



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

**TENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM  
ON THE COOPERATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND THE  
PROTECTION OF QUALITY OF WATER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OSCE**

**THIRD PREPARATORY SEMINAR  
BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, 15-16 APRIL 2002**

# CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

**THIRD PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE TENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM  
BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, 15 AND 16 APRIL 2002**

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# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

## The Secretariat

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities

Vienna, 23 April 2002

### **SUMMARY OF THE THIRD PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE TENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM ON “CO-OPERATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND THE PROTECTION OF QUALITY OF WATER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OSCE”, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, 15-16 APRIL 2002**

#### **1. OUTCOME**

The Baku seminar, the third held in preparation for the OSCE's Tenth Economic Forum, promoted technical co-operation and supported existing mechanisms and frameworks aimed at assessing the security implications of pollution and water management in river basins. Participants considered solutions to identified environmental problems and discussed the implementation of agreements at local, regional, national and international level.

A number of ideas and recommendations emerged during the discussions:

- With particular regard to international co-operation on water-related matters, the establishment of a South Caucasus consulting body of heads of organisations dealing with environmental issues was proposed.
- Participants requested international assistance in elaborating national legislation.
- The main water polluters in the region should be exposed to international control and there was a call for all Governments to ratify relevant international conventions. The establishment of a regional water inventory was seen as obligatory by many participants.
- Participants stressed the importance of the development of regional surface monitoring systems. International assistance should set a frame for bringing the multitude of endeavours on national levels in compliance with each other. The OSCE and competent international organisations were requested to play a guiding and supporting role in establishing national monitoring systems and working links between them.
- It was proposed to maintain a co-ordinated international scientific network on regional water quality issues with the special co-ordinating help of international organisations. Public environmental information centres could play an effective role.
- Existing inventories of trans-boundary aquifers are to be developed. Corresponding monitoring has to be established. These actions could be absorbed within ongoing international research projects on global and regional water issues.
- Capitalizing on its broad credibility and using its field offices, the OSCE can promote and facilitate dialogue and co-operation on environmental issues among interested parties thus facilitating a process of consensus building.

- Co-operation and dialogue on water pollution might be a good starting point, as pollution affects quality and quality diminishes quantity. Here the OSCE would build on its existing links between technical and economic issues and security.
- The OSCE should make available the results of this seminar and of the 10<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum to the ongoing preparations for the Kiev Ministerial in May 2003 in the framework of the Environment for Europe process especially in view of the component on environment and security.
- OSCE should continue its work in promoting transparency and good governance. Transparency and democracy enhance legitimacy and minimize gross misuse and sectoral mismanagement of scarce water resources. Non-transparent activities give rise to conflict.
- Participants stressed the importance of the EU Water Framework Directive as a best practice and a means to facilitate the transfer of know-how.
- Participants recommended that the OSCE promote regional discussions to develop a culture of mutual respect and problem solving.
- Participants called upon the OSCE to facilitate and enhance dialogue at the professional level.

Concrete and **“quick start” initiatives**, relevant to the above recommendations, were also considered. The OCEEA will follow up on the proposals to ensure further elaboration and implementation.

- The Director of the Institute for Shared Aquifers Resources Management of London invited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to develop parallel case study projects on shared aquifers. The outcomes of the projects would consist of: standardised inventory of aquifer resources (database); a network of scientists and NGOs with required expertise for the assessment and management of resources; and enhanced institution capacity. Armenian and Azerbaijani delegates supported the idea of developing a parallel programme.
- The lack of reliable and standardised data on pollution sources and pollution levels can cause tensions. With the provision of expertise of the Oregon State University, the possibility of initiating a trilateral monitoring of water resources with the objective of increasing local technical capabilities, establishing standard sampling, analysis and data management techniques and creating a model sharing system accessible by internet, was discussed. The methodology, including sample and data collection preparation, training, expeditions, laboratory analysis and data management and watershed management infrastructure and system development, is already elaborated and the project only needs agreement and funding to get started. The initiative received large support by participants.
- The Portuguese Chairmanship suggested the idea of twinning river basins from EU and non-EU OSCE participating states and jointly develop river basin management plans for those river basins. Twinning of river basins would facilitate the transfer of know how and technologies, to address concrete problems and would enable joint capacity building. The idea was welcomed by the European Commission.
- The Helsinki University of Technology has proposed to develop a comprehensive analysis of the role of water in the regional security, stability and development context in the South Caucasus. A book should be published by the end of 2003.

## 2. SUMMARY

The preparatory seminar was organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on behalf of the Portuguese Chairmanship of the OSCE and with the support of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OSCE presences in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

It drew more than 150 participants from 26 of the OSCE's participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, 7 OSCE field presences, the European Commission, the International Waters Assessment Association of Hydrogeologists, the Commission for Transboundary Aquifers (IAH TARM), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, UN/ECE, UNESCO, United Nations Development Programme, EU/TACIS and USAID. More than 30 NGO's such as representatives from the Regional Environment Center - Caucasus, the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly, the Eurasia Foundation, the Open Society Institute, Action against Hunger, MERCY Corps participated actively in the debates.

**Opening Session:** The promotion of co-ordination on basin water management can function as a catalyst for confidence building. On the other hand, the absence of any effective water management institution or agreement on transboundary waters can create conditions for allowing water resources to become cause of tension, said Mr. Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The OSCE has the capacity to enhance dialogue and promote the search for new forward thinking approaches to facilitate co-operation on water management, he added.

Mr. Nadim Kazibekov, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of Amelioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, welcomed the collaboration with international organizations which would facilitate the adoption of a number of important legal instruments as well as programmes in the field of environmental protection, rational use of water resources, prevention of their pollution and depletion. Mr. Kazibekov was confident the seminar and its outcomes would have a positive impact ensuring water resources protection as well as their rational use.

Prof. Goncalves Henriquez, Director General of the Portuguese Ministry of Environment argued that all concrete decisions on water protection and its sustainable use must be based upon the recognition of river basins as natural units. All waters within a river basin, encompassing inland surface waters and groundwaters, coastal waters and transition waters are inter-linked. Prof. Henriquez then stressed that all activities developed within a river basin interact with the waters of that river basin, irrespective of any administrative or political boundaries. Therefore, sound water policies must be based on: (i) setting reasonable water quality objectives for all waters in a river basin; (ii) establishing feasible programmes of measures to achieve those objectives efficiently, recognizing that water quality and the amount of water abstracted from water bodies are closely linked aspects that must be taken into account in water policies; and (iii) ensuring co-operation of all water users within the river basin and of the authorities of the different administrative units or States sharing the river basin. The lack of such co-operation is a cause of potential conflict among water users, social groups or States sharing the same river basin, particularly in regions where water is scarce or during extended periods of drought, he concluded.

