

# Commissions for border waters and their role in the development of tourism. – on the example of Poland with particular emphasis on the southern border

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**Abstract**— The article analyzes the significance of the commission for border waters, characterizes their structure and role, paying particular attention to the working groups, their tasks and achievements. Using the case study as a research method and basing on the existing literature on the subject in the field of political and administrative sciences, security sciences and other related disciplines, the main tasks of selected entities and their impact on the development of tourism were determined. Based on the analysis of the content of the minutes of the meetings of the representatives of the Polish-Slovak Commission for Border Waters and the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters, as well as their working groups, key areas related to the tasks they undertook for the period 2017-2019 were selected. These included: flood protection, planning and monitoring activities, implementation of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive as well as initiating and improving bilateral cooperation. Then, these areas were linked with activities that contribute to the development of tourism and what potential effects they bring. The article also indicates the final conclusions.

**Index Terms**— good guy with a gun, right to keep and bear arms, gun culture, 2nd amendment

## II. INTRODUCTION

The article refers to the main premises for the establishment and importance of the commission on border waters in Poland, with particular emphasis on the impact on tourism. The scope of their activities is directly related to the nature of borders and results from signed agreements and international conventions. According to their provisions, agreements concluded between coastal states should provide for the establishment of joint bodies constituting an effective mechanism of cooperation. Their purpose is, in particular, the protection of transboundary

waters (including both surface and groundwater), by counteracting, limiting and reducing pollution, water management, taking into account the principle of sustainable development and rational use of natural resources, the use of transboundary waters and the preservation and reconstruction of ecosystems. The aforementioned goals of border cooperation on rivers indicate that, on the one hand, the principle of sustainable development is important in shaping mutual initiatives, including the protection of the existing flora and fauna, as well as the implementation of the ecological safety policy, based on the development of legal, organizational and planning solutions that are aimed at counteracting various ecological threats.

In addition, the committees established successively from the beginning of the 90s of the last century became important bodies of cross-border cooperation, within which solutions in the field of ecological safety and flood protection were developed along with numerous examples of activities for the development of other areas of social and economic life, including in the field of cross-border tourism. It is also an important field, stimulating the entrepreneurship of local communities and its individual groups, i.e. local and regional authorities, small and medium-sized owners of agritourism farms and representatives of associations and cultural societies. The development of cross-border tourism also entails an impact on other areas and sectors related to it, i.e. accommodation and catering facilities, tourist carriers, administrators of tourist attractions), entrepreneurs and organizations belonging to the so-called complementary tourism economy (companies producing souvenirs, providing publishing and cartographic services). (Drażkiewicz 2009).

When analyzing the scope of the influence of the commission for border waters on the development of tourism,



it is worth mentioning that a lot depends on tourist values, both natural, natural and anthropogenic. The activities of the analyzed bodies certainly contributed to the reduction of pollution, a better prognosis of ecological threats and facilitated the monitoring of the natural environment, i.e. important components of tourism. In the article, the main aim is to show the complexity of the commission's activities, present their significance, and then present the activities with particular emphasis on those areas that affect tourism.

In turn, referring to the bilateral agreements on cooperation in the field of water management on border rivers concluded between Poland and its southern neighbors: the Czech Republic and Slovakia, it should be emphasized that the issue of the so-called border and transboundary waters. This is due to the provisions adopted in international agreements and the problems faced by countries where the border has been established in this way. On the basis of cooperation agreements, minutes of meetings of representatives of individual working groups, the main areas that constitute the core of the functioning of the commission for border waters were identified and their impact on the development of tourism was presented.

### III. COMMISSIONS FOR BORDER WATERS - GENERAL INFORMATION

Due to the natural nature of the borders, mainly those based on the waters of the Nysa, Odra Łużycka and Bug rivers, there are so-called commissions for border waters. It should be noted that the problems related to transboundary waters concern the majority of European Union citizens, as 70% of them use waters from transnational catchments (Kaczmarek M., Kardaś 2012). This is directly related to the Water Framework Directive which, as an act of Community law, must be implemented in all EU countries. It also lays down rules for solving transboundary problems, i.e. "within the basin, where the use of water may have transboundary effects, the requirements for achieving environmental objectives should be coordinated for the entire basin" (Nałęcz, Gidziński, Kazimierski, Sadurski 2011).

