

Hungarian participation in transboundary water management

László Kóthay and Kálmán Papp

Managing Director, VITUKI
1095 Budapest, Kvassay Jenő út 1.
kothay.laszlo@vituki.hu

International Coordinator, National Directorate for Water and Environment
1012 Budapest, Márvány utca 1/D Hungary
papp.kalman@vkk.hu

The geomorphological circumstances of Hungary in the Carpathian Basin involve the need for international cooperation to solve water management tasks. 96 % of surface water arrives from abroad to Hungary. Flood protection, water pollution, water resources management were the main topic of the first bilateral transboundary agreements.

Short introduction of history and speciality of the bilateral government agreements (the conclusion of agreements started after the Trianon Treaty, changes after the Paris Treaty and latest changes after formulating new democratic states in the region). The connection between bilateral agreements and multilateral conventions like Helsinki Convention etc.

International conventions as basis for more broader cooperation (Belgrade Convention, Sofia Convention in connection river Danube). The Belgrade Convention signed in 1948 dealt with the regime of navigation on the Danube and by this with the pollution caused by navigation.

The „Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River” was concluded in Sofia in 1994 and came into force in 1998. It created the International Commission for the Protection of River Danube (ICPDR) which coordinates the multilateral cooperation in the Danube basin.

Short introduction of the activities of ICPDR, new challenges created by the Water Framework Directive and cooperation for achieving good ecological status in the Danube basin. Preparation of River Basin Management Plan in the Danube District (Roof Report).

Case of Tisza: Tisza is the biggest tributary of the Danube. Transboundary cooperation on River Tisza. (Tisza Water Forum, Ministerial MoU under ICPDR, latest developments to create a new Tisza Basin Organisation).

International projects as tools for common flood risk or river basin management (Hernád-Hornad, Körösök-Crisuri, Tisza River, Danube Flood Risk, CEframe, Flood Wise projects).

Conclusions: to solve the new challenges only possible by transboundary cooperation and relying on agreed river basin management plans.

