

## MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ABOUT WATER ON THE ISSUE IMPROVING WATER MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY APPROACHES (11TH JULY, BRATISLAVA)

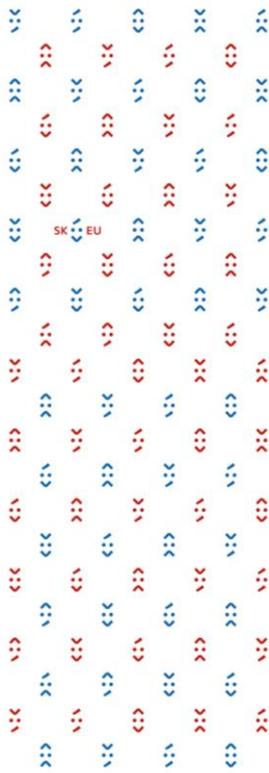
The discussion during the conference will help to prepare conclusions of the Council on the issue of drought, water scarcity and flooding. The conclusions of the Council will contribute to a wider debate about the nature and focus of future EU water policy.

Global warming in Europe led to an increase in average annual air temperature and an increased incidence of adverse effects of floods and droughts. In the future, it will negatively affect the water balance, agriculture, transport, energy, forestry and fishing, and also increase threat of biodiversity and also human health.

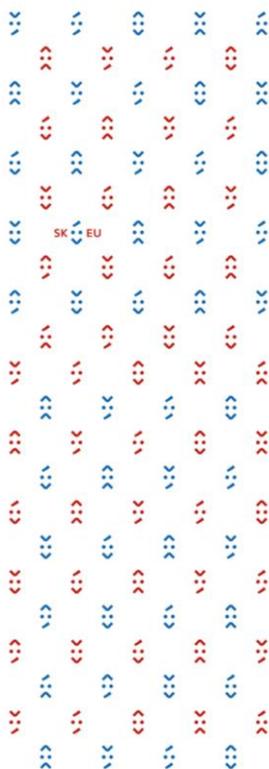
There are various preventative measures which can reduce the negative impact of climate change on water resources in Europe including, for example, re-using and recycling of wastewater; increasing efficiency in the use of water in households, agriculture and industry; charging for water use and measure its consumption and raising awareness of water saving opportunities through education programs and campaigns.

It is very important to support natural water retention measures in the country that include the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian vegetation. Their expansion as part of green infrastructure in the river basin management plans and flood risk management plans requires the exchange of experiences on various levels in addition to other technical measures.

The basic enactment of the European Union, which creates conditions for the all-round water protection, including aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems is the Water Framework Directive 2000/60 / ES. Its mission is to provide all-round water protection and improvement of its quality. River basin management plans, which are prepared for a six year term, are an essential tool for achieving the objectives of water planning in flood areas. They also provide mechanisms for solving water scarcity and droughts issues. The plans for the years 2016-2021 are currently undergoing external evaluations, which will show whether and to which extent are including adaptation to climate changes.



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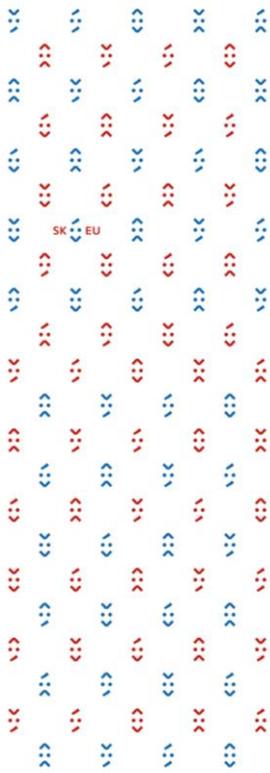
## INFORMAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (11TH AND 12TH JULY, BRATISLAVA)

In addition to the water-related concerns, the ministers will also discuss the possible issues with the expected international negotiations on climate. The main meeting being the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) held in November in Morocco. After the historic success from Paris where the adoption of a new global climate agreement was successful, there will be a so-called implementation conference which should assist in developing individual decisions, instructions, procedures for the transparent implementation of the Paris Agreement. It contains a lot of enabling clauses whose preparation will start with the climate conference in Marrakesh, where the negotiations for the European Union will be led by Slovakia.

