

Memorandum of Understanding
pursuant to the Agreement on the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District

This memorandum is entered into by the Ministry of the Environment of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Finland.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to decide on procedures for the coordination of the water management in the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District, with the aim of achieving environmental objectives laid down in Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive).

2. Competent Authorities

The ELY-Centre of Lapland and Finnmark fylkeskommune are identified as the Competent Authorities in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 3 of the Agreement on the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District.

3. Exchange of information

The Competent Authorities will exchange information based on existing or new procedures or points of contact. In this respect the preferable procedures should facilitate efficient cooperation and enhance public information and consultation, and ensure the involvement of the Norwegian-Finnish Transboundary Water Commission.

4. Differences that cannot be resolved at regional level

The Competent Authorities will inform their respective Ministries of the Environment, in writing, of differences of major importance for the achievement of the environmental objectives laid down in the Water Framework Directive and national legislation, so that these issues can be dealt with before the adoption of the River Basin Management Plans and the determination of programmes of measures.

When determining the significance of the differences it should be taken into account to what extent the differences complicate the characterisation pursuant to Section 5, the determination of the environmental status pursuant to Section 7, the use of exemptions pursuant to Section 8, or the adoption of measures pursuant to Section 10 of this Memorandum.

5. Characterisation

The Competent Authorities will endeavour to achieve coordinated characterisation and risk assessment for the water bodies in the Norwegian-

Finnish River Basin District, including both surface waters and ground water bodies. This coordination includes:

1. delineation, categorisation and typification of water bodies
2. identification of pressures and assessments of the extent of pressure and impact on the water bodies
3. assessment of environmental status and trends for environmental impacts
4. assessment of which water bodies are at risk of not reaching the environmental objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive.

If the Competent Authorities do not achieve concurrent results for one or more of the subsections 1-4 above, this should be specifically set out and explained in the River Basin Management Plans.

6. Monitoring

Each Competent Authority will produce and adopt monitoring programs for the part of the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District that lies within its respective area of competence. The Competent Authorities will, as far as possible, try to harmonize monitoring programs in the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District so that they are coordinated, mutually complementary and cost effective. The monitoring programmes will be designed to support the achievement of coordinated characterisation pursuant to Section 5, determination of the environmental status pursuant to Section 7, and adoption of measures pursuant to Section 10 of this Memorandum.

7. Classification

The Competent Authorities will endeavour to harmonize the determination of the environmental status for the water bodies in the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District, with the aim of achieving uniform results. If the Competent Authority, due to differences in methodology for classification, national legislation, national guidance, or because of any other circumstance, cannot achieve corresponding results for the assessment of environmental status, this shall be specifically set out and explained in the River Basin Management Plans.

8. Exemptions

If necessary the Competent authorities will coordinate the use of possible exemptions in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and national legislation. If consensus on the use of such exemptions cannot be achieved, this shall be specifically set out and explained in the River Basin Management Plans.

9. River Basin Management Plans

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Agreement on a Norwegian-Finnish river basin district the Competent Authorities will endeavour to produce a common River Basin Management Plan for the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District. Such a common River Basin Management Plan should identify and

describe the water bodies in the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District. It should also include a description of common environmental objectives, significant water management issues, coordinated monitoring programmes, summaries of the respective programmes of measures, and how the exchange of information and public participation has been conducted. Each Competent Authority can also produce and adopt more detailed river basin management plans for the parts of the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District lying within its respective area of competence.

10. Programmes of measures

The Competent Authority will coordinate the programmes of measures on the basis of the results of the coordination pursuant to section 5-8 above, so that the measures mutually support the achievement of the environmental objectives.

11. Reporting

Each country is responsible for reporting to WISE (Water Information System Europe) for the part of the Norwegian-Finnish river basin district within its territory. In this respect each transboundary water body should be given both separate national ID numbers and common ID numbers. The respective national authorities responsible for reporting will cooperate as far as possible for this purpose.

12. Miscellaneous

This memorandum is not intended to be legally binding, and may be amended by written agreement between the Ministries of the Environment. This memorandum will enter into effect on the same date as the Agreement on a Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District enters into force.

Signed in duplicate in the English language.

30.10.2013

For the Ministry of the Environment of the Kingdom of Norway:

Tine Sundt

For the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Finland:

Kaari Pöyhönen