It is worth noting that through transboundary waters, as stipulated in Art. 1 of the Agreement of February 7, 2020 signed in Białowieża between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, can be understood as "any surface or groundwater along the state border between the States Parties or which is crossed by it, and which are within the catchment area of these waters" (Journal of Laws of 2021, No. 119), and border waters are defined as: "surface transboundary waters along which the state border runs, as well as surface transboundary waters in those places where the state border crosses them". (Journal of Laws of 2021, No. 119) Art. 1 clause 1 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of March 17, 1992 (Journal of Laws of 2003, No. 78, item 702). It was this document that contributed to the creation of institutional foundations for the implementation of cross-border cooperation in the field of border waters protection.

Moving on to the importance and role of the Border Waters Commission, it should be noted beforehand that these are specific organizational and technical platforms responsible for the implementation of tasks resulting from not only international but also bilateral agreements. Overall, the priority of their activities is the management of water resources in the catchment area. Such structures operate in Europe, incl. the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube, the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River, the Commission for the Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester Basin (Kałuski 2010)

The history of the establishment and the activities of committees dealing with the protection of border waters, and in particular the development of a cooperation framework, and the fulfillment of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, is complex and depends to a large extent on the nature of the border section it concerns (Journal of Laws UE L 327 of December 22, 2000). As for Poland, commissions for border waters operate on practically all border sections, the activities of which are the result of a signed bilateral agreement on cooperation on border rivers. Recently, the Polish-Belarusian Commission for Cooperation in Transborder Waters was established, but the forum for coordinating activities in the basin of Poland and Russia still does not exist (Journal of 2021, No. 119). As far as the tasks of the said Commission are concerned, it includes, in particular, matters related to the development of proposals for solving the current hydrological and hydrogeological problems in border waters, assessment of the quality of border waters and the implementation of projects, especially related to the protection of these waters against pollution, development of a list of indicators, pollutants and assessment criteria to classify water quality, develop criteria for the assessment of exceptional pollutants, principles of cooperation and management systems for the prevention and elimination of emergencies, and the consideration of problems related to the construction, reconstruction and operation of facilities that affect boundary waters as well as extraction natural resources and other materials from riverbeds and floodplains of border waters or cooperation with other commissions, institutions and regional organizations in the field of protection and rational use of border waters, as well as information and implementation of activities related to the preservation and restoration of biological resources of aquatic ecosystems and water-dependent ecosystems (prawo.pl).

In addition to the above-mentioned commission, there are also: the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution, as well as the following Commissions for Border Waters: Polish-German, Polish-Czech, Polish-Slovak, Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Lithuanian. It is worth noting that on the eastern border, the above-mentioned bodies face numerous problems, for example in the area of operation of the Polish-Ukrainian Commission for Border Waters, the main difficulties include: diversification of administrative structures responsible for managing water resources, monitoring, financing investments, lack of unified

plans water management and the lack of coherent action plans in the event of crisis situations, as well as the threat to the stability of the state border (the Bug is a natural, meandering river, while the border is established on the current line), unsatisfactory water quality (Bagiński L2008; Sanetra-Półgrabi 2016).

In turn, the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution is one of many such commissions in Europe, dealing with the waters of rivers, lakes, coastal and groundwater, in areas where the catchments are located in two or more countries. It was established on the basis of the Agreement of April 11, 1996, signed in Wrocław between the Government of the Republic of Poland, the Government of the Czech Republic, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Community. The main objectives of the Commission include, in particular, matters related to the prevention and lasting reduction of pollution of the Odra River (Barański, Stanecka 2012) and the Baltic Sea with harmful substances and achieving water and coastal ecosystems as close as possible to natural ones, with an appropriate diversity of species, enabling the use of the Odra River primarily for obtaining drinking water from infiltration coastal intakes, agricultural use of water and sediments, prevention and permanent lowering of the risk of flood damage. Finally, an important task is to coordinate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Odra basin, which is the sixth largest tributary of the Baltic Sea, the source of the river is located on the territory of the Czech Republic, and its lower course together with the tributary of the Nysa Łużycka constitutes the border between Poland and Germany. The largest tributary is the Warta. 86.4% of the Odra river basin is located in the territory of the Republic of Poland, 5.9% is in the Czech Republic, and 7.7% in the Federal Republic of Germany. The International Odra River Basin District, with an area of over 124,000 km<sup>2</sup>, is an important cross-border river basin district, which since May 2004 is entirely within the territory of the European Community (wroclaw.rzgw.gov.pl)

FIGURE NO. 1 INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ODRÁ RIVER AGAINST POLLUTION – LOGO



Source: The International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution - home page, <http://www.mkoo.pl/index.php?mid=42&lang=PL>

Similar tasks related to specific river basin districts are the responsibility of the other designated Commissions. And so, the Polish - German Commission on Border Waters - deals mainly with the problem of the impact of drainage of lignite mines on

the neighboring country and the coordination of water supply from groundwater intakes in border areas, while the Polish - Czech Commission on Border Waters focuses on matters of coordination of water abstraction in border zones, the impact of mining drainage and assessment of the impact of water damming in surface reservoirs on groundwater (Bartosiewicz 2009). There is a group of experts from hydrologists and hydrogeologists on groundwater within the structure of the Commission. On the other hand, the Polish-Lithuanian Commission for Cooperation on Border Waters, in addition to fighting pollution, controlling the status of waters, also conducts joint and agreed observations and measurements of surface and ground waters, as well as the exchange of hydrochemical, hydrogeological and hydrometeorological data, establishing criteria for water quality limits and their purity classes as well as the implementation of measurement programs and determination of analytical methods, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical experience in the field of hydrogeology, hydrometeorology and water protection (pgi.gov.pl).

Generally, the competences of the discussed bodies include matters related to the broadly understood protection of border and transboundary waters, monitoring of the situation with regard to threats in the catchment area and hydrotechnical protection, as well as the protection of local flora and fauna. It is also important to exchange current information and cooperate with other institutions, guards and inspections on both sides of the border.

#### IV. STRUCTURE, TASKS AND ACTIVITIES OF SELECTED COMMISSIONS FOR BORDER WATERS IN 2017-2019 IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF POLAND

When reviewing the activities of selected committees, it is first necessary to write about the fundamental problems and threats related to the waters that occur in the south, constituting the national river basins: the Vistula, the Odra and the international ones: the Danube and the Elbe, and in particular these are mountainous areas in which a considerable danger there are floods, and in the period of lower rainfall - droughts. There are many water pollutants, which have various chemical, physical, etc. origins (bip.mos.gov.pl)

Other specific problems are: disturbances in the continuity of watercourses by damming devices, river regulation leading to the unification of hydraulic conditions and channel morphology, changes in the flow regime caused by hydrotechnical activities and changes in the development of the catchment area (increased sealed areas), excessive water abstraction and lowering of the water level in the valleys rivers by drainage drainage systems. It is also worth noting the difficulties related to embankments that hinder or interrupt the communication of ecosystems in floodplains with valley ecosystems, transformations of the shoreline related to fortifications, buildings and deprivation of coastal and coastal vegetation, as well as excessive or improper aggregate exploitation, eutrophication caused by unregulated sewage

management and runoff. nutrients from unsustainably fertilized fields. The listed specialist problems also constitute a basis for monitoring by specific institutions, services, including the analyzed committees for border waters ([biodiv.gdos.gov.pl](http://biodiv.gdos.gov.pl))

There are two commissions for border waters in the southern border of Poland. The first is the Polish-Slovak Commission for Border Waters, which operates on the basis of the Agreement of May 14, 1997 concluded in Warsaw between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Slovak Republic on water management in border waters. The general premises of the activity were: the use and protection against contamination of border waters. The parties agreed that they constitute important and urgent tasks that can only be achieved through close cooperation in the field of water management. Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement, border waters constitute sections of rivers and other watercourses, as well as canals along the state border, as well as surface and underground waters cut by the state border. The length of the state border on the water sections of the Republic of Poland with the Slovak Republic is 104.98 km and runs on the following rivers: Poprad - 31.5 km, Jeleśnia - 15.26 km, Dunajec - 15.02 km, Białka - 13.47 km, Smereczek - 5.15 km, Krywan Border - 3.62 km, Krywan Bliższy - 2.46 km, Starowiński Potok - 2.37 km, Jaworzynka - 2.09 km, Kurczyński Potok - 2.07 km, Chyżne - 1.84 km, Latonka - 1.78 km, Żubrowski Potok - 1.68 km, Zagórski Potok - 1.56 km, Suchy Potok - 1.42 km, Faltynowski Potok - 1.16 km, Rybi Potok - 0.59 km, Apiary Potok - 0.58 km, Piekielny Potok - 0.48 km, Surdycki Potok - 0.44 km, Soliskowy Potok - 0.26 km, Beskid - 0.12 km and Bezimienny Potok - 0.11 km. However, the practice of the Commission's operation has shown that activities are generally focused on the waters of Poprad, Jeleśnia, Dunajec, Smereczka and Białka ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl))

