

AGREEMENT

between the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Lithuania

on

Co-operation in the Field of Monitoring and the Exchange of Information on the Status of Surface Water Bodies in Transboundary River Basins Districts

Preamble

The Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency under the Ministry of the Republic of Latvia and the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Lithuania, hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

Considering the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Co-operation in the Field of Environmental Protection, signed in Biržai on 1 October 1999;

Being aware, that protection and rational use of resources within transboundary waters are possible only by means of targeted and mutually agreed measures and information exchange, according to the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy and the Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes from March 17th, 1992;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. Objective of Agreement

1.1. The objective of the Agreement is to provide the legal basis for harmonization of monitoring activities and the information exchange on status of the surface water bodies of transboundary river basin districts.

Article 2. Scope of co-operation

2.1. The river basins districts relevant to this Agreement are the following:

- 2.1.1. Daugava;
- 2.1.2. Lielupe;
- 2.1.3. Venta.

2.2 The co-operation shall cover the following subjects:

- 2.2.1. to harmonize the monitoring activities of the surface water bodies in the transboundary river basins districts;
- 2.2.2. to harmonize the monitored parameters, methods and sampling frequencies to enable comparability between states;
- 2.2.3. to exchange technical and informative documentation relating to general organisation of water monitoring and its structure in each country;
- 2.2.4. to exchange information and data on the results of surface water monitoring in the water bodies of the transboundary river basins districts;
- 2.2.5. to exchange data on the transboundary river pollution loads.

Article 3. General provisions

3.1. The official working language within this Agreement's sphere of activity is agreed to be English, hence information exchange shall be performed in English. However, when it comes to published material such as yearbooks, annual reports etc., material will be submitted in original language and translation cannot be required.

3.2. The Agreement concerns co-operation and exchange of existing information in accordance with national monitoring programmes only. Hence, the document cannot be used to demand additional analysis, observations or assessments to be carried out by the counterpart. On the other hand, involved organisations can not reject exchange of additional information specified in this document when it is available.

3.3. All efforts shall be made to ensure that the information presented is accurate. However, no organisation or persons can be held responsible for missing information for technical failures like the breakdown of installed equipment, etc.

3.4. Information exchanged can be used free of charge for non-commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged.

Article 4. Exchange of information – technical and informative documents

4.1. The Parties agree on exchange of technical and informative documentation relating to the general organisation of surface water management and monitoring. The exchange comprises:

4.1.1. structure schemes of the institutions working in the field of surface water management and monitoring;

4.1.2. legislative documents, regulating water management and monitoring;

4.1.3. monitoring programmes, manuals, procedures, etc.;

4.1.4. environmental situation reviews;

4.1.5. quality standards for surface water parameters;

4.1.6. methods for surface water quality analysis and detection limits of parameters;

4.1.7. methods of pollution load calculation.

4.2. The Parties agree to report on organisational and structural changes as well as changes in legislation on surface water management and monitoring. The reporting shall be made as soon as changes can be foreseen, as well as when the changes are implemented in the organisational structure or adopted in national legislation.

4.3. The Parties agree to exchange working programs with calendar time for sampling in surface water bodies of the transboundary river basin districts. This information exchange takes place at the beginning of the year. Formats of information shall be agreed during the working process.

Article 5. Exchange of information – monitoring information and data

5.1. The Parties undertake to exchange data and information on monitored parameters mentioned in Annex 1 in all surface water bodies monitored in the transboundary river basin districts mentioned in Annex 2.

5.2. The Parties undertake to exchange information on pollution loads from their respective parts of transboundary river basin districts mentioned in Annex 2.

5.3. If requested, the Parties undertake to exchange available pressure information (landuse, point sources etc.) in their respective parts of transboundary river basin districts mentioned in Annex 2 or smaller basins.

5.4. The exchange of monitoring information and data takes place in electronic format.

5.5. The frequency of the information exchange should be not less than once per year (April-May).

5.6. The list of parameters and frequency (Annex 1) and the monitoring locations (Annex 2) shall undergo a running revision.

Article 6. Exchange of information – in case of accident

6.1. In case of accident, the exchange of information among ministries and subordinate institutions shall be carried out according to the Technical Protocol Between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia on Exchange of Information on Emergency Ecological Situations, signed in Neringa on 24 May 2001.

Article 7. Other Co-operation

7.1. The Parties agree to perform inter-comparison exercises in order to check the comparability of their national laboratories. The inter-comparison exercises will be organised in turns by both sides.

7.2. The Parties agree to perform intercalibration proceedings in surface transboundary water objects according to the requirements of European Commission and Water Framework Directive 60/2000/EC. The intercalibration proceedings will be organised in turns by both sides. Intercalibration objects and program will be determined in working process.

Article 8. Corrections to the Agreement

8.1. Upon mutual approval the Parties can introduce necessary changes into the Agreement that shall be approved by Protocols.

Article 9. Settlement of Disputes

9.1. Disputes concerning interpretation or implementation of the provisions of the Agreement shall be settled by negotiations between the Parties.

Article 10. Rights and Obligations of the Parties

10.1. The Agreement does not limit rights and obligations of the Parties under other international treaties.

Article 11. Entering into force and Validity of the Agreement

11.1. The Agreement enters into force upon signing by all involved Parties and remains valid until it is replaced by a new Agreement or after three months after one of the Parties claimed withdrawal from the Agreement in a written form.