Prof. Aaron Wolf of the Oregon State University recalled that in the last 50 years only 37 acute disputes took place while, during the same period, 157 treaties were negotiated and signed. Prof. Wolf also underlined that the total number of water related events between nations are likewise weighted towards co-operation: 507 conflict-related events versus 1,228 co-operative, implying that violence over water is neither strategically rational, hydrographically effective, nor economically viable. Prof. Wolf added that some of the most vociferous enemies around the

world have negotiated water agreements or are in the process of doing so, and the institutions they have created frequently prove to be resilient over time and during periods of otherwise strained relations. The Mekong Committee, for example, has functioned since 1957, exchanging data throughout the Vietnam War. Secret "picnic table" talks on co-operation on water management have been held between Israel and Jordan since the unsuccessful Johnston negotiations of 1953-55, even as these riparians until only recently were in a legal state of war. Lastly, Prof. Wolf argued that as a result of his studies on the parameters often used as indicators of potential conflict, institutional capacity is as important, if not more so, than the physical aspects of a water system in explaining tensions. It is when the rate of change within a basin exceeds the institutional capacity to absorb that change where we find tensions. He also added that despite the tensions inherent in the international setting, riparians have shown tremendous creativity in approaching regional development, often through preventive diplomacy, and the creation of "baskets of benefits" which allow for positive-sum, integrative allocations of joint gains. The OSCE, argued Prof. Wolf, is well placed to facilitate and promote such positive outcomes.

**Working Groups and Plenary:** Working Group's A agenda included presentations and discussion on (a) economic and social aspects of the protection of water quality, (b) monitoring of water resources and (c) the efficient use and the protection of common water resources. In addition, the group examined the topics of (d) regional co-operation on water management with special reference to (e) grass-roots co-operation and (f) the international community's assistance in regional water issues.

The discussion led to an exchange of views on technical and legal issues as well as general problems like the influence of water and water quality on environmental balance, economic prosperity and social welfare. The direct connection between the quality of water and the quality of social life was emphasised. Quantitative limitations of the use of water were shown against the background of ecological balance. Conversely, attention was paid to legal and political prerequisites for the solution of regional water-related issues. Governmental and non-governmental participants from the region took particular note of the close links between territorial and regional matters and their influence on the use and quality of common water resources and, finally, sustainable development throughout the South Caucasus. It was understood that mutual respect has to be paid to the positions of neighbouring countries. The solution to problems of high security-relevance, such as the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water, strongly depends on the state of relations between neighbouring, littoral and riparian states.

Working Group's B agenda included presentations and discussion on (a) the capacity of legal implementing infrastructures and utilizing international agreements for the purpose of security building, (b) the interstate water commissions as institutions of regional co-operation and (c) the EU partnership process.

Participants evaluated the difficulties in implementing agreements especially in relation to the required national legislation adjustments. Participants also discussed conventions, in particular those elaborated by the UNECE, which include features on consultation mechanisms, technical exchanges, mutual assistance, joint assessment and public participation and are therefore preventive instruments by design. While considering interstate water commissions, participants elaborated on optimal basin management regimes. The possibility of sharing the experience in the elaboration and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive with EU partner countries was also considered.

In the Plenary Session on the role of NGOs in the promotion of basin co-operation, participants generally agreed that NGOs' can function as a catalyst for broader confidence building and that community based initiatives have by nature no border limitations.

Throughout presentations and discussions it was stressed that no interstate co-operation on transboundary water resources management can be effective unless it has broad public support among various stakeholder groups, including NGOs. The uniqueness of NGOs is demonstrated by their ability to provide a link between the government and the public, to serve as advocates for change and as a tool for public participation in decision making.

**Closing Session:** Mr. Fikret Pashayev, talking on behalf of the host country, welcomed the opportunity provided by the OSCE to discuss water related issues in the frame of the 55 countries, therefore providing the possibility for sharing best practices and success stories. Mr. Pashayev also expressed the hope that the concrete outcomes of the preparatory seminar would be taken into account by donor organizations and called upon the OSCE to promote the implementation of the proposals made during the discussions.

In his closing remarks Mr. Joao Bernardo Weinstein, representative of the CiO, argued that talking about issues so complex as water and discussing them in a positive and co-operative spirit can help the definition and promotion of economic and environmental policies in the OSCE area. Policies that can make a difference in establishing confidence and creating good neighborly relations will help to implement the security concept of our Organization in a comprehensive manner. Mr. Weinstein also highlighted that beyond its status as a privileged instrument of international co-operation, being it either in terms of management, or in terms of use and protection, water related issues could represent, in themselves, confidence building measures.

Following the reports by the rapporteurs (complete text is attached), a number of delegations took the floor.

The Spanish delegation/EU Presidency noted that holding the Seminar in Baku was a very useful exercise as it provided the opportunity to discuss regional co-operation in water management and the role the OSCE can play in areas where political antagonism creates a difficult atmosphere for such co-operation.

The Swedish delegation underlined that although the interest and responsibility for regional co-operation on transboundary water management issues based on the river basin approach lie with the countries and stakeholders concerned, there is also clearly a need for external support. “We have heard many interesting presentations of the existence and needs in regard to such support from the international community during this meeting in regard to the region of South Caucasus and the Caspian Sea region. We hope some of the proposal will be followed up through actions ad projects by the OSCE, in cooperation with other relevant actors” said the delegate.

The Georgian delegation recalled that since the Istanbul Summit the OSCE has effectively engaged in environmental activities and underlined the capacities of the OSCE in this respect and invited to focus more on the operational aspects of co-operation.

The complete closing Statements and recommendations of the US, Armenian, Romanian and Turkish delegations are annexed to the document.

## OPENING PLENARY

### Welcoming remarks

by **Mr. Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Mr. Kazibekov,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues and guests,

I would like to welcome all of you to the third preparatory seminar for the Tenth OSCE Economic Forum. It is a privilege for me to chair, in my new capacity as Co-ordinator of OSCE economic and environmental activities, this very important event. I am confident that through the promotion of technical environmental co-operation, this meeting will constitute a further step forward in the process of regional dialogue in the Caucasus.

I would like to welcome **Mr. Nadim Kazibekov**, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Amelioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and thank the Azerbaijan authorities for hosting this seminar. Please also allow me to thank for their support in preparing this meeting Amb. Burkard, Amb. Reeve, Amb. Lacombe and their respective staffs. A special thank you goes to the Portuguese Chairmanship of the OSCE, represented at this table by Prof. Goncalves Henriques, Director of the International Relations Department, from the Portuguese Ministry for the Environment and Land Use Planning. I would also like to thank warmly the European Commission and the Dutch delegation for their financial support. Without their resources, the organization of this event would have not been possible. Last but not least, I would like to express particular appreciation to the delegations to the OSCE of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan for the useful advise they have provided to our office in the preparations of this meeting.

The promotion of co-ordination on basin water management can function as a catalyst for confidence building and enhanced co-operation. On the other hand, the absence of any effective water management institution or agreement on transboundary waters can create conditions for allowing water resources to become cause of tensions.

Since 1950, the renewable supply of water per person has fallen 58%, as the world population has swelled from 2.5 billion to 6 billion. By 2025, nearly a third of the world's expected population will live in regions facing severe water scarcity. The main reason for global scarcity of water is increased demand. The UN's Global Environmental Outlook from 2000 reported that the world water cycle seems unlikely to be able to cope with demands that will be made of it in the coming decades. Increases in pollution are also taking a toll. In many parts of the world, rivers and lakes are so polluted that their water is unfit even for industrial use.

Increasing water scarcity can easily translate into heightened competition for water between cities and farms, between neighbouring states and provinces, and at times between nations, with potentially negative repercussions on internal and regional stability.

In the past 20 years the number of river basins shared by more than one country has increased from 214 to 261.



It is therefore of utmost importance for an organization such as the OSCE, which aims at promoting comprehensive security, to tackle issues related to co-operation for the sustainable use and protection of quality of water.

This is why the enhanced dialogue and the search of new forward thinking to co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia after the signing, during the first preparatory seminar in Belgrade, of a “letter of intent” on the implementation of a project on the Sava River, is a clear example of the facilitator role the OSCE can play. It also illustrates the positive repercussions that a project aiming at a co-operative regional approach to environmental reconstruction, fostering sound environmental management and promoting long term sustainable development, can have on regional stability.

We believe that the next two days will offer an excellent opportunity to:

- Foster confidence building through the promotion of technical co-operation;
- Support existing mechanisms and frameworks aimed at assessing the security implications of pollution and water management in border rivers and water reservoirs;
- Consider solutions to solve identified problems, and to facilitate the implementation of co-operation agreements at local, regional, national and international level.

In the two working groups we will analyse and discuss the protection of quality of water and regional co-operation on water management. We will evaluate and debate international water conventions and agreements, interstate water commissions as institutions of regional co-operation and the EU partnership process. Lastly, we will consider in the plenary of tomorrow morning the role of NGOs in promoting basin co-operation.

I am confident that we will spend two highly stimulating days together and I would like to ask whether at this point any delegation or participant would like to take the floor.

## OPENING PLENARY

### Keynote Speech

#### **Co-operation for the Protection of Water Resources and Sustainable Water Management**

**Prof. António Gonçalves Henriques**

Director General, Office for International Relations,

Ministry for the Environment and Land Use Planning of Portugal.

Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the Technical University of Lisbon.

*“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such”*. This is the first recital of the EU Water Framework Directive, which, I am sure, reaches general consensus among the OSCE Member States.

The EU Water Framework Directive sets common principles and provides for an overall framework for action to protect and ensure sustainable use of water in all EU Member States.

While recognising that the supply of water is a service of general interest, taking into account that water is an essential element for human life and for the whole economic activity, the Directive builds upon the concept of sustainable use of water in a balanced and equitable manner. In particular, it should be stressed that access to water with good quality for satisfying basic human needs is an obligation of States derived from the need to ensure the fundamental right of every human being to dignified conditions of life. From this perspective, States must adopt and implement water policies to meet the water needs required by the socio-economic activities, ensuring that water uses are balanced and equitable.

On the other hand, water is an essential element of the natural environment and, as such, the protection of water as an intrinsic part of the natural heritage is a fundamental obligation of States. Therefore, water policies are required also to ensure that no significant harm is caused to the natural heritage, in the long term. Appropriate balance between equitable and balanced water use, on one hand, and no significant harm caused to the environment, on the other hand, is a major challenge faced by the water authorities. There are no simple and universal solutions for this challenge.

The diversity of natural conditions and socio-economic activities with specific water needs within the EU requires different approaches from the Member States to protect water and to ensure its sustainable use. That is, the decisions on concrete courses of action for the implementation and development of the common principles set in the Water Framework Directive should be taken as close as possible to the locations where water is used and to water users, and must rely upon their active participation. Any sound water policy must be based, therefore, on the co-operation among water users and the public at large, concerned with environment protection and with socio-economic development. Such co-operation is crucial in those regions where water is scarce and where the environment protection depends most on the quality and availability of water.

All concrete decisions on water protection and its sustainable use must be based upon the recognition of river basins as natural units. All waters within a river basin, encompassing inland surface waters and groundwaters, coastal waters and transition waters are inter-linked. All activities developed within a river basin interact with the waters of that river basin, irrespective

of any administrative or political boundaries. Therefore, sound water policies must be based on: (i) setting reasonable water quality objectives for all waters in a river basin; (ii) establishing feasible programmes of measures to achieve those objectives efficiently, recognising that water quality and the amount of water abstracted from water bodies are closely linked aspects that must be taken into account in water policies; and (iii) ensuring co-operation of all water users within the river basin and of the authorities of the different administrative units or States sharing the river basin. The lack of such co-operation is a cause of potential conflict among water users, social groups or States sharing the same river basin, particularly in regions where water is scarce or during extended periods of drought.

Moreover, the coherence of water policies relies on the integration of the issues relating to the protection of water bodies and sustainable water use into the sectoral policies, such as agriculture, fisheries, industry, regional planning, urban development and tourism, to name just a few. That is, water policies should not be faced as stand alone policies.

The EU Water Framework Directive requires that Member States identify river basin districts, combining, when appropriate, small river basins or large river basins with neighbouring small river basins, and establish a river basin management plan for each river basin district. Such river basin management plans must set the environmental objectives for all the waters bodies within the river basin district and the programmes of measures to achieve these environmental objectives. The unity of groundwater bodies should not be disregarded; particular care should be taken when identifying river basin districts, to ensure that groundwater bodies are not split into more than one river basin district.

For those river basins that are shared by two or more Member States, the EU Water Framework Directive requires that, whenever it is not possible to develop a single river basin management plan covering the whole river basin, Member States set environment objectives and programmes of measures in a co-ordinated manner to ensure their coherence for the whole river basin.

The role of public participation is very important, in this process. The EU Water Framework Directive requires effective public participation in the several phases of the development of river basin management plans and in the evaluation of its implementation in order to ensure co-operation among all stakeholders in the river basin.

The implementation of the Water Framework Directive is an enormous challenge for all EU Member States. Recognising this challenge, Member States agreed to develop a collaborative process for such implementation, which is an innovative approach to the implementation of EU law.

I believe that such experience of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, now being launched, ought to be shared with others, namely with the Member States of the OSCE. A possible way to share this experience is through twining river basins from EU and non-EU OSCE Member States and to jointly develop river basin management plans for those river basins. Twining of river basins would facilitate the transfer of know-how and technologies to address concrete problems and would enable joint capacity building.

This process of twining river basins would be, undoubtedly, a key contribution for the economic development, social cohesion and environment protection in the OSCE region. In other words, it would enhance the co-operation and security among the OSCE Member States.

## OPENING PLENARY

### Welcoming Address

**by Mr. Nadim Kazibekov, First Deputy Chairman, State Committee of Amelioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to convey to you our very warm greetings.

As we are all aware, this meeting will focus on issues related to the protection of quality of water and sustainable utilization of water resources of countries in transition.

The issues of rational use and protection of water resources are of great importance inasmuch as 70 per cent of all the surface water resources are formed beyond the bounds of Azerbaijan. One should particularly emphasise that Kura in no country of the basin besides Azerbaijan, is a source of drinking water supplies. Nowadays, 75 per cent of the population of the Republic consumes Kura water for economic and drinking purposes. It is indeed a crucial source of life and correspondingly its pollution is a national calamity. Any deterioration of water quality is a challenge for population health.

To our regret, the Kura basin waters influx from the territory of riparian states to our Republic is severely polluted and to this end, it is of paramount importance that actions of concerned countries are oriented to the protection of water quality of the basin.

As you are aware, issues related to the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes between states are governed in conformity with the Helsinki Convention (1992), which was ratified by Azerbaijan in 2000. The Helsinki Convention's basic premise is to determine the commitments of stakeholders on prevention, limitation and reduction of any transboundary impacts, particularly on water pollution, which implies environmentally sound and rational management and conservation of water resources as well as environmental protection.

