



## Transboundary water resources: a weaponised global common

18 June 2026 | 13:30 – 17:30 CET | CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, Brussels, Belgium

**Public, in-person + livestream**

Transboundary water resources are an issue at the intersection of climate change, regional security and international law. Increasingly, these shared resources are being weaponised as regional commons, requiring cooperation but also leading to growing conflict due to some actors' intransigence. This public event, organised by CEPS and the Embassy of Pakistan to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg, will examine how shared river basins, in particular the Indus basin in South Asia, are becoming hotspots of conflict.

The **first panel** will focus on the climate-society nexus, with special emphasis on Pakistan's climate vulnerability, flooding, and the responsible implementation of transboundary water agreements. It focuses especially on how these pressures affect people, ecosystems, food security, and vulnerable downstream communities, and how governments can reduce tensions before they turn into conflict.

The **second panel** will address transboundary cooperation by integrating rule-of-law perspectives, keeping in view the Indus Waters Treaty, and drawing on examples from the Mekong Delta and European water-sharing experiences. It will examine legal, diplomatic, and regional cooperation mechanisms to manage shared water resources and prevent escalation. Both panels will aim to identify concrete mechanisms for cooperation and ways to prevent escalation of an issue that goes far beyond the river basin itself.

Registration and more detailed information are available [here](#).

### Programme

#### 14:00–14:20 | Keynote Remarks

**Opening Remarks:** Karel Lanoo, CEO, CEPS

**Welcome Statement:** H.E. Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi

**Recorded Keynote Address:** Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

#### 14:25–15:25 | Panel I: Climate, Society, and Water Vulnerability

**Moderator:** Dr. Isabel Scheckenbach, Head of Climate Programme, CEPS

**Sophie Desmidt**, Associate Director, People, Partnerships and Peace, ECDPM

**Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik**, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**15:25–15:40 Coffee Break**

**15:40–16:40 | Panel II: Transboundary Cooperation, Rule of Law, and Water Weaponisation**

**Moderator:** *Dr. Ceren Ergenç, Research Fellow, CEPS*

**Cathy Suykens**, Senior Researcher at Utrecht University and Energy Law in-house Counsel

**Feisal Hussain Naqvi**, International arbitration expert and former counsel for the Government of Pakistan in Indus Waters Treaty matters

**Danish Qayyum**, Founder at Captiv8 Strategies, a global communications advisory, and editor at The Pakistan Playbook

**16:45 Network Session**

Special Pakistani delicacies provided by the Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels