



At the end of the 1980ies the Elbe river was one of the most polluted rivers in Europe, so the political changes in Eastern Europe were a last minute rescue for this river.

**8 October 1990:**

## Signing of the **Convention** on the **International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (ICPER)**

### Contracting parties:

Federal Republic of Germany, Czech Republic

**Observers:**

European Union (contracting party until 30 April 2004), Austria, Poland, international commissions for the protection of the Rhine, the Oder and the Danube rivers, non-governmental organisations

According to article 1 of the ICPER Convention, the objective is:

- to enable use to be made of the river, in particular the obtaining of supplies of drinking water from bankfiltered waters and the agricultural use of the waters and sediments,
- to achieve as natural an ecosystem as possible with a healthy diversity of species,
- to reduce substantially the pollution of the North Sea from the Elbe area.

In the first years ICPER activities focused on the reduction of water pollution by municipal and industrial wastewater, the construction of municipal wastewater treatment plants, the improvement of the water quality and the ecological conditions later on the issue of flood protection was also addressed.

The entry into force of the European Water Framework Directive on 22 December 2000 created a new basis for water protection in the EU member states and provided a new impetus for the German-Czech cooperation. The International Management Plan according to the Water Framework Directive and the International Flood Risk Management Plan according to the European Flood Risk Management Directive adopted in 2007 constitute the basis for the current and future work of ICPER.

## ICPER milestones

2016 – 2021	Second International Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District
	First International Flood Risk Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District
2010 – 2015	First International Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District
2004	Elbe Alarm Model was put into operation
2003 – 2011	Elbe Flood Protection Action Plan
1996 – 2010	Elbe Action Programme
1992 – 1995	First Elbe Action Programme (Immediate Action Programme)
1992	First international coordinated monitoring programme
1991	International Elbe Warning and Alarm Plan (accident reporting system)

## How ICPER works

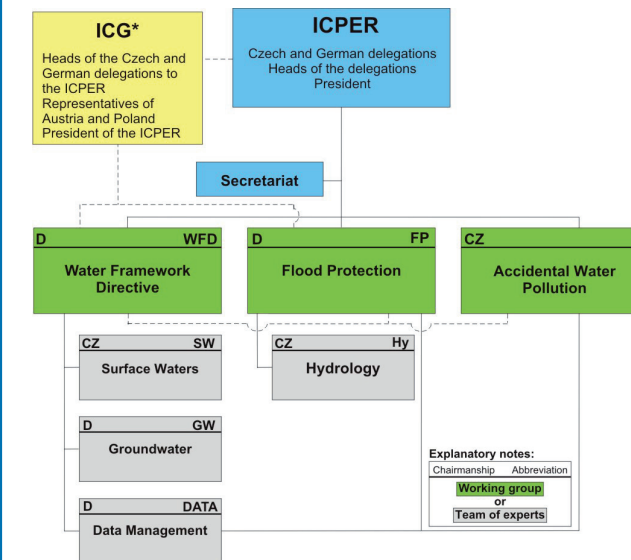
ICPER prepares recommendations for the contracting parties. The ICPER delegations and working groups are composed of representatives of national and regional authorities as well as scientific institutions in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria and the EU where appropriate. Apart from that, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are involved in the work. The ICPER delegations as well as the working and expert groups include approximately 120 representatives.

The conferences (plenary sessions) and the meetings of the heads of the delegations of the contracting parties and the working group leaders are held once a year, the meetings of the three working groups and the four expert groups are held approximately twice a year.

The working languages are German and Czech.

The ICPER secretariat with a staff of eight supports the work of the commission and its working groups with regard to technical, language and organisational aspects. It is based in Magdeburg.

### Organisation chart (since October 2014)



\* The International Coordination Group (ICG) solves the issues of international cooperation related to implementations of the European Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive in the Elbe river basin. The ICG gives the representatives of the countries situated in the Elbe river basin (Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Poland) an equal position as opposed to the ICPR, in which the representatives of Austria and Poland hold the status of observers.