One should particularly note that the scale of international assistance in the protection of Kura basin is not sufficient. We hope that the critical situation of the Kura basin would have a resource oriented repercussion on and from the international donor community.

We welcome the collaboration with international organizations which facilitates the adoption of a number of important legal instruments as well as programmes in the field of environmental protection, rational use of water resources, prevention of their pollution and depletion.

A National Programme on environmentally sustainable socio-economic development endorsing the principal actions to be undertaken for the protection and sustainable utilization of water resources is currently under elaboration.

I feel confident that this seminar and its outcomes will have a positive impact ensuring water resources protection, their rational and sustainable utilization.

To conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all the delegates fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.

**WORKING GROUP A**  
**TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE**  
**QUALITY OF WATER IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES IN THE REGION BETWEEN THE BLACK SEA**  
**AND THE CASPIAN SEA**

**Summary by Mr. Frank Evers, CORE OSCE Research Center**

Discussions in Working Group A centred on prospects of technical co-operation in the sustainable use and protection of the quality of water in transition countries in the region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

The Working Group's agenda included presentations and discussion on (a) economic and social aspects of the protection of water quality, (b) monitoring of water resources and (c) the efficient use and the protection of common water resources. In addition, the group examined the topics of (d) regional co-operation on water management with special reference to (e) grass-roots co-operation and (f) the international community's assistance in regional water issues.

The discussion led to an exchange of views on technical and legal issues as well as general problems like the influence of water and water quality on environmental balance, economic prosperity and social welfare. The direct connection between the quality of water and the quality of social life was emphasised. Quantitative limitations of the use of water were shown against the background of ecological balance. Conversely, attention was paid to legal and political prerequisites for the solution of regional water-related issues. Governmental and non-governmental participants from the region took particular note of the close links between territorial and regional matters and their influence on the use and quality of common water resources and, finally, sustainable development throughout the South Caucasus. It was understood that mutual respect has to be paid to the positions of neighbouring countries. The solution to problems of high security-relevance, such as the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water, strongly depends on the state of relations between neighbouring, littoral and riparian states.

**Regional security-relevance of water-related issues.** Against the background of limited and shrinking water capacities in the South Caucasus, attention was paid to the increasing security-relevance of agreeing on national and international regulations on the use of common watercourses and water reservoirs.

Attention was drawn to the considerable number of regional rivers at the South Caucasus being of international use. An increasing share of transit water was reported to be in use by transit countries and not reach its natural destination. It was emphasised that legal steps need to be taken and awareness-raising activities should be conducted in order to highlight the security-relevance of the use of water resources and water quality at the South Caucasus. Great interest was expressed in support of international co-operation, throughout the South Caucasus, particularly by non-governmental representatives. For mutual benefit, attention should be paid to new techniques and technologies of ensuring water quality throughout the region.

**International and non-governmental endeavours.** The discussions brought up various examples of international readiness for supporting activities in ensuring water quality and related problems. Key speeches were delivered by representatives of international organisations such as the International Association of Hydrogeologists / Commission for Transboundary Aquifers, the Global International Water Assessment, UNECE, the UNESCO Section on Sustainable Water Recourse Development, EU/Tacis and the Caspian Environment Programme (a joint effort of UNDP, UNEP, WB and Tacis) along with non-governmental representatives of Action against Hunger, and Ecostat. All the international speakers, however, emphasised the need for national

authorities to take responsibility for environmental programmes and ensure their financial sustainability.

It was proposed to utilise international organisations' activities for regulating regional water issues at the South Caucasus. In this regard, it was also proposed to strengthen the co-ordination of national and international work and to harmonise priorities.

**Examples of international and non-governmental engagement in water issues.** Various examples of international and non-governmental involvement in regional and local water-related matters illustrated ways of fruitful co-operation on various levels. Case studies of international activities were brought up with respect to international programmes and projects in the Danube River area, in the regions of the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. UNESCO gave an introduction into the Interdisciplinary Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Volga / Caspian Basin. UNECE presented its South Caucasus Co-operation Programme for Environmental Protection. An example of an activity on local levels was given with reference to the Agjabedi district of Azerbaijan. The Regional Environmental Centre "Caucasus" as a unique intergovernmental / inter-non-governmental organisation in the South Caucasus offered its capacities for conducting joint efforts on water-related issues. With particular regard to international co-operation on water-related matters, the establishment of a South Caucasus regional consulting body of heads of organisations dealing with environmental issues was proposed. Also, the need to focus national and international endeavours towards the rehabilitation of polluted areas and watercourses at the South Caucasus was emphasised. It was requested to provide international assistance in elaborating national legislation. Moreover, use has to be made of good international experience in application to the Kura – Araks Basin.

**Local levels.** Practical approaches were outlined for solving problems of the effective use of water, in particular on the level of local self-government. Water associations of villages or community-based water resource management systems were shown as examples for transferring water management and responsibility down to water user.

**Monitoring.** Of the greatest interest to the working group's participants was consistent monitoring of water resources and their quality. It was proposed to raise awareness towards the requirement of establishing international systems for monitoring of water quality (pollution) in the three South Caucasus countries. In this context, regional monitoring systems that had been in operation in earlier years could be taken as an appropriate basis or brought back into operation. The main water polluters in the region should be exposed to international control and there was a call for all Governments to ratify relevant international conventions. The establishment of a regional water inventory was seen as obligatory.

It was stated that the development of regional monitoring systems should be put under the guidance of competent international organisations. International assistance should set a frame for bringing the multitude of endeavours on national levels in compliance with each other. The OSCE and competent international organisations were requested to play a supporting role in establishing national monitoring systems and working links between them.

**Scientific co-operation.** Scientific co-operation was shown as a necessary instrument for ensuring appropriate analyses of water-related problems in the region. International organisations were requested to support national and cross-border endeavours of scientists throughout the South Caucasus region. It was proposed to maintain a co-ordinated international scientific network on regional water quality issues with the special co-ordinating help of international organisations. Public environmental information centres could play an effective role.

**Aquifers.** Special attention was drawn to the need of legally regulating cross-border underground water resources. It was felt that internationally shared trans-boundary aquifer

recourses should become subjects to treaties and other regulations of international law. Existing inventories of trans-boundary aquifers are to be developed. Corresponding monitoring has to be established. These actions could be absorbed within ongoing international research projects on global and regional water issues.

**WORKING GROUP B**  
**INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE USE AND THE  
PROTECTION OF QUALITY OF WATER**

**Summary by Ms. Katherine Brucker, United States Mission to the OSCE**

**Capacity of Implementing Infrastructures and Utilizing International Agreements for the Purpose of Security Building**

Historically, water agreements have focussed on quantity; they thus become a zero sum game – one party's gain is the others' loss. Such agreements are more likely to be broken than those based on quality of water; these lead to cooperation and multiple benefits. As quality of water declines, so does the available quantity of useable water, so quality is an important determinant of quantity. Increasingly, water agreements seek to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.

States need a systematic approach to environmental protection to have a sustainable program to protect quality and quantity of water. "Equitable" use of water does not mean "equal" use, but rather implies deriving maximum benefits. There are many water agreements and conventions, all in various stages of signing, ratification and implementation. International agreements are less binding than regional ones where parties must incorporate provisions into their national legislation. Agreements are only successful when they are implemented and enforced. International Commissions charged with overseeing implementation are important tools. They also do much to overcome inherent suspicions between parties through the simple day-to-day contact between technicians.

