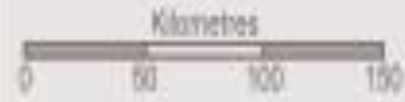


# **How does the UNECE Water Convention support transboundary water cooperation on the ground**

**Dr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos**  
**Vice-Chair of the Legal Board of the Water  
Convention**  
**Member of the Legal Department**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece**

# What has been done in this work area? Some achievements

- **Chu-Talas – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan**
  - broadened cooperation, enhanced institutional framework
- **Drin – Western Balkans**
  - strategic shared vision – MoU signed
- **Kura – Azerbaijan, Georgia**
  - draft bilateral agreement negotiated
- **Dniester – Republic of Moldova, Ukraine**
  - basin treaty signed plus strengthened cooperation on information exchange, climate change adaptation



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map

# Central Asia

## Chu-Talas – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

- Need for the establishment of a bilateral commission
- Relevant project supported by UNECE and UNESCAP
- Implementation of a pilot project on climate change
- Inclusion of environmental components as a considerable challenge

# DRIN DIALOGUE

## MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION MEETING

*Consultation process for the establishment of a Shared Vision  
for the management of the extended Drin Basin*

TIRANA, 25 NOVEMBER 2011



# Drin MoU (article 2)

Objective : *“The Parties, through their Ministers and their representatives, commit to promote joint action for the **coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin**, as a means to safeguard and restore to the extent possible the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin”*

# Short term priority actions

- **Knowledge basis about the Drin Basin (EU WFD)**
- **Establishment of regular exchange of relevant information among Riparians**
- **Cooperation in the field of flood management**
- **Coordination mechanisms - The Drin Core Group**



# Medium term priority actions

- **Science based consensus on key transboundary priorities**
- **Drin Basin Water Monitoring Program and exchange of information.**
- **Signing of an agreement and the establishment of a Basin Commission.**



# Long term priority action

- **Development of a Drin Basin Management Plan in accordance with the EU WFD and the UNECE Water Convention**

**MoU  
Governing Body**

**Meeting of Parties**

Ministers responsible for water and environmental management

**Drin Core Group**

- Ministries from Riparians responsible for water and environmental management
- Prespa Park Management Committee
- Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
- Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission
- UNECE
- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
- Mediterranean Information Center for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development

*Drin Core Group  
Secretariat*

**Expert  
Working  
Group on  
WFDI**

**Expert  
Working  
Group on  
MIE**

**Expert  
Working  
Group on  
BE**

**Coordinating Bodies**

# Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the MoU

- **Coordination mechanisms**
- **The knowledge basis about the Drin Basin.**
- **Information exchange**
- **Flood risk preparedness, management and support.**
- **Institutional strengthening on IWRM**
- **Public participation and stakeholders engagement.**

# Main challenges and lessons learnt

- **The UNECE Water Convention as an important framework for cooperation**
- **Synergies between different actors should be identified and exploited**
- **Funding important but limited amounts sufficient in the initial stages of cooperation**
- **The way ahead : support the development of basin-wide cooperation outside the UNECE region**