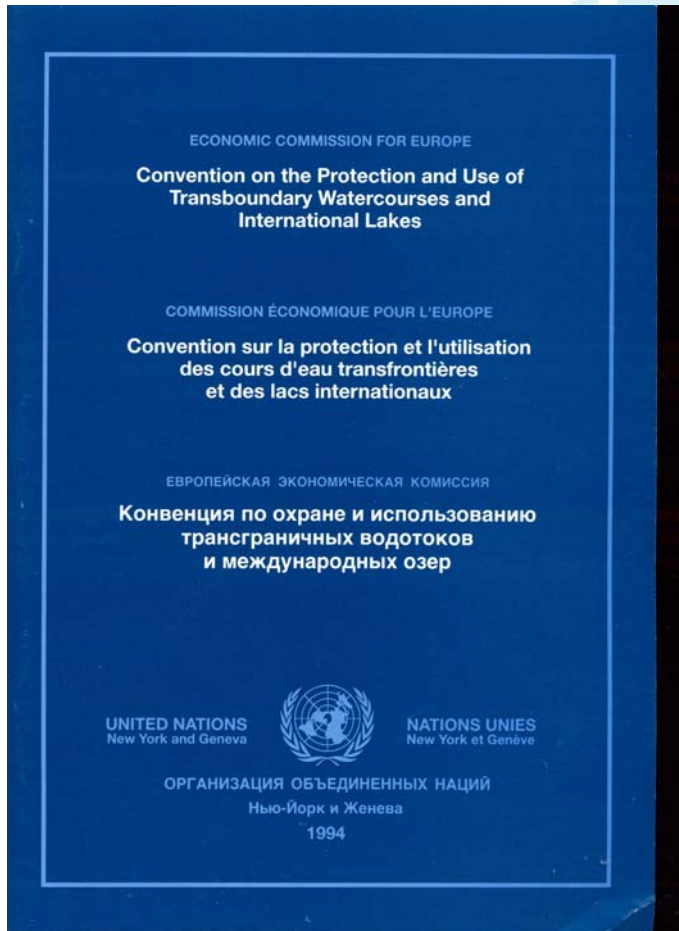


An aerial photograph of a river with several large meanders, winding through a lush green landscape. The river is light-colored, possibly due to sediment or reflections, and is surrounded by dense green vegetation and some forested areas. The overall scene is a natural, scenic view of a watercourse.

UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

A unique framework for improved
management of shared waters

The Water Convention

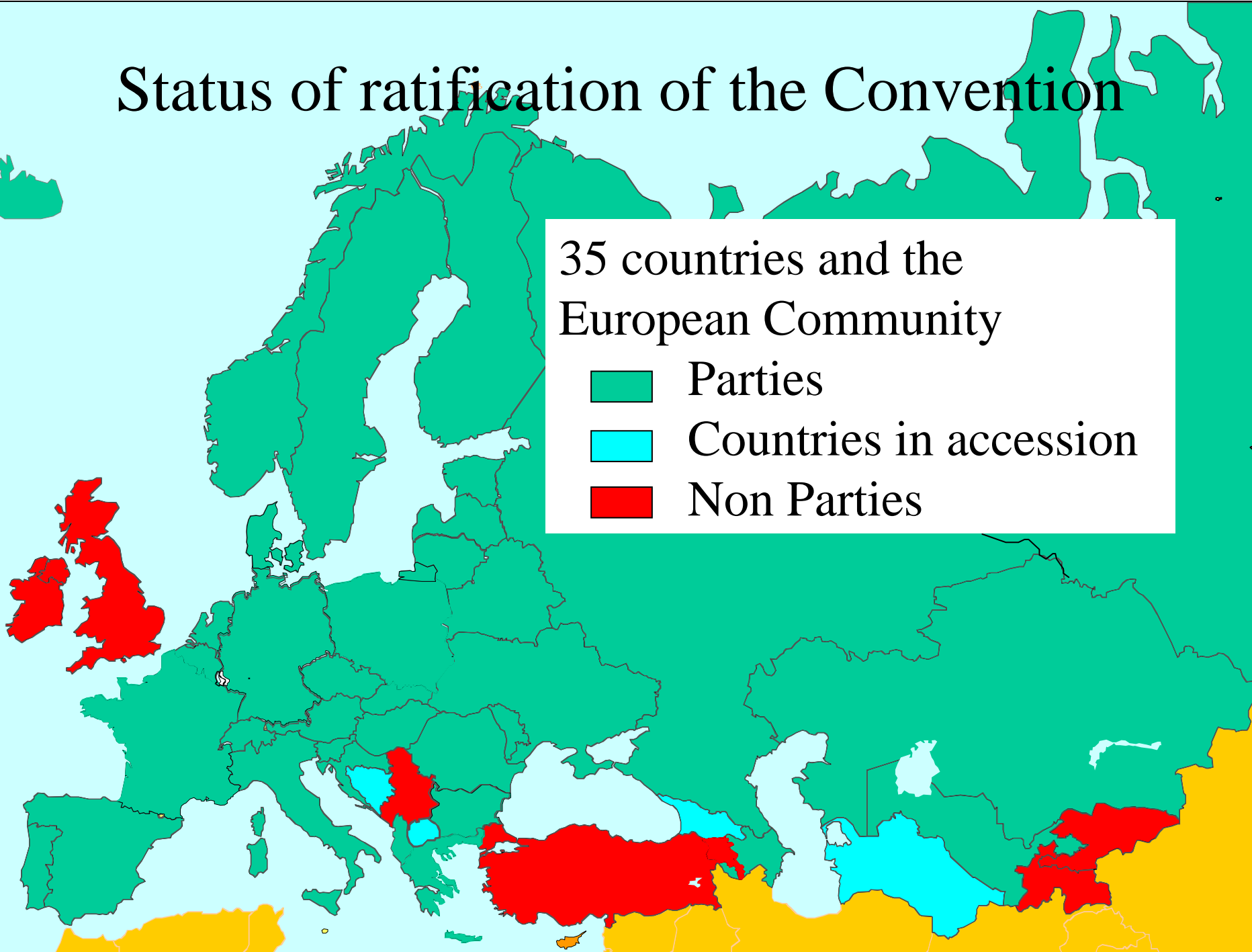


- Signed on 17 March 1992
- Entered into force on 6 October 1996
- 35 countries and the European Community have ratified the Convention

Status of ratification of the Convention

35 countries and the
European Community

-  Parties
-  Countries in accession
-  Non Parties



Aims of the Convention



- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
- Ecologically sound and rational management of transboundary waters
- Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters \Rightarrow Conflict prevention
- Conservation and restoration of ecosystems

The Water Convention & Protocol on Water and Health: Cooperation across borders and within a country

- Convention's key obligations are to:
 - Protect transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
 - Cooperate across borders and among different sectors: water/forest/wetlands agriculture

- Protocol on Water and Health aims to:
 - protect human health and well-being through improving water management & protection of water ecosystems

Ecosystem approach to water management

Progressive shift of focus from management of purely aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems & consideration of ecosystem services:

- flood prevention, control and mitigation
- regulating runoff and water supply
- improving water quality
- withholding sediments and reducing erosion,
- supporting water storage in the soil; and
- facilitating groundwater recharge

Water Convention & PES

- Seminar on the role of ecosystem as water suppliers
- Seminar on environmental services and financing
 - PES have the potential to be an environmentally effective, economically efficient and socially equitable tool for IWRM
- UNECE Recommendations on PES
 - Based on good practices from different sectors
 - First example of international guidance for the establishment of PES
 - Aimed to support Governments at all levels and other actors (suppliers and users)
 - Not only for the UNECE region
 - Recommendations identify basic rules
 - Provide step-by-step guidance

Advantages of PES

- Internalize environmental costs
- Facilitate cooperation among different land users and water managers
- Help to achieve the goals of SFM and IWRM
- Generate/broaden source of finance
- Create incentives for investments and environmental friendly behaviour

The way ahead

- Promotion and capacity building activities
- Implementing through pilot projects on PES
- Exchange of experiences
- Strengthening partnership & cooperation with all interested



Thank you for your attention

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/>

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