One of the most difficult aspects of implementing agreements is making the necessary changes to national legislation. National legislation prevails when it comes into conflict with international agreements, and substantial changes are often required for a country to comply with agreements it has signed. The ECE Agreements are preventative by design. Important features include: consultation mechanisms, technical exchanges, mutual assistance, joint assessment and monitoring, and public participation. Europe has yet to elaborate: policies and practices ensuring equitable and rational water use, regional rules on pollution, regional strategies to address particular problems, and procedures for dealing with hazardous materials. Internal coordination is also important; in some countries different ministries have responsibility for water use and for water quality.

**Interstate Water Commissions as Institutions of Regional Cooperation**

Successful conflict resolution, leading to sustainable and comprehensive water basin management regimes, has three stages. In initial negotiations, parties are adversarial, with each defining its "rights." This phase can last years. Parties must shift from defining "rights" to defining needs before any agreement is possible. In the best cases, parties move on to discuss "interests." In this stage comprehensive water basin management can be developed. Parties consider the "basket of benefits" and determine how to derive the greatest number of mutual benefits from the basin. This could mean constructing a dam upstream to maximize hydropower, minimize environmental damage and increase the agricultural growing season for the entire basin. If Integrated Watershed Management is politically impossible, parties should at least agree to coordinated management. A water basin management regime should have: an adaptable management structure, clear and flexible allocation, equitable distribution of the basket of benefits, detailed conflict resolution mechanism, and sustainable institutions and financing.



There are numerous obstacles to successful water basin management regimes. States in the Danube basin, for example, have greatly different per capita GDP, yet all must contribute to water protection. The poorer parties often face great expenses in harmonizing industrial production standards and pollution control measures, and in constructing water treatment facilities. Pollution control is perhaps the most important element, as pollution affects quality and poor quality diminishes quantity. The Danube Commission established working groups mandated with implementation of various aspects of the agreement. This has been essential to the success of the agreement.

The case of Romania illustrates some of the difficulties – and successes – of transition countries. As host to the longest stretch of the Danube, Romania has long had water agreements with its neighbors. These are being amended to conform to new needs and standards. Romania has focussed on sustainable solutions and has kept abreast of developments in neighboring countries to ensure its own conformity with regional measures. By focussing on solutions rather than problems, Romania and her neighbors have addressed: flood control and flood emergency measures, notification about environmental disasters, among others. In this work, the parties have endeavored to factor in all social and economic needs in finding an appropriate balance between the quality and quantity of water.

Environmental issues in general, and water issues in particular, can lead countries to cooperate when nothing else can. Because these issues involve (especially at the early stages) substantive experts rather than politicians, real progress is possible. Environmental issues will not, however, provide a basis for solving overarching disagreements and can even be subsumed by them. Still, in the Middle East, the Mekong Delta and between India and Pakistan, productive water negotiations continued during bitter conflicts. Countries have to want to cooperate with their neighbors. Absent mutual willingness to engage, outside efforts to promote and facilitate dialogue and cooperation can be difficult. When regional or bilateral cooperation is not possible, it is useful for countries to sign international agreements because these may lead to better bilateral relations.

### **The EU Partnership Process: Water Related Issues**

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) aims to protect all waters, with the goal that they achieve “good” status by 2015. The WFD reflects key properties identified by the expert speakers: comprehensive water basin management and full involvement of all interested parties, especially citizens and NGOs. It encourages water pricing policies based on region, population and sector of activity, and promotes the “polluter pays” principle. The WFD places great importance on pollution control, especially in the agricultural sector, and seeks to balance protection of water with the needs of those who use it. Working Groups and Guidelines are in place to facilitate implementation.

The EU has twinning programs for candidate countries and will soon expand this program to Africa. Further expansion to Central Asia and the Caucuses is a possibility. For non-candidate countries the WFD may still be useful, not only for its substance but also because it shows that cooperation works.

### **What Role for the OSCE?**

- Capitalizing on its broad credibility and using, its field and educational offices, the OSCE can promote and facilitate dialogue and cooperation on environmental issues among interested parties.

- Cooperation and dialogue on water pollution might be a good starting point, as pollution affects quality and quality diminishes quantity. Here the OSCE would build on its existing links between technical and economic issues and security.
- Collaboration with other environmental actors: The OSCE should make available the results of this seminar and of the 10<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum to the ongoing preparations for the Kiev Ministerial in May 2003 on the framework of the Environment for Europe process.
- Continue its work to promote transparency and good governance. Transparency and democracy enhance legitimacy and minimize gross misuse and sectoral mismanagement of scarce water resources. Non-transparent activities give rise to conflict.

**PLENARY SESSION**  
**THE ROLE OF NGOS IN PROMOTING REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

**Summary by Mr. Gianluca Rampolla, OSCE - Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities.**

Please allow me to thank Ms. Roussy for moderating the session and all speakers and participants for their contribution to the discussions.

Let me also underline that my brief report reflects only issues raised that are relevant to the theme addressed.

Participants generally agreed that NGOs' promotion of water co-operation can function as a catalyst for broader confidence building and that community based initiatives have by nature no border limitations.

Throughout presentations and discussion it was stressed that no interstate co-operation on transboundary water resources management can be effective unless it has broad public support among various stakeholder groups, including NGOs. The uniqueness of NGOs is demonstrated by their ability to provide a link between the government and the public, to serve as advocates for change and as a tool for public participation in decision making.

A number of best practices were presented.

The Trust Zone Initiative, adopted by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly as part of the Transcaucasia dialogue project was presented and the importance of informal civil society interactions was referred to as citizens' diplomacy. Within the framework of the Initiative local activists have promoted water-sharing proposals, including the restoration of vital transboundary irrigation channels.

The role of international NGOs is to promote co-operation and solidarity among civil society.

REC Caucasus created in 1998 and the KURA Araks Coalition of NGOs represent two example of success stories.

REC's goals are to assist in solving environmental regional problems, assist NGOs development and facilitate participation in decision making through regional activities and programs including information sharing, capacity building and provision of grants. Remarkable is also the efforts to enlarge the dimension of civil society cooperation demonstrated by collaboration with REC Central Asia.

The Kura-Araks coalition, formed of more than 70 Ngos , including NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and Iran, is active in collection of data, facilitation of exchange of information, public awareness and environmental education activities.

The case of ISAR, an institution was created to support Azerbaijani NGOs, was also presented,

Participants generally acknowledged that areas of potential co-operation among NGOs are:

- Creation of accessible data bases and awareness centres
- Monitoring of pollution and pollution sources
- Monitoring of international agreements and law enforcement
- Scientific research and joint case studies

- Establishment of professional networks of specialists and coalition building related to transboundary water use, management and protection.

A number of problems were also pointed to as

- Problems related to registration and
- Lack of adequate capacity

Assistance to overcome such problems was requested especially in the case of lack of capacity through the promotion of training and technology transfer

In the discussions it was suggested that NGOs provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons affected by lack of access to clean water.

It was suggested that donors funded projects be elaborated with the contribution of NGOs and Governmental Authorities. It was reminded that NGOs play a crucial role in both supporting processes decision making but also critically yet constructively checking governmental action.

