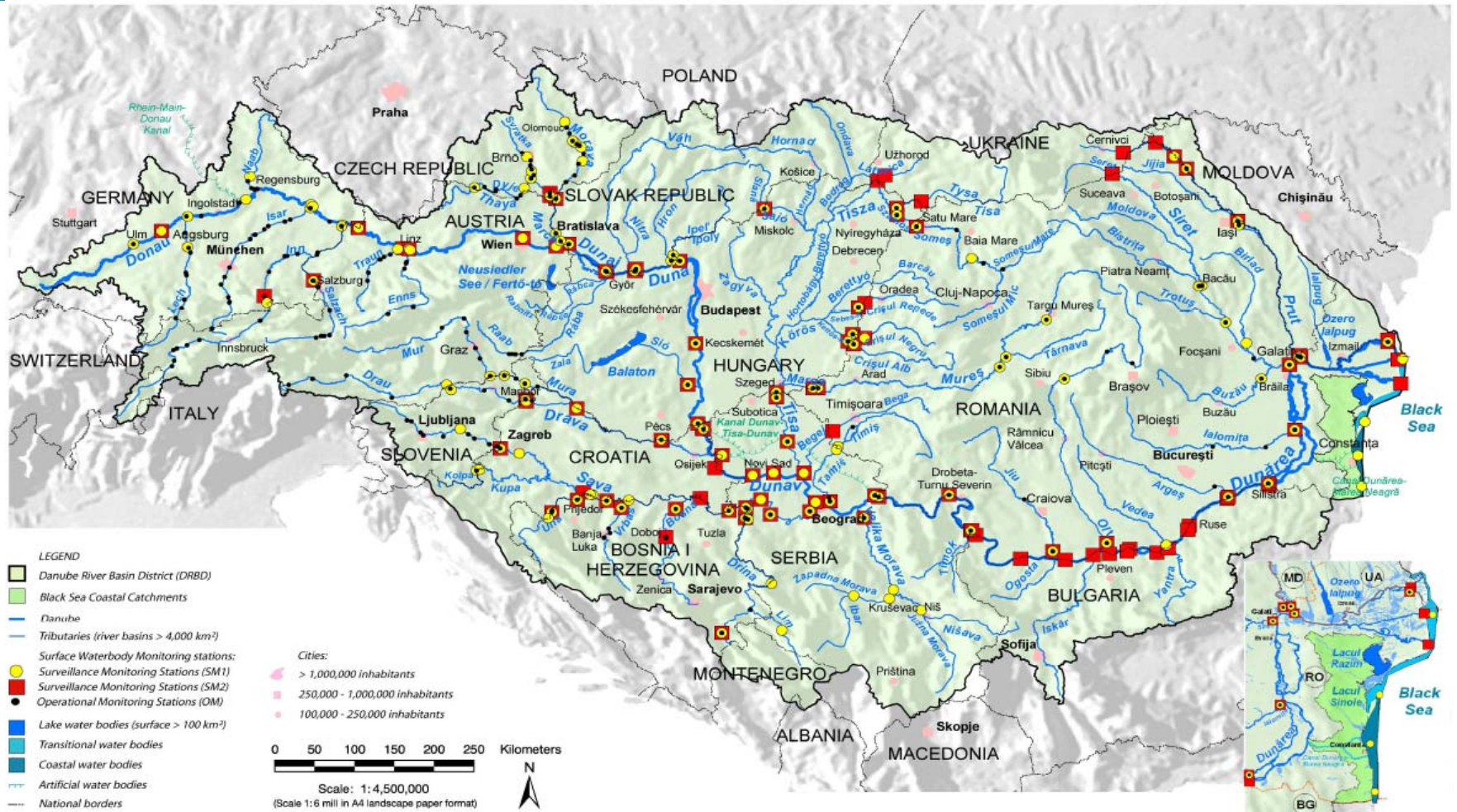
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Trans National Monitoring Network - TNMN

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Implementation of EU WFD



3rd Plenary Session of the ICPDR 27-28 November 2000, Sofia - BG

- ➔ implementation of WFD has highest priority for ICPDR
- ➔ ICPDR is a platform for coordination
- ➔ Contracting Parties will make all efforts to achieve a coordinated river basin management plan for the Danube River Basin

Significant Water Management Issues



Organic
Pollution



Nutrient
Pollution



Hazardous
Substances Pollution



Hydromorphological
Alterations

Joint Programme of Measures



Development of navigation
in line with EU WFD

Joint Programme of Measures shall

- ⇒ address current **and** future pressures from navigation
- ⇒ measure implementation to achieve good ecological status
- ⇒ jointly found approach to reach that objective.