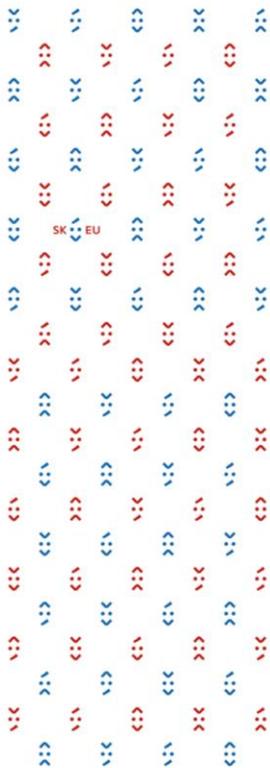
The long-term aim of the Paris Agreement is to limit the increasing global temperature to 2 ° C by the end of the century compared to the pre-industrial period, with the fact that the countries will try to limit the growth by 1.5 ° C. The change should be brought about by the strong reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for which national contributions are stated.

Ministers in Bratislava will deal with, for example, how the Union could highlight the importance of nationally assessed contributions during the negotiation in Morocco, but also with the expectations of the developing countries. The EU also must be helpful in the constructive interpretation of the agreement provisioning in order to avoid the parties returning to previous positions, which could delay the progress during the negotiations in Marrakech.

The Paris Agreement enters into force after the ratification by at least 55 parties that represent at least 55% of the total emission of greenhouse gases. From April 22, 2016 when the agreement opened for signature, it was signed by 175 countries, out of which 18 already submitted their tools for ratification. This represents 0.20 per cent of the global emissions. Other countries, including the US, China and India presented their intention to ratify by the end of 2016. Slovakia plans to do so between October and November.



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## JOINT INFORMAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY (12TH JULY, BRATISLAVA)

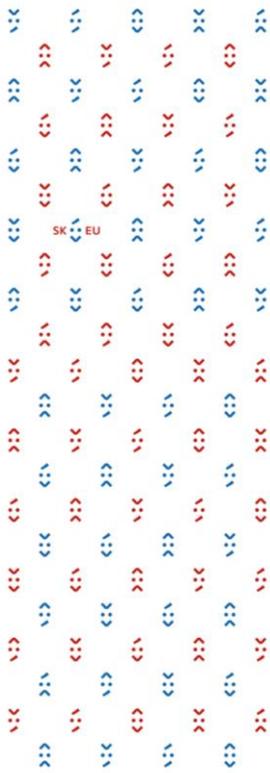
The meeting will serve to continue the discussion on outstanding issues on the draft revision of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme for greenhouse gases (ETS). This amendment would create two financial tools for financing - a Modernization and an Innovation Fund.

The Innovation Fund is to support innovation in low-carbon technologies and industrial processes, as well as the projects in the field of renewable energy in the EU. The Modernization Fund is to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by supporting projects for the modernization of the energy sector in order to ensure cleaner, safer and more affordable energy. It is assigned for Member States with low income (GDP less than 60% of the EU average in 2013). The two funds are being discussed by the working groups of the EU Council.

The European Council meeting in 2014 agreed on a framework of EU policies on climate and energy until the period of 2030, which confirmed its binding target to lower greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990.

The sectors that are covered by the EU ETS (combustion plants, oil refineries, coking plants, iron, steel and cement industries, glass factories, lime kilns, brick factories and mills) will have to reduce until 2030 by 43% compared to 2005, while the sectors outside the ETS (agriculture transport, buildings and waste material) by 30%. A principal tool to achieve this goal should be a well-functioning and reformed ETS system.

For this reason, substantial investments will be needed by 2030, in both supply and demand - electricity supply, low-carbon technologies in industry and transport, as well as more efficient energy-using equipment and building insulation.



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