As for the structure, the work of the Committee is attended by: the Chairman, the Secretary and Members of the Delegation, on the Polish side, the chairmanship of the Committee is performed by a representative of the ministry responsible for water management (currently the Ministry of Infrastructure), in the rank of deputy department director. The Delegation consists of the State Water Holding Polish Waters, including the Regional Water Management Authority in Krakow, the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Krakow (the Delegation in Nowy Sącz), the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management - National Research Institute and the Border Guard Headquarters. On the Slovak side, the chairmanship of the Commission is performed by a representative of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. The role of the body is to care for the implementation of cooperation in accordance with the principles set out in the Agreement. Once a year, the Committee reviews the current state of work, receives reports on the activities of working groups and approves work plans for the next accounting period. Meetings of the Committee are held alternately on the territory of the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl)).

The core of the Commission are four working groups, constituting the real platform for its activities, i.e. Working

Group R for cooperation in the field of flood projects, regulation and maintenance of border water courses, border drainage, supervising the maintenance of border water channels, water reservoirs and other devices in border waters within the territory of their countries and use them so that they do not cause threats or damage to the other Party. The Group cooperates in the field of protection against floods, gives opinions on planned projects that may affect border waters, provides each other with data and materials useful for the development of projects or research in border waters, gives opinions on projects in the field of melioration of border areas, cooperates with the use of hydropower in border watercourses; cooperates with the Polish-Slovak Permanent Border Commission in the field of marking and the course of the state border, with other working groups set up by the Commission. On the Polish side, the tasks of the R Group are coordinated by the Regional Water Management Authority in Kraków, including the Management of the catchment area in Nowy Sącz. On the Slovak side, the Slovak Water Management Company is responsible for the cooperation. Another group within the Polish-Slovak Commission for Border Waters is the OPZ Working Group for cooperation in the field of protection of border waters against pollution. Generally, its task is to conduct systematic cross-border research on border waters, assess their quality, including the state of border water bodies on the basis of standardized analysis results. The OPZ Group cooperates to prevent and eliminate the causes and effects of transboundary water pollution and to provide mutual assistance on agreed terms; undertakes actions to reduce pollution of border waters in order to achieve good water status, develops notification systems in the event of transboundary pollution of waters. This group provides opinions on documentation concerning projects affecting border waters or damage resulting from extraordinary transboundary water pollution. As part of the body, data from the tests of boundary waters are made available for the purpose of designing protective devices. In terms of coordination of activities, the tasks on the Polish side are coordinated by the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków, including the Delegation in Nowy Sącz, and on the Slovak side by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. The third working group is the one having an organizational and planning character, i.e. the WFD Working Group for cooperation in planning water management in border waters. From the point of view of tasks, the body cooperates in the development and agreement of water management plans and flood risk management plans for the international Vistula river basin district and the international Danube river basin district, in particular by ensuring the exchange of information on tasks performed for the purposes of planning documents and ensuring the exchange of information when drawing up management plans. waters and action programs. The WFD Group also coordinates tasks in the field of reducing the risk of negative effects related to floods, by ensuring the exchange of information on tasks performed for the purposes of planning documents and ensuring the exchange of information when developing flood risk management plans. This group closely cooperates with other bodies in the field of tasks related to their

competences and with institutions dealing with water management in the field of projects implemented in joint catchments of Polish-Slovak border waters. As for the entities responsible for coordinating cooperation in the analyzed Group, they are: on the Polish side - the Regional Water Management Board in Kraków, the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków and the Marshal's Office of the Małopolska Province in Kraków, and on the Slovak side - the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. The last, fourth body operating under the Polish-Slovak Commission for Border Waters is the HyP Working Group for cooperation in the field of hydrology and flood protection in border waters, dealing in particular with the quantitative assessment of the state of waters, regular delivery of the results of hydrological and meteorological measurements and observations, providing information and documentation in the field of hydrology and meteorology necessary for the preparation of projects and research in the field of boundary waters, cooperation on counteracting floods, during floods, ice advance and during droughts, in the field of providing the necessary hydrological and meteorological data. The HyP Group provides opinions on issues related to water-legal proceedings, assesses hydrological conditions for the needs of various types of projects, participates in the inspection of hydrotechnical facilities, and cooperates with other working groups operating within the Commission. On the Polish side, the tasks of the HyP Group are coordinated by the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management - National Research Institute in Krakow, and on the Slovak side by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute ("SHMÚ") ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl))

