



European Union Water Initiative Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EUWI EECCA) Working Group 19th meeting

12-13 May 2016

Place: Conference Room 1 at IEA, Paris (9, rue de la Fédération)

Languages: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

The EUWI EECCA is the regional component of the EU Water Initiative focused on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The EUWI EECCA Working Group is the body which monitors and steers the work of EUWI EECCA and provides a platform for regional policy dialogue and exchange of experience. The Working Group meets once a year, to set priorities, review major EU and EECCA developments regarding water management policies and share the experience of partner countries and information about relevant projects.

The EUWI EECCA supports the overall goals of the European Neighbourhood Policy and priorities established by the EU-CA Strategy which constitutes a framework for the implementation of the environment and water pillar of the EU Strategy for Central Asia. Support to implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is another core aim of the work.

The Working Group meeting will bring together senior officials representing water and environmental authorities, experts from EU Member States, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; as well as international organisations, multilateral and bilateral donors.

The meeting will be chaired by Mr Gheorghe Constantin, Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group

OUTLINE OF THE AGENDA

DAY 1: Thursday 12 May 2016

Selected Achievements of EUWI EECCA countries in 2012-2016

09:30 – 10:00	Introduction, objectives of the meeting and welcome	
	Session 1: Tour de Table	
10:00 – 11:00	All participating countries from EECCA will briefly present information on 1-2 priority on-going or forthcoming reforms related to water resources management	5 min for each country, no slides
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2. Legal and institutional reforms in the water sector of EECCA	
	In the past few years EECCA countries demonstrated their willingness to modernise their approaches towards water resource management. Convergence towards the principles of IWRM and the WFD is now on the agenda of legal and institutional reforms of the countries.	
	UNECE will briefly introduce the main challenges and achievements of legal and institutional reforms, supported by National Policy Dialogues,	



while EECCA countries will share their experience regarding legal reforms (Georgia, Turkmenistan) and institutional reforms (Tajikistan, Azerbaijan).

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30

Session 3. Managing water for green growth and sustainable development

Since 2009, OECD has been promoting green growth internationally. It does so by building on its holistic approach that targets various arms of governments, including environmental/water, economic and finance ministries. Water is an essential element of that work: while water-related risks can hinder growth, water can be managed so as it contributes to green growth and sustainable development.

Economic instruments, better economic regulation and wise water strategies can significantly contribute to this water management objective. The example of EECCA countries proves that the ambitious reforms are needed. Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and the Russian Federation will share their recent experience with this regard.

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

Session 4. Work on water- food-energy-ecosystems nexus

16:00 – 16:50

National Policy Dialogues continue supporting an integrated approach to water policies, and addressing the water-food-energy and ecosystems security nexus, as well as cross-cutting issues such as impact of, and adaptation to, climate variability and change, and coherence with other sectoral policies at the national and transboundary levels.

Presentations include specific country cases, as well as OECD work on decision-support tools for nexus and UNECE work on nexus assessments at transboundary basins.

16:50 – 17:45

Session 5. Transboundary cooperation and role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

EECCA countries follow their commitments to effectively implement in their law and practice the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Helping countries to advance the ratification and implementation of relevant MEAs including through strengthening of transboundary cooperation is one of work streams of EUWI EECCA NPDs.

Bilateral agreement between Moldova and Ukraine (Dniestr basin), cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (Ural basin) are among cases to be presented.

17:45 – 18:00

Closure of the first day

18:30-21:00

Dinner hosted by the OECD



DAY 2: Friday 13 May 2016

Future of EUWI in EECCA countries

Session 6. Future developments of NPDs in EECCA

09:30 – 10:30

Support to water policy reform through National Policy Dialogues in Eastern Partnership countries

Tour de Table

The discussion will be facilitated by (tbd)

10:30 – 11:30

Support to water policy reform through National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia

Tour de Table

The discussion will be facilitated by (tbd)

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00

Session 7. Future of the EECCA Working Group

This session will be focused on how the platform for regional policy dialogue and exchange of experience between the EECCA countries and with development partners will be kept in the future.

The session will be facilitated by the Mr Gheorghe Constantin, Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group

Tour de Table

13:00

Closure of the meeting