Lastly, participants stressed that international organizations, including the OSCE, can assist NGOs by:

- Facilitating consensus building among main stakeholders
- Including NGOs in the implementation of development projects
- Organizing training and workshops and promote sharing of information
- Facilitating regional discussions to develop a culture of mutual respect and problem solving
- Establishing a dialogue at the professional level, utilizing intellectual potential of water specialists.

## CLOSING PLENARY

### Closing remarks

**by Mr. Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I would like to welcome you to our closing plenary session. I am very happy that you are still so numerous to attend this afternoon, in spite the temptations from the fascinating city of Baku. We come to the close of two very interesting days of discussions and I have the pleasure to start our session by giving the floor to our rapporteurs.

The consolidated summary of this seminar which will be prepared by my office and which will be circulated to all OSCE participating States, as well as to all the participants. It will also be available to all of you on the OSCE website.

Our discussions over the last days and the recommendations will be taken into account in order to structure the agenda for the upcoming Forum. There are a number of common denominators which could be found in the working sessions, whether they were dealing with issues, actors or instruments involved in the promotion of the sustainable use of water.

I believe that we heard a great number of ideas which are of specific nature and together with the Chairmanship, our OSCE field presences and partner organizations, we will analyze them for appropriate follow-up.

Recalling the argument that all decisions on water protection and its sustainable use must be based upon the recognition of river basins as natural units, I would single out, among the other ideas that were presented and discussed, the results of the studies developed by Prof. Wolf that show that despite the potential for dispute in international basins, the record of acute conflict over international water resources is historically overwhelmed by the record of co-operation. I would also like to highlight the possibility of initiating a trilateral monitoring of water resources with the objective of increasing local technical capabilities, establishing standard sampling, analysis and data management techniques and creating a model sharing system accessible by internet, that was discussed here in Baku.

I would once again like to thank the Government of Azerbaijan, for hosting this seminar in the historical city of Baku. This seminar allowed us also to gain some most valuable insights in the culture of this region.

I would also like to thank the Portuguese Chairmanship of the OSCE, and in particular Mr. Joao Bernardo Weinstein and his team, for their invaluable support. I would also like to thank the European Commission and the Dutch Government for their input and financial support in organising this event.

Our deliberations would of course not have been possible without all the participants in the event, and I would like to thank all of you for your invaluable support and contribution. I would especially like to thank our moderators, co-moderators, rapporteurs and lead speakers for engaging all of us in most stimulating discussions.

And then of course I would like to thank the Head of the OSCE Mission here in Baku, Ambassador Peter Burkhard and his dedicated staff, as well as his support and logistics team, without whom this event could not have been held.

The contributions from the OSCE Missions, as well as from the NGOs have confronted us with realities in the field and are thus of immense value for our future deliberations in Vienna, and I thank you all for it. And last, but not least, I would like to congratulate my team in Vienna and our translators for their excellent work, their patience and their dedication.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it was an honour and a great pleasure to be with all of you these two days, and I am looking forward to our continuing co-operation. Thank you and I wish all of you a safe journey to your home country.

## CLOSING PLENARY

### Closing remarks

**by Mr. João Bernardo Weinstein, Director of the OSCE Coordination Team, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal/CiO**

Firstly, on behalf of the Portuguese Chairmanship, I would like to thank the Azeri authorities for the magnificent hospitality and for the enthusiasm demonstrated, since the early stages of planning, in hosting this seminar –which is in itself a concrete way of illustrating the will to cooperate with the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE .

On the other hand, it is my pleasure to congratulate all the speakers and participants who contributed so significantly to the dynamic of the debates which took place. I'm also very pleased with the active presence of the NGO representatives, who once again, help us in better identifying the problems here discussed ---- it's important that they remain independent and act free from governmental pressures.

We also would like to thank the European Commission for its support and contribution for this event.

The occurring of this seminar –together with the previous ones, which took place in Belgrade and Zamora – allowed us to discuss and develop existing and new ideas leading to the preparation of the 10th Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague.

It is with pleasure that we acknowledge that discussing the cooperation for the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water in the context of the OSCE lead to such a good flow and exchange of information. We actually believe that talking about issues so complex as water and discussing them in a positive and cooperative spirit can help the definition and promotion of economic and environmental policies in the OSCE area. Policies that can make a difference in establishing confidence and creating

good neighborly relations, that will help to implement the security concept of our Organization in a comprehensive manner.

Beyond its status as a privileged instrument of international cooperation, being it either in terms of management, or in terms of use and protection, water related issues could represent, in themselves, confidence building measures. This point seems obvious to me, especially considering these two days of debates, where we discussed, in this context, matters pertaining specifically to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Region, counting for this effect, on the participation of several representatives, particularly from the Caucasus States, who shared with us so many examples and ideas of good practice and cooperation.

The active presence of other International Organizations, along the lines of what happened in previous seminars, constitutes an important contribution for the development of the Security and Cooperation Platform concept – which also corresponds to one of the priorities of the Portuguese Chairmanship -, allowing for the creation of synergy's and the sharing of information on good practices in the realm of the cooperation of water resources.

Therefore, having all the expectations been fulfilled, it is with great satisfaction that we can conclude that this initiative represents a step ahead for the strengthening of the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

I would like to take this opportunity, single out the presence of Mr. Marcin Swiecicky, the recently appointed Economic and Environmental Coordinator, who's activity will certainly prove essential for the strengthening of the Economic and Environmental Dimension. This is the objective that we have proposed ourselves and intend to carry it out in close cooperation with him. In fact, we had the pleasure to receive Mr. Marcin Swiecicky in Lisbon, granting us the opportunity to exchange ideas and views which proved to be very fruitful.

Before finalizing let me thank once again the organizers and the translation services that made possible this seminar.





## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

### The Secretariat

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities

Vienna, 14 March 2002

### 10<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum on

“The Co-operation for the Sustainable Use and the protection of Quality of Water  
in the Context of the OSCE”

Third Preparatory Seminar

*Baku, 15-16 April 2002*

#### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The promotion of integrated basin water management can function as a catalyst for confidence building and greater co-operation. On the other hand, the absence of any effective joint water management institution or agreement on transboundary waters can create the conditions for allowing water resources to become themselves a target in inter-state disputes.

A first preparatory seminar took place in Belgrade in November 2001 and focused on the sustainable management of international rivers and lakes in South East Europe.

The second preparatory seminar, held in Zamora, Spain in February 2002, evaluated legal and institutional instruments and best practices related to water management in the OSCE region, with special attention given to the EU Water Framework Directive.

The third preparatory seminar will focus on international technical co-operation on the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water in the region between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. International agreements and conventions on the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water as tools of international co-operation are also going to be discussed.

The Southern Caucasus offers potential for lower level, informal diplomacy to assist in the development of transboundary water sharing arrangements, also indicating that there is an important role for civil society to play.

At governmental level, a positive starting point for transboundary water resources management is the dialogue on potential bilateral water distribution agreements.

An innovative instrument to promote compliance with standards of UN conventions on water is offered by the EU Water Framework Directive. The Directive mandates the European Commission and the member states to address obstacles to water resources management on territory outside the scope of the EU water legislation. The Partnership and Co-operation Agreements signed in parallel with the Southern Caucasus states and ratified in 1999 included detailed provisions for complying with EU standards, *inter alia* in the field of environment protection with specific provisions relevant for devising water resources management arrangements. In this respect, it is important to consider the role the international community

could play in the promotion and assistance in the establishment of a permanent co-ordinating council for water distribution in the Southern Caucasus, in the full spirit of the OSCE principles.

