Watercourses: Convention on the international Commission for the protection of the Oder, April 1996

1998/0278(CNS) - 16/09/1998 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to conclude, on behalf of the Community, the Convention for the protection of the Oder.
SUBSTANCE: The Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder, or Oder Convention, was signed in Wroclaw (Poland) in 1996 by 3 countries, including one EU Member State (Germany) plus Poland, the Czech Republic and the Community itself. The main objective of the Convention is multilateral cooperation to: -prevent and control pollution of the Oder and the Baltic Sea; -enable the waters of the Oder to be used for human consumption and in agriculture; -secure as natural an eco-system as possible with a corresponding diversity of species. The areas covered by the Convention fall within Community competence in relation to the aquatic environment, and its conclusion by the Community will contribute to pursuit of the objectives laid down by Article 130r of the Treaty. In particular, it will help to prepare the way for a rapid entry into force at international level of rules which will make it possible to prevent risks of pollution, improve the quality of the environment and of water and ensure sustainable use of water resources. The Secretariat-General of the Council of the European Union is the depositary for the Convention, and the instruments of ratification will therefore be deposited with it.