


Procedure file

Basic information	
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2013/0127(NLE)
Procedure completed	
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: opening accession to all UN Member States See also 1993/1186(CNS)	
Subject 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements 6.40.13 Relations with/in the context of international organisations: UN, OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe, EBRD	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		07/05/2013
		S&D GROOTE Matthias	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE AUCONIE Sophie	
		ALDE DAVIES Chris	
		Verts/ALE HASSI Satu	
		ECR ROSBACH Anna	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	3284	13/12/2013
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Environment	POTOČNIK Janez	

Key events			
25/04/2013	Preparatory document	COM(2013)0239	Summary
09/09/2013	Legislative proposal published	12713/2013	Summary
08/10/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/10/2013	Vote in committee		
29/10/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0356/2013	Summary
19/11/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/11/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0467/2013	Summary
13/12/2013	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
13/12/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/12/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/0127(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
	See also 1993/1186(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/7/12585

Documentation gateway					
Preparatory document		COM(2013)0239	25/04/2013	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		12713/2013	10/09/2013	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE519.755	26/09/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0356/2013	29/10/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0467/2013	19/11/2013	EP	Summary

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 2013/790 OJ L 349 21.12.2013, p. 0098 Summary

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: opening accession to all UN Member States

PURPOSE : to accept an Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT : Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND : the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes provides a legal framework for cooperation on shared water resources in the UNECE region through integrated water resources management. Its purpose is to establish a framework for bilateral or multilateral cooperation to prevent and control the pollution of transboundary watercourses and to ensure the rational use of water by countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The Convention was signed on behalf of the European Community in Helsinki on 18 March 1992 and approved by Council Decision 95/308/EC of 24 July 1995.

The 2003 Meeting of Parties adopted the Amendment allowing the accession of any State that is a Member of the United Nations to accede to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties. The European Community and its Member States as Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting and supported the adoption of the Amendment. The amendment will enter into force upon acceptance by all States and organisations that were Parties to the Convention on 28 November 2003.

Once the Amendment enters into force, the Convention will be of particular importance for countries that border the UNECE region, such as Afghanistan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain Central Asian States. Some of these States have expressed an interest in acceding to the Convention. Their participation in the Convention will be beneficial in encouraging cooperation on management of transboundary water resources, especially in light of growing pressures of climate change, desertification as well as the importance of water access for stability and security.

Following the adoption of an amendment in 2003, a vast majority of Parties to the Convention have already formally accepted it. The EU is one of a small number of Parties to the Convention which have yet to accept the amendment.

In view of the above, it is appropriate for the European Union to now accept the Amendment in order to open the Convention globally and enable accession of non UNECE countries willing to do so.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT : no impact assessment was undertaken.

LEGAL BASIS : Article 192(1), in conjunction with Article 218(6) (a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT : under this proposal, the Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes opening accession to the Convention to all UN Member States which has been adopted at the Third Meeting of the Parties is hereby accepted on behalf of the Union.

The text of the Amendment is attached to this Decision.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION : this proposal has no implications for the EU budget.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: opening accession to all UN Member States

PURPOSE: to accept an Amendment to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes provides a legal framework for cooperation on shared water resources in the UNECE region through integrated water resources management. Its purpose is to establish a framework for bilateral or multilateral cooperation to prevent and control the pollution of transboundary watercourses and to ensure the rational use of water by countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The Convention was signed on behalf of the European Community in Helsinki on 18 March 1992 and approved by Council Decision 95/308/EC of 24 July 1995.

The 2003 Meeting of Parties adopted the Amendment allowing the accession of any State that is a Member of the United Nations to accede to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties. The European Community and its Member States as Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting and supported the adoption of the Amendment. The amendment will enter into force upon acceptance by all States and organisations that were Parties to the Convention on 28 November 2003.

Once the Amendment enters into force, the Convention will be of particular importance for countries that border the UNECE region (Afghanistan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain Central Asian States). Some of these States have expressed an interest in acceding to the Convention. Their participation in the Convention will be beneficial in encouraging cooperation on management of transboundary water resources, especially in light of growing pressures of climate change, desertification as well as the importance of water access for stability and security.

Since the adoption of an amendment in 2003, a vast majority of Parties to the Convention have already formally accepted it. The EU is one of a small number of Parties to the Convention which have yet to accept the amendment.

In view of the above, it is appropriate for the European Union to now accept the Amendment in order to open the Convention globally and enable accession of non UNECE countries willing to do so.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was undertaken.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 192(1), in conjunction with Article 218(6) (a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT : under this proposal, the Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes opening accession to the Convention to all UN Member States which has been adopted at the Third Meeting of the Parties is hereby accepted on behalf of the Union.

The text of the Amendment is attached to this Decision.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no implications for the EU budget.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: opening accession to all UN Member States

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the report by Matthias GROOTE (S&D, DE) on the draft Council decision on the acceptance on behalf of the European Union of the Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Members recommended the Parliament to consent, on behalf of the Union, to the amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the UNECE Convention.

With the amendments in force, the Convention will be particularly important for countries bordering the UNECE region such as Afghanistan, China, Iran and certain Central Asian States.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: opening accession to all UN Member States

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the draft Council decision on the acceptance on behalf of the European Union of the Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

It gave its consent to the acceptance of the Amendment to the Convention on behalf of the European Union.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: opening accession to all UN Member States

PURPOSE: to accept an Amendment to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2013/790/EC on the acceptance on behalf of the European Union of the Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

BACKGROUND: the European Union is a Party to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes following its approval in 1995.

The main purpose of the Convention is to establish a framework for bilateral and multilateral cooperation to prevent and control the pollution of transboundary watercourses and to ensure the rational use of water resources in the Member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

At their 2003 Meeting, the Parties to the Convention expressed a wish to allow States situated outside of the UNECE region to become Parties to the Convention in order to promote river basin cooperation throughout the world.

The European Community participated in the 2003 Meeting of the Parties which adopted the Amendment allowing accession of any State that is a Member of the United Nations to accede to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties. The Amendment will enter into force upon acceptance of all States and organisations that were Parties to the Convention on 28 November 2003.

The Amendment should be accepted on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT: under this Decision, the Council, with the Parliaments consent, accepts on behalf of the Union, the Amendment to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes opening accession to the Convention to all United Nations Member States.

The Amendment is presented in the annex to this Decision.

Once the Amendment enters into force, the Convention will be of particular importance for countries that border the UNECE region, such as Afghanistan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain Central Asian States. Some of these States have expressed an interest in acceding to the Convention. Their participation in the Convention will be beneficial in encouraging cooperation on management of transboundary water resources, especially in light of growing pressures of climate change, desertification as well as the importance of water access for stability and security.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision shall enter into force on 13.12.2013.