These and other issues, such as the UNECE Environmental programme for the South Caucasus and the GTZ Programme to promote food security and regional co-operation and stability in the South Caucasus as well as initiatives on the Caspian Sea and Black Sea, are going to be presented and discussed by the participants in two parallel working groups.

More specifically, Working Group A will analyse and discuss co-operation on water for irrigation, protection of quality of water and regional co-operation on water management. Working Group B will evaluate and debate international water conventions and agreements, interstate water commissions as institutions of regional co-operation and the EU partnership process. Lastly, participants will consider in a plenary session the role of NGOs in promoting basin co-operation.

**10<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum on  
“Co-operation for the Sustainable Use and the protection of Quality of Water  
in the Context of the OSCE”**

**Third Preparatory Seminar  
Baku, Azerbaijan, 15-16 April 2002  
Hyatt Conference Center**

AGENDA

**MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2002**

**8:00 – 10:00** Registration for participants at the Hyatt Conference Center, in front of Guba Ballroom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

**10:00 – 11:30** Opening Plenary (open to the press) – Guba Ballroom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Opening remarks **Mr. Marcin Swiecicki**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Welcoming address **Mr. Nadim Kazibekov**, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of Amelioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Amb. Peter Burkhard**, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku

Keynote speech **Prof. Antonio Goncalves Henriques**, Director General, Office for International Relations, Ministry of the Environment and Land Use Planning, Portugal.  
Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office and **Dr. Paulo Canelas de Castro**, Coimbra University, Faculty of Law, Portugal

**Prof. Aaron Wolf**, Oregon State University - The importance of regional co-operation on water management for confidence building: lessons learned

Discussion

**11:30 -11:45** Coffee break

**11: 45 – 13:15**

**Working Groups A and B meet in parallel.**

**Working group A** – Technical co-operation on the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water in transition countries in the region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

**Working group B** – International agreements and conventions on the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water as tools of international co-operation.

## MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2002 (continuation)

11:45 – 13:15

### WG A Session 1 – Protection of the quality of water (Guba Ballroom)

**Moderator: Ambassador Roy Reeve**, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan

**Rapporteur: Mr. Frank Evers**, CORE- Center for OSCE Research

- economic and social aspects;

**Speakers:**

**Amb. Andrzej Kasprzyk**, Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO

**Ms. Cecile Martinez**: Action Against Hunger, Azerbaijan

- monitoring of water resources;

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Shaminder Puri**, International Association of Hydrogeologists, Commission for Transboundary Aquifers (IAH TARM)

**Mr. Kartlos Katchiashvili**, NGO “Ecostat”, Georgia

**13:30 – 14:30** Lunch hosted by the Organizer, Hyatt Conference Center, Baku Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

14:45 – 16:15

### WG A Session 2 – Protection of the quality of water (continuation) (Guba Ballroom)

**Moderator: Ambassador Roy Reeve**, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan

**Rapporteur: Mr. Frank Evers**, CORE - Center for OSCE Research

- the efficient use and the protection of common water resources.

**Speakers:**

**Prof. Felix Stolberg**, Global International Waters Assessment

**Dr. Mammed Asadov**, State Committee for Amelioration and Water Resources, Azerbaijan,

**Ms. Knarik Hovhannesyan**, Expert of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

**Ms. Asli Umar**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey

**Mr. Marina Makarova**, Water Resources Protection Department, Ministry of Environment, Georgia

### WG B Session 1 - International agreements and conventions on sustainable use and the protection of quality of water

(Caspian Room B, Hotel Hyatt Regency, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Moderator: Ambassador Peter Burkhard**, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku

**Rapporteur: Ms. Katherine Brucker**, United States Mission to the OSCE

- capacity of implementing infrastructures and utilising international agreements for the purpose of security building.

**Speakers:**

**Prof. Ashok Swain**, Uppsala University, Sweden

**Prof. Branko Bosnjakovic**, Est Consulting and University of Rijeka.

**Mr. Samir Isayev**, Environmental Law Center, Azerbaijan

**Ms. Aida Iskoyan**, Environmental Protection Advocacy Center, Armenia

### WG B Session 2 – Interstate water commissions as institutions of regional co-operation (Caspian Room B)

**Moderator: Ambassador Peter Burkhard**, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku

**Rapporteur: Ms. Katherine Brucker**, United States Mission to the OSCE

- best practices: (the Danube Commission, Black Sea)

**Speakers:**

**Prof. Aaron Wolf**, Oregon State University

**Mr. Joachim Bendow**, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

**Ms. Anemarie Ciurea**, Ministry of Water and Environmental Protection, Romania.

## **MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2002 (continuation)**

**16:15 – 16:30** Coffee break

**16:30 – 18:30**

### **WG A Session 3 – Regional co-operation on water management** (Guba Ballroom)

**Moderator: Ambassador Roy Reeve**, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan

**Rapporteur: Mr. Frank Evers**, CORE - Center for OSCE Research

**Speakers:**

- promotion of grass root co-operation

**Prof. Khosrow Saidi**, Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, Georgia

**Mr. Fikret Pashayev**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan

- the international community's assistance in regional water issues

**Mr. Andreas Kahnert**, UN/ECE

**Mr. Janos Bogardi**, UNESCO

**Mr. Andy Huckbody**, EU/TACIS, EU Advisor: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

**Mr. Timothy Turner**, Caspian Environmental Center, Azerbaijan

**20:00 – 22:00** Dinner hosted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at the Gulustan Palace.

## **TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2002**

**9:00 – 10:00**

### **WG B Session 3 – The EU partnership process: water related issues** (Guba Ballroom)

**Moderator: Ambassador Peter Burkhard**, Head of OSCE Office in Baku

**Rapporteur: Ms. Katherine Brucker**, United States Mission to the OSCE

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Gilbert Dubois**, Head of Unit B3, European Commission

**10:00 – 10:10** Coffee Break

**10:15 – 12:15**

### **Plenary Session – The role of NGOs in promoting regional co-operation on water** (Guba Ballroom)

- the universal character of problems of sustainable use and the protection of quality of water in the post-Soviet region, in particular the South Caucasus;
- best practices in non-governmental national and cross border water-related endeavours;
- examples of international support to non-governmental endeavours on finding solutions to problems in water use and quality in the South Caucasus region.

**Moderator: Ms. Pascale Roussy**, OSCE Mission in Georgia

**Rapporteur: Mr. Gianluca Rampolla**, OSCE/OCEEA

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Marten van Harten**, Helsinki Citizens Assembly (HCA)

**Ms. Nato Klrvalidze**, Executive Director, REC Caucasus

**Ms. Sona Aivazyan**, Center for Regional Development /Transparency International, Armenia

**Mr. Giorgi Dzamukashvili**, NGO "Adgilis Deda" (Genius Loci); Representative of Kura-Araks Coalition in Georgia

**Mr. Enver Safar-zadeh**: ISAR Environmental Specialist, Azerbaijan

**TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2002** (continuation)

**12: 15 – 13:45** Lunch hosted by the Organizer, Hyatt Conference Center, Baku Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

**14:00 – 16:00** Closing Plenary – Guba Ballroom (open to the press)

Closing Remarks  
Environmental

**Mr. Marcin Swiecicki**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Activities

**Mr. Joao Bernardo Weinstein**, Director of the OSCE Co-ordination Team,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

Rapporteurs' summaries from Working Groups

**Mr. Frank Evers**, CORE- Center for OSCE Research

**Ms. Katherine Brucker**, United States Mission to the OSCE

**Mr. Gianluca Rampolla**, OSCE/OCEEA

**THIRD PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE TENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM,  
BAKU, 15-16 APRIL 2002**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES**

On behalf of the United States delegation, I would like to thank our Azerbaijani hosts for their having hosted this meeting and for their warm hospitality. I would also like to thank the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE economic and environmental activities for its excellent organization of this event, and to welcome our newly appointed distinguished Coordinator.

