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

1998/0278(CNS) - 02/12/2005 - Implementing legislative act

PURPOSE: To terminate the European Community's participation on the Conventions for the Protection of the Oder and the Elbe.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision concerning the effects of the accession of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland to the European Union on the participation of the European Community in the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder and the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe.

CONTENT: The purpose of this Decision is state that the European Community will cease to be a party to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder and to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe as from 1 May 2004. This decision has been taken following the accession of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland to the European Union – in other words all of the contract parties to the Oder and Elbe Conventions are now members of the EU. Thus, the basis for the Community's consent to be bound by such Conventions not longer exists. In addition, the enlargement of the EU has had the effect of radically transforming the legal relations between the Contracting Parties. The objectives of the Conventions can be better achieved through provisions laid down in Community legislation. Where appropriate, the Commission will agree with the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland solutions to any transitory problems which may result from the end of the Community's participation on the Oder and Elbe Conventions.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1 May 2004.