Done in the city of Riga, on 19th of September 2006 in two copies in English language.

Done in the city of Vilnius, on 4th of *October* 2006 in two copies in English language.

Andris Leitass



For the Latvian Environment,
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under the Ministry of Environment
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For Environmental Protection
Agency of the Republic of
Lithuania

Annex 1 – Parameter list

Parameter list of Latvia

| No | Parameter | Abbreviation | Unit | Monitoring frequency |
|-----|---|---|--|----------------------|
| 1. | pH | pH | | 10-12/year |
| 2. | Conductivity | COND | µS/cm | 10-12/year |
| 3. | Suspended solids | | mg/l | 10-12/year |
| 4. | Oxygen and saturation | O ₂ O ₂ % | mgO ₂ /l % | 10-12/year |
| 5. | Biological oxygen demand | BOD | mgO ₂ /l | 10-12/year |
| 6. | Total organic carbon | TOC | mgC/l | 10-12/year |
| 7. | Ammonia | NH ₄ -N | mgN/l | 10-12/year |
| 8. | Nitrate | NO ₃ -N | mgN/l | 10-12/year |
| 9. | Nitrite | NO ₂ -N | mgN/l | 10-12/year |
| 10. | Total nitrogen | N _{tot} | mg/l | 10-12/year |
| 11. | Phosphate | PO ₄ -P | mgP/l | 10-12/year |
| 12. | Total phosphorus | P _{tot} | mg/l | 10-12/year |
| 13. | Heavy metals | According to the observation programme | | |
| 14. | Priority and other hazardous substances | According to the observation programme | | |
| 15. | Macroinvertebrates | Taxonomical composition, number of taxa | species level | 1/year |
| | | Abundance of each species | number of individuals/m ² | |
| | | Biomass of each species | g/m ² | |
| | | The status of water body according macroinvertebrates communities | Index of assessment, definition of water quality | |
| 16. | Petroleum products | | mg/l | 6/year |

Annex 1 – Parameter list

Parameter list of Lithuania

| No | Parameter | Abbreviation | Unit | Monitoring frequency |
|-----|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | Temperature | | °C | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 2. | pH | pH | | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 3. | Transparency* | | m | 9/year in lakes |
| 4. | Color | | m ⁻¹ | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 5. | Suspended solids | | mg/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 6. | Conductivity | COND | µS/cm | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 7. | Alkalinity | | mgekv/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 8. | Dissolved oxygen | O ₂ | mgO ₂ /l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 9. | Oxygen saturation | O ₂ | % | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 10. | Biochemical oxygen demand | BOD ₇ | mgO ₂ /l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 11. | Chemical oxygen demand Mn | COD | mgO ₂ /l | 12/year |
| 12. | Total organic carbon | TOC | mg/l | 12/year |
| 13. | Ammonia | NH ₄ -N | mgN/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 14. | Nitrate | NO ₃ -N | mgN/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 15. | Nitrite | NO ₂ -N | mgN/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 16. | Total nitrogen | N _{tot} | mg/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 17. | Phosphate | PO ₄ -P | mgP/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 18. | Total phosphorus | P _{tot} | mg/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 19. | Calcium | Ca | mg/l | 12/year (9/year in lakes) |
| 20. | Silicon* | Si | mg/l | (9/year in lakes) |
| 21. | Chlorophyll a* | | µg/l | (9/year in lakes) |
| 22. | Heavy metals | According to the observation programme | | |
| 23. | Priority and other hazardous substances | According to the observation programme | | |
| 24. | Macroinvertebrates | Taxonomical composition | Number of taxa | 1/year |
| | | Abundance of each taxa | Number of individuals/m ² | |
| | | The status of water body according macroinvertebrates communities | Index of assessment, definition of water quality | |
| 25. | Ichti fauna | Taxonomical composition, number of taxa | Species level | 1/year |
| | | Abundance of each species | Number of individuals/ha | |
| | | Biomass of each species | kg/ha | |
| | | The status of water body according fish communities | Index of assessment, definition of water quality | |
| 26. | Phytoplankton* | Taxonomical composition | Species level | 9/year |
| | | Abundance of each species | Number of cells×10 ³ /l | |
| | | Biomass of each species | mg/l | |

| No | Parameter | Abbreviation | Unit | Monitoring frequency |
|-----|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 27. | Zooplankton* | Taxonomical composition | Species level | 4/year |
| | | Abundance of each species | Number of individuals/m ³ | |
| | | Biomass of each species | mg/m ³ | |

Note - * – applicable only for lakes.

Annex 2 – List of monitoring stations

| Water body | Location | Country |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| River Musa | below Salociai | Lithuania <i>PLK</i> |
| River Nemunelis | near Tabokine | Lithuania |
| River Venta | below Mazeikiai | Lithuania |
| River Bartuva | below Skuodas | Lithuania |
| River Sidabra | at border | Lithuania |
| River Laukesa | below Zarasai | Lithuania |
| River Platonis | at border | Lithuania |
| River Asva | at border | Lithuania |
| River Varduva | near Grieze | Lithuania |
| Lake Stervas | | Lithuania |
| River Memele | at Skaistkalne | Latvia |
| River Musa | at border | Latvia |
| River Venta | at Nigrande | Latvia |
| River Barta | at border | Latvia |