Conclusion and response



New IWT projects may conflict with the EU WFD (e.g. deterioration of water bodies).

Discussion of ICPDR Secretariat in 2006 with the European Conference of Transport Ministries in Paris and the EC

Resolution: Joint dialogue of experts and interest groups

- ⇒ Inland navigation can contribute to making transport more environmentally sustainable ...
- ⇒ but it can also have significant impact on river ecosystems.
- ⇒ Need for an intensive, cross-sectoral consensus-building.



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



Resolution ORD 10

(Joint Statement)



The ICPDR

- a) adopts the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin, and**
- b) encourages the Contracting Parties to implement them on national level, and**
- c) to ensure in particular dialogue with their counterparts in the Ministries responsible for transport.**

Joint Statement-related activities



- ICPDR Resolutions to adopt and implement the Jt. St.
- Public presentation of the Jt. St. by the 3 Commissions.
- Co-organisation of the meeting here in Budapest
- Initiation and execution of the Platina SWP to apply Jt. St.
- Active communication about currently planned IWT projects (RO/BG Danube and Sava) how to better apply the J. St.
 - Drafting of a leitbild (“Visionary Reference Condition”) for the Lower Danube to ease integration of ecology into this project planning.
- Communication with the EC and other stakeholders

Visions and Management Objectives



Future Infrastructure Projects

Future infrastructure projects are conducted **using best environmental practices and best available techniques** in the entire DRB – impacts on or deterioration of the good status and negative transboundary effects are fully prevented .

ISPA Projects on waterway improvement along the RO/BG Danube



Ministry of Transports,
Constructions and
Tourism



European Union

Technical Assistance for the Improvement of Navigation Conditions on the
Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the Danube and accompanying studies

Intense discussion on ISPA 2 project with the RO Ministry of Transport and the BG & RO Ministries of Environment of as well as with the EC (DG-TREN, DG-ENV and DG-REGIO) since Jan. 2008.

- Preliminary Technical Design vs Jt. St. planning approach
- Government expert workshops on 23 Oct. and 18-19 Nov.
- Draft Feasibility Report and EIA process
- Specific comments to Consultants – proposal of leitbild.

Resolution ORD 11

(Navigation)



The ICPDR

- a) welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to promote and further secure application of the Joint Statement in inland waterway projects;**
- b) asks all Danube countries and the European Commission (i.e. DG REGIO, DG TREN and DG Environment) to ensure that its waterway projects continue to integrate the ICPDR vision and management objectives (WFD) as well as sustainable flood protection and nature conservation objectives that are stipulated in the related EU Directives.**

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Thank you for
your attention

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Workshop Results

- Danube river landscape has to serve many functions, i.a. IWT
- Wide range of environmental effects of fairway development and maintenance, and from vessel operation.
- Danube has free capacities for IWT but exploiting them requires to respect and adapt to the river ecology
- River ecology requires a very dynamic landscape but this is already seriously deteriorated
- Each river section has individual character that needs its own design, management and development
- IWT has to respect the legal framework (WFD, FFH etc.).

The Process leading to the Joint Statement



- Workshop 1 ([April 2007, Orth/Vienna](#)): Initial Facts and Exchange of Views and Experiences; visit of *Integrated IWT Project East of Vienna*
- Workshop 2 ([June 2007, Bucharest](#)): Technical ways to achieve ecology-friendly IWT; visit of *Calarasi–Braila ISPA project*
- Workshop 3 ([October 2007, Zagreb](#)): Finalisation of the Joint Statement
- Endorsement of the *Joint Statement* by ICPDR, Danube Commission and Intl. Sava Basin Commission [by Jan. 2008](#)



Process Results



7 months long with 3 interdisciplinary workshops

50 different stakeholders, including

12 basin governments

22 industry and environmental interest groups;

Improved **mutual understanding** how IWT and ecology are “functioning”;

Joint and **balanced assessment** of IWT and river ecology;

Principles and Criteria for waterway **maintenance** and **future IWT development**.

Vision:

Sustainable inland navigation in an intact riverine landscape.