Based on the analysis of the minutes of the meetings of the bodies forming the Commission in 2017-2019, it was established that the activities of the above-mentioned working groups to date consisted in the analysis of flood protection, protection of border waters, and planning cooperation. Numerous difficulties were noticed with regard to the functioning technical, legal and organizational solutions for the flood protection system at border sections, it was decided to strengthen the protection against pollution. A significant achievement is the implementation of a number of investment works carried out on border watercourses, and in the matter of flood protection, it was decided to exchange hydrological data and read with the results of monitoring, including the problem of discrepancies in national methodologies regarding the balance of nutrients in catchments. The Commission also dealt with the issue of common transboundary groundwater resources and the balance of these Waters ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl)).

Another analyzed commission dealing with the protection of border waters in the south - the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters operates on the basis of the Agreement of April 20, 2015 concluded in Prague between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Czech Republic on cooperation in border Waters (Agreement of April 20, 2015). The main goals of the cooperation were defined: ensuring the protection, mutually coordinated and rational use of border waters and the improvement of their quality, while maintaining and restoring the ecosystems of dependent waters.

Equally important was the conscious use of border waters, their protection against pollution, and the coordination of efforts to mitigate the negative effects of floods and droughts. The territorial scope of the Commission's activity is determined by the said Agreement and includes all groundwater and surface waters along the state border between states, and waters in those places where they are crossed by this border. The length of the state border on the water stretches of the Republic of Poland with the Czech Republic is 218.44 km. It runs on the following rivers: Orlica - 29.83 km, Olza - 25.06 km, Opawa - 22.34 km, Izera - 16.69 km, Kocia - 12.35 km, Opawica - 9.66 km, Wielki Potok - 9 , 18 km, Piotrówka - 8.77 km, Odra - 7.69 km, Czerwony Potok - 5.77 km, Cieklec - 5.02 km, Graniczny Potok - 3.62 km, Lubota - 3.50 km, Oleśnica - 3.49 km, Lubrzanka - 3.35 km, Czarny Potok - 3.31 km, Witka - 3.02 km, Miłoszowski Potok - 2.83 km, Czarnuszka - 2.52 km, Ziębówka - 2.42 km, Bożanowski Potok - 2.29 km, Olecka - 2.05 km, Lipowy Potok - 2.02 km, Rozumicki Potok - 2 km, Łużyca - 1.89 km, Bystry Potok - 1.66 km, Oleśnicki Potok - 1.37 km , Stachowicki Potok - 1.15 km, Młynówka Bolesław - 1.12 km, Jawornicki Potok - 1.11 km, Kamienny Potok - 1.11 km, Okleśna - 0.91 km, Pograniczny Potok - 0.74 km, Boreczek - 0.72 km, Krzanówka - 0.70 km, Ostróżnica - 0.70 km, Berlenka - 0.59 km, Starościński Potok - 0.56 km, Lesznica - 0.52 km, Grabia - 0.52 km, Bystry - 0.51 km, Świdna - 0.38 km, Zdoniowski Potok - 0.36 km, Klikawa - 0.33 km, Potok Machowski - 0.28 km, Rudnik - 0.28 km, Kocielski - 0.26 km, Radyńska - 0.21 km, Biała Głuchołaska - 0.15 km, Czarna Woda - 0.11 km, Miedzianka - 0.11 km , Gierłacicki - 0.09 km, Czermnica - 0.04 km, Untitled - 11.17 km. In practice, the cooperation of the parties focuses on the waters of the Odra, Olza, Orlica, Opawa, Osobłoga, Piotrówka, Ścinawka, Biała Głuchołaska, Nysa Łużycka, Witka and Miedzianka (flowing across the borders of both countries) waters, and groundwater in the border regions of the upper Odra and upper Nysa Łużycka and the Śród-Sudecka Basin ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl)).

