



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Secretariat**

EF.DEL/53/07  
23 May 2007

ENGLISH only

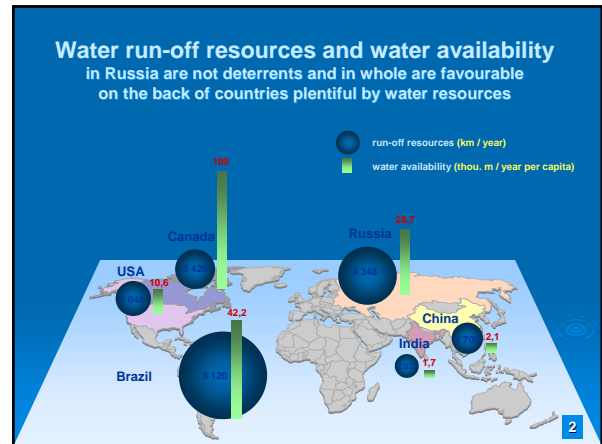
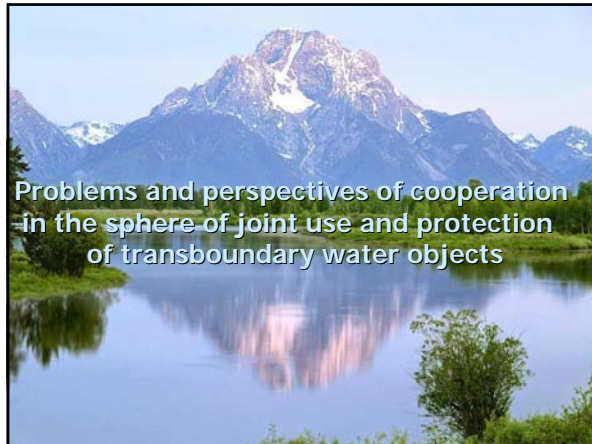
---

**Conference Services**

**Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 2:  
“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the  
OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management”  
Prague, 21 - 23 May 2007**

**Session II  
Water – transboundary co-operation**

Please find attached the presentation by Mr. Rustem Khamitov, Head of the Russian Federal Agency of Water Resources.



**Characteristics of land frontiers of the Russian Federation**

Adjoining states	Length of the frontier (km)	Existence of agreements on transboundary water objects	Adjoining states	Length of the frontier (km)	Existence of agreements on transboundary water objects
1.Norway	167	yes	8.Ukraine	1576	yes
2.Finland	1313	yes	9.Georgia	723	no
3.Estonia	294	yes	10.Azerbaijan	284	no
4.Latvia	217	no	11.Kazakhstan	6846	yes
5.Lithuania	227	no	12.China	3145	no
6.Poland	208	no	13.Mongolia	3441	yes
7.Byelorussia	959	yes	14.Northern Korea	19	no

**Length of frontiers**

- The total length of frontiers of Russia is 60933 km, from which:
- **7141 km** goes on rivers,
- **475 km** goes on lakes,
- **38807 km** goes on seas

- The main problems in basins of transboundary water objects**
1. Water pollution
  2. Lack of water resources
  3. Redistribution of water resources of transboundary water objects
  4. Floods
  5. Unfavourable bed-movements
  6. Insufficiently developed monitoring points network
  7. Unsatisfactory providing with hydrological forecasts

Cooperation in the sphere of protection and rational use of transboundary water objects is realized within the framework of Agreements (bilateral and multilateral), signed in accordance with Convention of the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes

7

The Russian Federation signed bilateral agreements on protection and rational use of transboundary waters with the following countries:

- Finland (1964);
- Ukraine (1992);
- Kazakhstan (1992);
- Mongolia (1995);
- Estonia (1997);
- Byelorussia (2002).

8

The main directions of cooperation of states in the sphere of protection and use of transboundary water objects

The realization of liabilities assumed by the parties and resulting from intergovernmental agreements is accomplished within the framework of Joint commissions on protection and rational use of transboundary water objects on the main directions of cooperation:

- Integrated water resources management;
- Monitoring and evaluation of conditions of transboundary water objects and scientific-applied researches.

9

In a number of cases we have to build mutual relations in the sphere of protection and rational use of transboundary watercourses in conditions of lack of essential normative legal base.

Particularly, these are the problems of redistribution of the part of water resources of transboundary water objects in Azerbaijan and China.

10

### Russia - Finland

- Activity of the Joint Russian-Finnish Commission on the Use of Frontier Water Systems exemplifies the long-term efficient international cooperation
- The Commission considers questions of water reservoirs regulation, work of hydroelectric power stations, solution of ecological problems, of supply of the population with drinking water, fishery, interaction of frontier services
- Web-site of the Commission [www.rajavesikomissio.fi](http://www.rajavesikomissio.fi) was created and successfully functions

11

### Russia - Kazakhstan

- Fruitful work is based on principles of mutual understanding and cooperation
- The Russian-Kazakhstan Commission on Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Water Objects regulates questions of water reservoirs function, ecological safety, monitoring

12

Solution of the problem with the People's Republic of China concerning with transboundary transfer of polluted waters is a complex problem which includes the following points:

- organization of monitoring of water quality of transboundary water objects;
- creation of organizational decision mechanism, directed on the protection of water objects;
- formation of the normative base for the functioning of this complex.

13

## Russia - China

- Activization of the work in the sphere of protection of transboundary water objects
- Working groups on monitoring of Amur, Argun rivers and Khanka lake were created and began to work
- Russian-Chinese consultations on the project of the Agreement with China about cooperation in the sphere of protection and rational use of transboundary water objects are conducted

14

## The Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC)

- Countries-participants:  
Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- Year of creation – 2000
- The aim of the creation is development of combined economic potential.
- Within the framework of this aim, leaders of the Community states put the task of development, acceptance and fulfilment of the Conception of Efficient Use of Water-Energy Resources of the Central Asian Region.

15

## What does water mean for the Central Asia?

- From 1960 till 2000:
- the population has increased in 2,9 times;
  - square of irrigated lands has increased in 1,8 times;
  - water withdrawal from transboundary rivers has increased from 52% to more than 100 % of water run-off;
  - irrigated farming takes off more than 90% of water run-off and gives about 1/3 of the Gross Domestic Product;
  - transboundary dependence on water resources of the states located in the lower flow of rivers is more than 50%

The consequence - Aral crisis

The main problem - difference of interests of the states located in the upper (energy) and lower (irrigation) flows of the rivers.

The solution – coordinated regional policy and sustainable functioning of the scheme of water-energy exchange, joint developing of hydroelectric potential.

16

**The Russian Federation considers that it is appropriate to create**

**The Eurasian Water Centre**



## The main tasks of the Eurasian Water Centre:

- development of normative legal base of the cooperation on use and protection of water objects;
- creation of international database of water resources;
- preparation of recommendations on rational use and protection of water resources on the regional and national levels;
- prevention of conflict situations in the basins of transboundary rivers;
- interaction with international organizations on the problems of water resources management.

18

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**