The United States believes that these kinds of technical issue-specific discussions are in and of themselves important. In this particular case, the issue of the sustainable use and protection of water is, or certainly ought to be, of interest to all parties. It is an important issue for states, but even more important for all those populations living in these states.

It is for this reason that we particularly appreciate the active contribution in this meeting of the many NGOs.

We also very much appreciate the positive spirit in which these discussions took place. By and large, they were devoid of politics and devoid of polemics.

That said, we are neither unaware of, nor insensitive to, the political context in which these discussions in this city are taking place.

In that regard, the OSCE, and for its part, the United States, continue to place a very high priority on helping the parties to resolve this particular regional dispute.

The United States is convinced that the OSCE is an excellent forum for all of us in which to pursue confidence building and mutual understanding throughout the 55 states. But the OSCE and all of its institutions are particularly useful in areas where unresolved conflicts remain. The OSCE provides a lot of tools; tools that should be used.

And here, the economic and environmental aspects of security are a key aspect in building comprehensive security. For that reason, the United States will continue strongly to support the work of the economic coordinator's office. We therefore look forward to helping – technically and financially -- in the follow-up work of this session.

Again, thank you to all participants and organizers for an excellent seminar.

**PROPOSAL OF THE ARMENIAN DELEGATION TO THE THIRD PREPARATORY  
SEMINAR OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM.**

1. Establish a dialogue at the professional level, utilizing intellectual potential of water specialists in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
  
2. Establish an Interstate Council for Sustainable Use and Protection of Trans-boundary Water Resources under the auspices of the OSCE. Activities of this Council might include, but not limited to the following:
  - a. Formulation of a common water strategy for the region;
  - b. Harmonization of legislation of the South Caucasus countries on water resources use and protection.
  
3. Develop information and communication network among countries by establishing a Regional Information Center on Water Resources. Activities of this Center could include:
  - a. Exchange of information about the action plans of countries in emergency situations, aiming at development of early warning and prevention systems of trans-boundary pollution;
  - b. Obtaining and maintenance of information about the trans-boundary river basins;
  - c. Exchange of information about specific activities to prevent pollution of underground water resources;
  - d. Exchange of information about legislation of the countries on water resources use and protection;
  - e. Exchange of information about the plans, programs and strategies related to trans-boundary waters;
  - f. Creation of a related website in the Internet that includes water monitoring data with an adequate access of all stakeholders in three South Caucasus countries.

**Baku, Azerbaijan  
16 April 2002**



## **THIRD PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE TENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM, BAKU, 15-16 APRIL 2002**

### **CLOSING PLENARY**

#### **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Romania, I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this seminar and in congratulating the organizers of this event for their excellent job.

Our view is that the theme under discussion is relevant for security and of interest for the Participating States. Cooperation for the sustainable use of water resources is relevant from both an environmental and an economic perspective. We believe the OSCE has an important role to play in this field, together with other organizations, in raising awareness, facilitating and catalyzing. The theme is definitely important for Romania, as country belonging to the Danube River basin and the Black Sea region. It is important for the process of European integration. Water is important for the health and well being of our citizens. Danube and the Black Sea are also relevant for a series of key economic sectors: industry, agriculture, transportation, tourism, etc. Our view is that co-operation with neighbors, the common endeavor and the active participation in regional programs and initiatives bring an important added value and complement local and national efforts.

At this stage of the preparatory process, after three successful seminars in Belgrade, Zamora and Baku, we are confident that the Tenth OSCE Economic Forum - "Cooperation for Sustainable Use and the Protection of the Quality of Water in the Context of the OSCE" - will significantly contribute to enhancing the co-operation, at various levels, in the field of management of water resources. As well, we believe the Forum will be instrumental in further strengthening the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, as part of the comprehensive approach to security.

Romania advocated the need to strengthen the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, to diversify the topics under discussion, to ensure continuity in our actions, and thus to pursue tangible results. In line with this commitment, Romania expressed its intention to host and co-organize a follow-up seminar to the last year's Economic Forum, which dealt with transparency and good governance in economic matters. The seminar will focus on co-ordinating regional efforts to increase transparency and facilitate business. Consultations are underway and more detailed information about this initiative will soon be provided to the delegations in Vienna.

Let me conclude by expressing our thanks and appreciation for the constant and dedicated endeavor of the Portuguese Chairmanship and of the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, that will lead us to a successful Forum. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Co-ordinator, Mr. Marcin Swiecicki, and wish him every success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

## **THIRD PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE TENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM, BAKU, 15-16 APRIL 2002**

### **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

The Permanent Council decision No. 429 dated 19 July 2001 clearly drew the boundaries of the theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum. The Statements made at the same Permanent Council meeting by Turkey and some other member states revealed how we interpreted the subject. During the Belgrade and Zamora Seminars we clearly stated our position regarding the discussion of transboundary waters and management of such resources within the context of the OSCE. By now, all member countries know the Turkish views. Rather than reiterating those views again, we would like to elaborate on the grounds of that.

Although one may argue that the allocation of freshwater resources can be a source of conflict among states, generally competition among different sectors and different stakeholders within a country is the real source of tension. To ease the tension among the various stakeholders, a flexible and realistic approach is required. The mounting risk of pollution of existing freshwater resources is among the problems that need to be addressed urgently. Cooperation is the key for the protection and equitable distribution of the world's limited freshwater resources.

Signing a bilateral or a multilateral agreement or establishing new governing bodies by itself does not help address the issues. In other words, the current problem regarding the transboundary water resources is not the lack of globally accepted international agreements and set standards in that area, but the lack of effective and concerted measures together with a strong political will which is required at all levels to implement those decisions and actions necessary to reverse the worsening situation,

It is our view that bilateral negotiations and agreements are much more effective in settling the differences among the riparian countries than international agreements. OSCE as a political organization can only play a facilitating role if all the parties to a problem agree to that. Many countries in this region (Caucasus) and in the Central Asia have a long common history of solving problems through peaceful negotiations. Any attempt to interfere with that process could prove to have negative effects rather than positive and constructive. For this reason, the prevailing tendency of applying pressure for reaching a regional settlement of water related issues will fall short of expectations unless the riparian states fail to reach to a consensus among themselves.

Management of water resources is a technical issue and therefore it falls outside the work scope of the OSCE. For that reason, as we have repeatedly stated before, the OSCE could only contribute to the ongoing search for better ways and more effective means of sustainable use and protection of the quality of water in co-ordination with relevant international organizations.

We kindly ask the Secretariat to reflect these points in the final report.

## List of Participants

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