As far as the structure of the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters is concerned, similarly to the Polish-Slovak Commission presented above, this Commission also implements the provisions of the Agreement. And so, the Parties appoint the Chairman, Secretary and Members of the Delegation, on the Polish side, the chairmanship of the Commission is performed by a representative of the ministry responsible for water management (currently the Ministry of Infrastructure), with the rank of deputy department director. The Delegation consists of the Polish Water Holding, including the Regional Water Management Authority in Gliwice and the Gliwice Basin Management, the Regional Water Management Authority in Wrocław, the Provincial Environmental Protection Inspectorate in Katowice, the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management - National Research Institute, Polish Geological Institute - the National Research Institute and the Border Guard Headquarters. On the Czech side, the chairmanship of the Commission is performed by a representative of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, while the current progress of works is reviewed once a year, reports on the activity of working groups are received,

and work plans for the next accounting period are approved. Meetings of the Committee are held alternately on the territory of the Republic of Poland and the Czech Republic ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl)).

Similarly to the Polish-Slovak Commission for Border Waters, there are working groups with a mixed, expert composition. Similarly, as in the case of the commission on the Slovak side, there is the R Working Group for cooperation in the field of border regulation of watercourses, water supply and drainage of border areas, which supervises the maintenance of border watercourse beds, water reservoirs and other devices in the border waters on the territory of their countries and use them in such a way that they do not cause threats or damage to the other Party. In addition, within the R Group: the scope of works on border water courses is planned to be performed by each Party at its own or joint cost, it cooperates with the Permanent Polish-Czech Border Commission in the field of marking and the course of the state border, gives opinions on planned projects that may be impact on border waters, projects are initiated in the field of melioration of border areas and cooperates with other working groups appointed by the Commission. Reports on activities are prepared periodically, which take into account any difficulties in the implementation of tasks resulting from the work of Group R. On the Polish side, the tasks are carried out by the Regional Water Management Authority in Gliwice, including the Management of the Basin in Gliwice. On the Czech side, the Czech Water Management Company, ie Povodí Odry Ostrava, is responsible for the cooperation. Another body within the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters is responsible for flood safety and there is Group P for cooperation in the field of water management planning on border waters. Its task is to prepare opinions or plan activities, to cooperate in this respect with other groups and to give opinions on investments aimed at improving the situation on border waters in terms of increasing ecological safety. The third OPZ Working Group for cooperation in the area of border waters protection against pollution monitors border waters through systematic tests and then assesses their quality on the basis of standardized analysis results. In addition, the OPZ Group cooperates to prevent and eliminate the causes and effects of transboundary water pollution, including actions to reduce the pollution of border waters in order to achieve good water status. This group provides opinions on documentation concerning projects affecting border waters, or damage resulting from extraordinary transboundary water pollution. In the Group, tasks are carried out on the Polish side, respectively, by the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Katowice and the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Warsaw, and on the Czech side by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. Another entity within the Commission, i.e. the WFD Working Group for cooperation in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60 / EC on border waters, carries out activities for the sustainable and rational use of common border water catchments, achieving good status of surface and ground waters and protected areas . Its main goal and achievement is to prevent further deterioration

of the water status, protect and improve the condition of water ecosystems and coordinate information on the implementation of tasks undertaken to implement the Water Framework Directive in the common catchments of Polish-Czech border waters. In terms of coordination of tasks within the Group, the following cooperation is carried out on the Polish side: the State Water Holding, Polish Regional Water Management Authority in Wrocław, the State Water Holding, Polish Regional Water Management Authority in Gliwice, the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, the Regional Department of Environmental Monitoring in Wrocław and the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management - National Research Institute in Wrocław, and on the Czech side, the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. The last Working Group, which carries out activities in the field of hydrology, hydrogeology and flood protection, namely the HyP Group, focuses in its undertakings on direct cooperation between territorial divisions of the hydrometeorological services of both Parties, and also develops solutions aimed at improving cooperation resulting from the needs of the national economy in border waters, coordinates cooperation in the use of the latest measurement and observation techniques, performs tasks in the field of harmonization of hydrological characteristics on border rivers, conducts observations and measurements of groundwater. The HyP Group deals with the exchange of the results of hydrological and meteorological measurements and observations, providing information and documentation in the field of hydrology and meteorology and flood protection ([wroclaw.rzgw.gov.pl](http://wroclaw.rzgw.gov.pl)).

