

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF THE DNIESTER RIVER BASIN

First Meeting

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova,
17 September 2018

First Meeting Minutes

I. The first meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (the “Commission”) took place in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on “17” September 2018.

II. The Commission considered the following items on the agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda.
2. Operation of the Commission’s Secretariat.
3. Rules of Procedure of the Commission.
4. Working bodies of the Commission.
5. Presentation of deliverables of the GEF/OSCE/UNDP project “Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin.”
6. Regulations to Operate Water Reservoirs of the Dniester HPP and PSPP Cascade.
7. Time and venue of the next meetings.
8. Information on the results of the XVI Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which was held in Costeşti (Moldova) on 5-6 June 2018.
9. AOB.
10. Presentation of key decisions.
11. Closing of the meeting.

III. The Commission took the following decisions:

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda.

The meeting was opened by Ms Valentina Tapis, Co-Chair of the Commission, Head of the Moldovan part of the Commission.

At the opening, Mr Mykola Kuzio, Co-chair of the Commission, Head of the Ukrainian part of the Commission, took the floor.

Opening speeches were delivered by:

- Mr Leonid Kalashnyk, Environmental Programme Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).
- Ms Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UNECE Regional Adviser, Environment Division.
- Mr Peter Vajda, Representative of the Energy Community Secretariat.
- Mr Ilya Trombitsky, Executive Director of Eco-TIRAS NGO.
- Ms Svitlana Slesarenok, Director, Black Sea Women’s Club.
- Mr Anatoly Prokhnitsky, President, Ecological Party of Moldova “Green Alliance.”

In the course of the discussion of the agenda, Mr Kuzio, the Ukrainian Co-Chair, put forward a proposal that wastewater treatment facilities in Soroca and the impact of the Moldovan State District Power Plant (SDPP) be included in item 9. Ms Tapis, Moldovan Co-Chair of the

Commission, suggested, in turn, that the reclamation of silt soils in Tsekinovka and wastewater treatment facilities in Mogilev-Podolsky be placed on the agenda.

Ms Elena Zubcov, member of the Moldovan part of the Commission, suggested that the meeting consider the issue of storage of waste, including hazardous waste, as well as fuel oil (mazut) and slag waste of the power plants in the Dniester River Basin.

The Commission approved the agenda of the meeting after its discussion (the draft Annotated Agenda of the Commission's First Meeting is attached as Annex 1).

2. Issues related to the operation of the Commission's Secretariat.

The Commission set up the Commission's Secretariat as a standing body of the Commission and appointed Ms Mariana Codreanu as a Secretary of the Moldovan part of the Commission and Aleksandr Tarasenko as a Secretary of the Ukrainian part.

The Moldovan part suggested that the number of responsible officers in the Secretariat be increased for the Commission to operate more efficiently.

Mr Kuzio expressed the general understanding that it was necessary to engage the GEF/OSCE/UNDP Project into the operation of the Commission's Secretariat for the duration of the project.

3. Rules of Procedure of the Commission

The Commission considered all of the proposals received and approved the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin. The Commission recommended that the Rules be posted on its website.

The Commission decided to authorise the GEF/OSCE/UNDP Project to administer the website.

4. Working bodies of the Commission.

The Commission approved Decision I/2 on setting up Working Groups of the Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin. The Commission approved operating areas of the Working Groups (Annex 1 to Decision I/2) and appointed co-chairs of the working bodies from the Moldovan and Ukrainian parts of the Commission.

The Commission appointed the following co-chairs of the working bodies from the Moldovan part of the Commission:

Strategic Working Group: Ms Valentina Tapis;

Working Group on River Basin Planning and Management: Ms Ana Jeleapov;

Working Group on Emergencies: Mr Vitaliy Muta;

Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange: Ms Valentina Ceres;

Working Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Ms Elena Zubcov.

The Commission appointed the following co-chairs of the working bodies from the Ukrainian part of the Commission:

Strategic Working Group: Mr Mykola Kuzio;

Working Group on River Basin Planning and Management: Mr Roman Roman Mikhailiuk;

Working Group on Emergencies: Mr Petr Kropotov;

Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange: Ms Olga Lysiuk;

Working Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Ms Anastasia Drapaliuk.

