

**Call for papers**  
15<sup>th</sup> World Lake Conference  
**Lakes: The Mirrors of the Earth**  
**Balancing Ecosystem Integrity and Human Wellbeing**

**Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2014, at 9:00**  
**Department of Law - University of Perugia**  
**Via A. Pascoli 33, Perugia (Italy)**

Lake water bodies pose significant issues linked to the establishment of a legal framework specifically addressing potential conflicts while providing a solid and efficient regulation for the best management of the water as a public shared resource.

The legal Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Lake International Conference intends to analyze national and international legal tools for transboundary lake water resources management, with specific regard to environmental protection of lacustral habitats, water resource utilization for drinking, irrigation and industrial uses, landscape preservation and water transportation systems.

Water protection is one of the major challenges facing the European Union in the new millennium. A key aim of EU legislation is to develop the most cost-effective, innovative and competitive ways of managing water resources whilst mitigating the effects of climate change throughout Europe. The Water Framework Directive No. 2000/60/CE was adopted to establish a common approach to these problems. In order to meet the objectives set forth by the Directive, Member States are required to ensure that all their surface waters reach the defined 'good ecological and chemical status' by 2015. Also flood risk is addressed by EU Law, in particular by the Flood Directive No. 2007/60/CE. Both these acts need implementation into national legal orders. To this end Italy enacted Legislative Decrees No. 152/2006 and No. 2010/49.

At the International level, States bordering the same transboundary waters shall cooperate by entering into specific agreements and establishing joint bodies. Obligations to prevent, control and reduce environmental impact and to use water resources in a reasonable and sustainable way are undertaken by States by means of multilateral conventions and specific agreements between riparian Countries. To this end, the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) promoted the adoption of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which is intended to strengthen national measures for the protection and management of transboundary surface and ground waters in an ecologically sound way. Initially negotiated as a regional instrument, the Water Convention was amended in 2003 to allow accession by all the United Nations Member States, thus becoming a global legal framework for transboundary water cooperation. The legal debate in Perugia wants to address the difficulties encountered in implementing the Water Convention, arising from differences in administrative practice, management and protection responsibilities and water use rights in riparian Countries. Another relevant multilateral treaty is the 1998 Aarhus Convention which imposes on public authorities obligations regarding access to information and to justice, thus forging a new process for enhancing public participation in the decision-making process concerning environmental issues.

Those interested in presenting papers should send an abstract (max. 700 characters) and a short *curriculum vitae* to Alessandra Lanciotti (alessandra.lanciotti@unipg.it) by the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2014.

[www.wlc15perugia.com](http://www.wlc15perugia.com)

**LEGAL WORKSHOP**  
**Lakes: The Mirrors of the Earth**  
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**(DRAFT) PROGRAMME:**

h. 9.00

Welcome address:

Giovanni MARINI. Director of the Law Department

**“Opening remarks”**

Alessandra LANCIOTTI

Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Perugia

Speakers:

*“The contribution of the UNECE Water Convention to the prevention and resolution of transboundary water disputes”*

Cristina CONTARTESE

Senior Researcher, University of Luxemburg

*“Transfrontier management of lakes: the project for the establishment of a Transboundary Park at Scadar Lake”*

Giovannella D’ANDREA

International Lawyer, advisor to EU neighbouring countries on their process of approximation to the EU *acquis* on energy and environment

**Title to be defined**

Stefano BURCHI

Chairman of the Executive Council, International Association for Water Law (AIDA)

*“The European Directives on Water”*

Fabio RASPADORI,

Professor of EU Law, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Perugia

*11.15-11.30 Coffee break*

**Other speakers:**

*“The Caspian Sea regime”*

Vüqar HACIYEV

Counselor , Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Rome, PhD Candidate at ‘Sapienza’- University of Rome

**“The Water Tribunal”**

Fabrizio FIGORILLI

Professor of Administrative Law, Faculty of Law, University of Perugia

**“The International Human Rights Courts and the right to access to water”**

Simone VEZZANI

Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Perugia

**Interventions and debate (Call for paper)**