In the case of the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters, the activities carried out in 2017-2019 brought many effects, especially with regard to the maintenance of border watercourses, investment planning, cooperation in the field of hydrometeorological forecasting and water quality monitoring. The functioning working groups have implemented many projects in the field of improving the technical and organizational equipment of services in the fight against floods and pollution. Activities for cooperation in emergency situations related to high water levels have been intensified. Initiatives related to the monitoring of the groundwater status in the area of the Turów lignite mine were considered important. At the same time, during the period considered, the Commission became acquainted with the results of water quality monitoring and concluded that the poorer indicators are directly related to the lower water flows in rivers in recent years. Much space is occupied by maintenance works and the state of preparation of hydrotechnical investments on border watercourses ([www.gov.pl](http://www.gov.pl)).

#### V. INFLUENCE OF THE COMMISSION FOR BORDER WATERS ON TOURISM

Basing the state border on a river, mountains, highlands, i.e. its connection with the topography, makes cooperation seem indispensable (Prescott 1990). However, it takes place within the framework of more or less formal relations between states.

With regard to the appointed Committees, it is worth noting that the dominant problems are the broadly understood environmental safety and flood protection. When analyzing the activities of both the Polish-Slovak and the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters, it is worth noting that the working groups within them are responsible for matters related

to flood protection, combating water pollution, planning activities aimed at implementing the provisions of the Water Framework Directive, as well as planning bilateral cooperation and its constant monitoring.

TAB. NO. 1 INFLUENCE OF THE ANALYZED COMMISSIONS ON TOURISM

No.	The role of the Commission resulting from the activities of the working groups	Action type	Character	Role
1.	- flood protection, - planning activities, - monitoring, - implementation of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive	- investment	- modernization activities, - restructuring activities, - revitalization instruments.	- introducing new elements of tourist infrastructure, - adaptation, renovation of the already existing infrastructure to function on the tourist market.
2.	- planning activities, - monitoring, - planning of bilateral cooperation	- organization and personnel	- planning activities, - educational activities, - information activities	- creating within the functioning bureaucratic structure of cells responsible for the coordination and development of tourism, - organization of trainings and conferences.
3.	- planning activities, - monitoring, - planning of bilateral cooperation	- popularizing	- promotional activities, - territorial marketing.	- actively attracting tourists and investors from the tourism industry and related sectors, - making the inhabitants aware of the benefits resulting from the development of tourism.
4.	- flood protection, - planning activities, - monitoring, - implementation of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive	- legal	- establishing acts of local law, - making favorable location decisions, - developing a tourism development strategy (program).	- facilitating various forms of tourist and recreational activity, - defining the directions of tourism development at the local level.
5.	- planning activities, - monitoring,	- offset (offer)	- preparing offers for investors.	- facilitating the inflow of investments of a specific value and specificity.
6.	- flood protection, - planning activities, - monitoring, - implementation of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive	- in the communal sphere	- development of technical infrastructure and transport, - ensuring order and aesthetics.	- creating an original and friendly tourism space.

Source: own study and based on M. Zalech, Polityka turystyczna na szczeblu lokalnym – zakres, zadania, działania, determinanty, „Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego. Ekonomiczne Problemy Usług”, 2010, nr 53, s. 299-300.

The table presented above (see Tab. No 1) systematizes the activities undertaken by both Committees in a very general way with those included in the selected literature on the subject, and related to the development of tourism. In general, it can be said that all tasks undertaken within the analyzed Commissions, i.e. flood protection, planning and monitoring, implementation of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive, and combating pollution, directly or indirectly affect the analyzed area, i.e. tourism. It should be clearly emphasized that in border areas its role is specific, conditioned by the nature of the border, economic and social potential, of the neighbor, as well as infrastructural possibilities. Regardless of this, the indicated fields of influence on tourism, i.e. investment and popularization issues, impacts in the municipal sphere, created legal or organizational solutions, are important, for example, for the emergence or modernization of the existing technical infrastructure and legal or financial solutions adopted in local law. In addition, local authorities in the area of the Commission's operations can, to a much greater extent, direct

efforts to obtain external sources of financing, with an emphasis on flood protection, the natural environment and, finally, care for cultural identity.

