

Technical Protocol
between
the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry
of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
on Co-operation in Managing the International River Basin Districts

The Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as Parties),

Taking into account the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on co-operation in the field of environmental protection (signed 1999),

Implementing the requirements of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy in the transboundary context,

Conscious that close co-operation in sustainable using and managing international river basins contributes to strengthening good neighbourly relations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The object and scope of co-operation

1. The Parties and their institutions shall co-operate in establishing and managing international river basin districts – the Daugava, the Lielupe, and the Venta, including assigning shared ground waters to the international river basin districts, in the following basic fields:

- establishment of working groups for the implementation of common actions agreed;
- setting up goals and elaboration of co-operation programmes to facilitate achieving good surface and groundwater status in the international river basin districts
- information exchange, data, maps;
- harmonisation of characterisation (typology) of water bodies and water status classification;
- organisation of transboundary monitoring;
- co-ordination of programmes of measures for the international river basin districts;
- co-ordination of activities with the aim of producing a single international river basin management plan for each international river basin district.

2. National parts of respective international river basin districts are determined by national legislation.

3. Sustainable management of the international river basin districts, referred to in Paragraph 1, in order to achieve good surface and groundwater status pursuant to the requirements of the EU water sector directives as well as the other international conventions (e.g. UNECE Convention on Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes), securing the principle of sustainable development, falls within the scope of the co-operation provided in this Protocol.

4. Common actions will be prioritised and agreed during Working Groups (see Article 2) meetings and set up in the plan of Working Groups for each year.

Article 2

Working Groups

1. Seeking to implement common actions in international river basin districts referred to in Article 1, the Parties shall establish Working Groups, which shall be formed from the delegates designated by the Parties. The Parties shall nominate Chairmen for the Working Groups. The Working Groups shall be composed on the basis of parity.

2. The Working Groups shall meet at the request of either Party at the meetings to be held alternately in the territories of the Parties.

3. Both the Chairmen nominated by each Party shall approve the rules of procedure of the Working Groups.

4. A meeting of the Working Groups shall be convened and chaired by the Co-chairman of the Party, on the territory of whose state the meeting is to take place.

5. English or Russian shall be the working language of the Working Groups.

6. Minutes shall be taken of any and all the meetings of the Working Groups. Minutes shall be taken in two copies, in the English or Russian language. Both the Co-chairmen shall sign the minutes.

7. The Parties shall inform each other about their designated delegates for the Working Groups within 2 months after this Protocol enters into force.

8. The Working Groups may establish specific sub-groups to deal with specific matters of joint water resources management.

Article 3

Exchange of Information, Monitoring, and Harmonisation of Activities

1. The Parties shall co-ordinate the programmes designated to monitor the respective international river basin districts and shall harmonise the methods of laboratory analysis.

2. The Parties shall exchange information and data necessary to establish and manage the international river basin districts referred to in Article 1.

3. The Working Groups shall set forth the conditions for the exchange of the above mentioned information and data.

4. The Working Groups shall organise and co-ordinate the determination and selection of the basic goals and the harmonisation of the activities aimed at achieving these goals.

Article 4

Action plans and reports

1. The main actions of co-operation for each year shall be envisaged in Working Groups meetings and approved by annual ministerial meetings. The actions shall be included in annual plans of the ministries. After the adoption of the first river basin management plan, the Parties may agree on longer planning period.

2. Chairmen representing both the Parties shall make a report on the completion of the action plan for the previous year at annual ministerial meetings.

Article 5

Final provisions

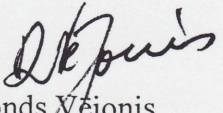
1. The Technical Protocol shall enter into force upon signing by Authorised Representatives of the Parties.

2. On the basis of a mutual written agreement between the Parties, the provisions of the Protocol can be amended and supplemented, the amendments and supplements shall be legalised by separate protocols. These protocols become an integral part of this Protocol and will enter into force according to Paragraph 1 of this Article.

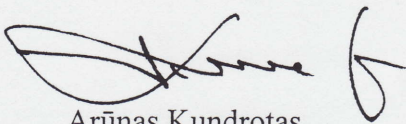
3. This Protocol shall remain in force unless it is terminated by one of the Parties. In that case, the termination of the Protocol shall take effect six months after the other Party has been notified about it.

DONE in three originals in on *24 October* 2003, each in the Latvian, Lithuanian and English languages, each text being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of the Environment
of the Republic of Latvia


Raimonds Vējonis
Minister of the Environment

For the Ministry of Environment
of the Republic of Lithuania


Arūnas Kundrotas
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