

SEMINAR PROGRAM

**THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION & its IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE**

The UNECE Implementation Group holds its next meeting in May 2017 by the international Torne water district, in the city of Haparanda, Sweden. The Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission gladly welcomes you at the seminar on **the UNECE water convention & its Implementation Committee** on 23 May 2017 in the border-city Haparanda in Northern Sweden.

The seminar aims to give up-to-date information on conventions and practices along transboundary waters. **Discussions and questions are welcome.** The seminar language is English.

Date **23 May 2017**
Time **9-12:30 (local Swedish time)**
Venue **SveFi, Torget 3, Haparanda, Sweden** <http://www.svefi.net/konferens.php>

PROGRAMME

Welcome / *Chair of the FI-SWE Commission, Johan Antti*

- 09:00 **Opening** / *The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment (FI), Hannele Pokka*
- 09:10 **Introduction to the UNECE Water Convention and its impact on the ground** / *Secretary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Francesca Bernardini*
- 09:25 **The Implementation Committee: its mandate, role and potential to strengthen transboundary water cooperation** / *Chair of the Implementation Committee, Attila Tanzi*
- 09:45 **Recent progress in international water law and transboundary water cooperation, including under the Water Convention** / *Member of the Implementation Committee, Stephen McCaffrey*
- 10:15 **Coffee Break**
- Presentations about transboundary water commissions in the region and potential links to the Implementation Committee***
- 10:40 FI-SWE water cooperation / *Chair of the FI-SWE Commission, Johan Antti*
- 11:00 FI-NO water cooperation / *Chair of the FI-NO Commission, Timo Jokelainen*
- 11:20 FI-RUS water cooperation / *Head of the International Water Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Seppo Rekolainen*
- 11:40 Belarus-Russian Federation transboundary water cooperation / *Member of the Implementation Committee, Aliaksandr Stankevich*
- 11:55 **Discussion** / *Moderator Francesca Bernardini*
- 12:30 **Closing the Seminar** / *Chair of the FI-SWE Commission, Johan Antti*
- 12:40 Press meeting

What to do after the seminar:

- A. The seminar attendees are warmly welcome to the **Commission office** for light refreshments and networking at 2 p.m. Address: Storgatan 92A, Haparanda. **Please inform of your attendance upon registering to the seminar (on-site) 23rd May.** Find your way: <https://www.hitta.se/storgatan+92+haparanda/f%C3%B6retag/2>
- B. It is also possible to attend the Implementation Committee meeting after the seminar in Haparanda as an observer during the afternoon on 23rd and on 24th of May. Observers are welcome to attend and should register here: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=QlkXlu> (Please note that one item on Committee's agenda, item 4 on the national reports, will be discussed in a closed session where observers are not permitted)

Background information on UNECE Water Convention, Implementation Committee and the Finnish-Swedish Transboundary Commission

On The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) & the UN Watercourses Convention

In 2017 it has been 25, respectively 20 years when The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) from 1992 and the UN Watercourses Convention from 1997 were adopted.

- The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) was adopted in Helsinki, Finland on 17 March 1992 and entered into force in 1996.
- Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses was adopted in New York, 21 May 1997
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/Comparison2Conventions_Dundee2014.pdf

The Water Convention requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management. Parties bordering the same transboundary waters have to cooperate by entering into specific agreements and establishing joint bodies. www.unece.org/env/water

Implementation Committee

The Implementation Committee under the Water Convention was established at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Rome, 28-30 November 2012) which adopted decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2).

The objective of the mechanism is to facilitate, promote and safeguard the implementation and application and compliance with the Water Convention. The mechanism is to be simple, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, transparent, supportive and cooperative in nature, building on the distinctive collaborative spirit of the Convention.

The Implementation Committee consists of nine members, who serve in their personal capacity and objectively, in the best interest of the Convention. The Committee is currently composed of the following members: Vanya Grigorova, Kari Kinnunen, Johan G. Lammers, Stephen McCaffrey, Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig, Aliaksandr Stankevich, Attila Tanzi, Ivan Zavadsky, Dinara Ziganshina

http://www.unece.org/env/water/implementation_committee.html

Members who are presenting the Implementation Committee on 23rd May 2017 seminar:

Attila Tanzi, Chair of the Implementation Committee, is Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna. He has been the Chair of the Legal Board of the UNECE Water Convention (2004–2012), Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Water and Health (2007–2010), Chair of the Expert Group on Public Participation in International Forums (2004), Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the Elaboration of the Protocol on Civil Liability (2000–2003) and Special Rapporteur on the relationship between the 1992 Water Convention and 1997 UN Watercourses Convention for the Task Force on Legal and Administrative Issues (1998–2000). Professor Tanzi served as arbitrator in a number of water and environmental cases.

Stephen McCaffrey has an extensive career in international water law, having been the Special Rapporteur for the International Law Commission's draft articles on The Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1985–1991), which formed the basis for the negotiation of the 1997 United Nations Watercourses Convention. Professor McCaffrey served as the Counsellor on International Law in the Office of Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State. He has been engaged as a counsel in numerous cases before the International Court of Justice and Permanent Court of Arbitration. Since 2000, Professor McCaffrey is a Distinguished Professor at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Mc Caffrey was named 2017 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for his contribution to the evolution and progressive realization of international water law.

Aliaksandr Stankevich is the Director of the Central Scientific Research Institute for Complex Use of the Water Resources in Belarus. Previously, he served as a Head of the Republican Centre for Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring in Belarus. Mr. Stankevich has extensive experience with the management and protection of the Dnieper and Pripjat rivers and with the organization of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments. He specializes in hydrology, monitoring of quality and quantity of water resources (including transboundary aspects), water management and water legislation.

The Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission

The Commission was established in 2010 and has its secretariat in the centre of Haparanda, close by to the River Torne. The Commission constitutes of three members of respective parties appointed by the national governments. The chairmanship of the Commission shifts yearly between parties. The Commission may use permanent and other experts.

The tasks of the Commission come from the Transboundary River Agreement between Finland and Sweden (2010). Fishing regulation for the bordering water bodies is an essential part of the Agreement. The Commission is a cooperative and coordinating body between parties with focus on water management, flood risk prevention, nature and environmental protection, protection of cultural heritage and sustainable use and protection fish stocks.

www.fsgk.se www.srrjk.fi