#### VI. EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION ON BORDER WATERS AFFECTING TOURISM

In recent years, the activities of both Commissions for the development of tourism have intensified. In the case of the activities of the Polish-Czech body in the field of water management planning, one can point to the construction of a polder in the Krzanówka (Oldřišovský potok) near Krzanowice, thus, due to the periodic flooding and a large limitation within the polder of agricultural management, biodiversity has increased in its area, it has become a habitat for many rare species of marsh plants and animals, which, combined with oxbow lakes and the surrounding natural conditions, increased the attractiveness of tourists. Moreover, the report on the

feasibility study of the Danube-Oder-Laba Water Corridor was heard within the Polish-Czech Commission for Border Waters and it was unanimously emphasized that the initiative is pro-ecological and pro-tourism in nature. Thanks to it, various types of sports and recreation will develop. In addition, the activities of the Commission monitor the situation with regard to the environmental impact assessment of the project for laying embankments along the Piotrówka (Petrůvka) River and the progress of preparatory works for the construction of flood bridges and embankments on the border section of the Opava River in the vicinity of Wiechowice (Vávrowice) and Dierzkowice (Držkovice). In addition, information was provided on the progress of work on the completion of the Nové Heřminovy reservoir project and related protective measures on the border section of Opava. In addition to measures to shape water management, specific initiatives were also taken in the field of hydrology, hydrogeology and flood protection, in particular, an assessment of resources and their importance for ecology, maintenance of ecosystems and ensuring effective flood protection, specifically the Oldřichovský stream and resources on the Orlice River ( Divoká Orlice) ([www.kzgw.gov.pl](http://www.kzgw.gov.pl)).

Within the Polish-Slovak Commission for Border Waters, it should be noted that the activities of the Working Group in the field of flood protection, regulation and drainage played an important role in shaping tourism. For example, projects aimed at implementing investments on watercourses and in the immediate vicinity of the state border have been intensified, e.g. maintenance of the damaged Slovak shore of the Białka stream (Biela voda), shift of the I / 68 Piwniczna (Mnišek n / Popradom) road, a harbor for passenger boats located in Na Nokliach, execution of an outlet and introduction of treated sewage from the sewage treatment plant at the Roztoka refuge to the Białka stream (Biela voda) and also the renovation of the footbridge in Sromowce Niżne (Červený Kláštor). In order to increase the tourist attractiveness, it was also undertaken to secure the shores of Smerečný potok in the village of Leluchów (Ruská Voľa) ([kzgw.gov.pl](http://kzgw.gov.pl)).

## VII. CONCLUSION

The activities of the Polish-Slovak and Polish-Czech Commissions for Border Waters presented in the text are an important element of water management, which fulfills two key tasks. The first is to maintain ecological security, and the second is to ensure the supply of available water resources for economic purposes, including tourism and social purposes, while maintaining economic efficiency. In both cases, the most important considerations are water quality and quantity. The best results in water management are achieved by measures covering the entire catchment area. Transboundary waters constitute a significant part of the world's water resources, therefore the responsibility for the proper use of shared waters applies to all countries with access to them. As shown in the text, international cooperation in transboundary waters is an integral part of the state's water management and supports its important activities, including the warning system against

dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena, the country's flood protection, as well as preventing major accidents.

In the context of the impact on tourism, it should be noted that, first of all, riverside ecosystems that are attractive in terms of cleanliness are important for owners of agritourism farms and accommodation owners. Secondly, it is possible to use better, customer-tailored promotion and territorial marketing based on river, regional, cross-border tourist products, such a situation can be observed on the Polish-Slovak border, in the vicinity of Dunajec and in the Vistula area in the Cieszyn powiat, which is part of the cross-border region Poland and the Czech Republic (Pawlikowska-Piechotka 1997). The use of rivers is visible directly in the framework of basing local development on tourism and indirectly in the application of the leading theme in promotion and advertising.

Combating pollution and protecting local flora and fauna contribute to the implementation of the principle of sustainable development, including the improvement of the natural and cultural environment and, in part, the integration of local communities. In the areas subject to monitoring by the Commission, it is better to develop modernization, restructuring and revitalization activities. Thus, it is possible to introduce new elements of tourist infrastructure, as well as to adapt and renew the existing infrastructure to function on the tourist market.

The last, important, and perhaps even the most important element of the Commission's influence on tourism is flood protection, as shown in the structure and role of the working groups presented in the article, it constitutes an important factor in their activities. Flood risk management plans and maps developed also show this. It should be noted that it is legitimate to continue to analyze the conditions, scope of competences and effects of the Commission's activities, and to conduct in-depth research in the field of tourism impact assessment.

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