

Contribution to the complexity of the plans for IWRM
presented by the delegation of the Czech Republic

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic as one of the accession countries to the European Union strongly welcomes the effective water policy based on the integrated water resources management principle, which is introduced by the Water Framework Directive within the European region.

I would like to share some of the experience of the Czech Republic with the implementation of the integrated water resources management in particular with respect to the complexity of the water management planning in the hydrological watersheds.

The territory of the Czech Republic is located on the divide of three seas and all significant watercourses outflow to the neighbouring countries. As a consequence, the Czech water resources are fully dependent on the atmospheric rainfall.

This fact definitely increase our high interest on the water resources management and has lead to the high attention paid historically to the water management planning. The first plan of the water resources use and management was prepared at early fifties, the second national plan containing water protection activities was accepted at the beginning of seventies. Both these plans were based on the hydrological watersheds. In spite of the fact that the preparation of these plans was typical for centralistic planning of the socialist economy, i.e. "top-down" process without involvement of users and public, the essential system based on watersheds was established. Further, the River Boards as water management authorities were also established for the particular watersheds, too.

Hence, the necessary background for recently introduced comprehensive planning already existed which was advantageous for the implementation of Water Framework Directive.

However, the large floods occurred during last 6 years on our territory lead to the necessity of the improvement of flood prevention. For this reason, the flood protection activities and measures have been included to the plans.

Similarly, the need for the development and enlargement of the water management infrastructure for water supply and sanitation lead to the additional enlargement of the contents of the plans under preparation according the Water Framework Directive.

Thus the complexity of our plans prepared for the particular watersheds substantially increased, which is certainly in agreement with the objectives of the Integrated Water Resources Management.

In addition, the international character of our planning has to be mentioned as our watersheds form upstream parts of the river basins of Danube River, Elbe River and Oder River. Hence, international collaboration is running under the co-ordination of International Commissions for the respective rivers.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.