The Commission instructed:

that within a one-month period

- co-chairs of the working groups shall select the members of the working groups;
- both parties shall be informed of the names of the working groups' members;

that within a two-month period:

- action plans of the working groups shall be prepared.

If necessary, the working groups must develop rules of procedure of the working groups for approval at the Committee's next meeting.

The Commission authorises, as an exception, the Commission's co-chairs to decide on approval of the working group's plans following their development, via e-mail in the form of scanned documents.

5. Presentation of deliverables of the GEF/OSCE/UNDP project "Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin."

The Commission took into account the deliverables of the GEF/OSCE/UNDP Project.

6. Regulations to Operate Water Reservoirs of the Dniester HPP and PSPP Cascade.

The Commission heard preliminary results of an assessment of the impact of the Dniester Hydropower Complex on the ecosystems and water use in the Dniester river basin and recommended to complete the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) by the end of the year and drew attention of the representatives of international organisations to the necessity of the close international cooperation on this matter.

The Commission heard a report of the representative of Ukrhydroproject PJSC, Vadym Kraynyk, who briefly presented the draft Regulations to Operate Water Reservoirs of the Dniester HPP and PSPP Cascade.

The Commission authorised the Strategic Working Group to follow up on the recommendations all of the stakeholders had earlier proposed to the Regulations to Operate Water Reservoirs of the Dniester HPP and PSPP Cascade and to submit them for the Commission's consideration with a possibility of having them approved between the Commission's meetings.

The recommendations provided by Mr Pedro Serra must be presented in writing to the stakeholders and authors of the comments for review and, if necessary, must be subject to additional discussion (a separate meeting).

The proposals submitted by the Strategic Working Group and approved by the Commission that are based on the stakeholders' recommendations must be included in the Regulations to Operate Water Reservoirs of the Dniester HPP and PSPP Cascade. The Regulations should be agreed with the Commission. The Ukrainian side informed that, once approved by the Commission, the Regulations would be submitted for approval by the State Agency of Water Resources as required by the national legislation of Ukraine.

7. Time and venue of the next meetings.

The Commission decided that the next meeting would be held in Kiev, Ukraine, in March-April 2019. The meeting will be held concurrently with the meeting of the Interdepartmental Commission on Ecological Reproductive (spring) Water Release. A preliminary list of items to be put on the agenda is as follows:

- hearing a report of working groups on action plans;
- considering and approving the rules of procedure of the working groups, if necessary;
- approving the action plans of the working groups;
- hearing a report on the GEF/OSCE/UNDP Project.

8. Information on the results of the XVI Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which was held in Costești (Moldova) on 5-6 June 2018.

The Commission heard and took into account a brief report on the results of the XVI Meeting of Plenipotentiaries dedicated to implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Joint Use and Protection of Cross-Border Waters, on the decisions taken and aspects of cooperation of the Plenipotentiaries with the Commission (the Minutes of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries are attached hereto).

9. Other matters.

The Commission heard and took into account the joint position (declaration) of the Moldovan and Ukrainian civil societies on the impact of hydropower on the Dniester river.

It was suggested that the Commission be considered as a platform for coordination and effective implementation of the existing cooperation mechanisms, including the preparation and implementation of transboundary technical assistance projects in the Dniester River basin.

The Commission was updated on the environmental issues associated with the operations of the Moldovan SDPP, including the matters of the development of cooperation with the local authorities and economic agents from the Transnistria Region of the Republic of Moldova.

The Commission authorised the Strategic Group to set up a sub-group engaging experts and stakeholders to deal with an issue of the discharge of untreated and insufficiently treated wastewater into the Dniester River basin, namely wastewater treatment facilities in Soroca, silt soils in Tsekinovka, reconstruction of wastewater treatment facilities in Mogilev-Podolsky and environmental issues associated with the activities of the Moldovan SDPP, which involves the preparation of recommendations aimed at attracting international technical assistance.

The Commission decided to prepare a draft reply to letter Ares (2018) 1409301 of 25 May 2018 of the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, by late 2018 – early 2019.

The Commission highlighted the necessity of coordinating the terms of reference of the projects implemented in the Dniester river basin for the purpose of preventing the duplication of activities.

The Commission expressed gratitude to the organisers, the Parties, the GEF/OSCE/UNDP project “Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin” and representatives of international organisations for their participation and active work.

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