Methodology of work
of the Committee for monitoring and coordination of implementation of the Project "Rehabilitation and development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway"

1. Background

Due to a favourable transport position of the Sava River, its unused transport potential, and the fact that inland navigation is an environmentally friendly and sustainable transport mode, the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (hereinafter: FASRB) consider the Project "Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway" (hereinafter: the Project) as one of the priorities in the implementation of the FASRB, which was also endorsed by the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB. With an aim to ensure implementation of the Project, the International Sava River Basin Commission (hereinafter: ISRBC) and all of its member states are currently implementing numerous activities, including those on the development of the project documentation and other documents, as well as the activities regarding the financing of the waterway rehabilitation works, which all require a high degree of coordination among the member states, the ISRBC and international institutions. Also, the ISRBC passed Decisions No. 21/09 and No. 01/10 regarding the activities on rehabilitation and development of the waterway, requiring a regular mutual information-sharing and coordination of all activities, which altogether implies the need to establish a kind of a coordinating body for implementation of the Project.

Furthermore, as the ISRBC and their Memeber States are committed to implementation of the principles of the Joint Statement on Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin, and the Joint Statement recommends the establishment of interdisciplinary planning teams involving key stakeholders to facilitate this integrated planning approach, the Committee for monitoring and coordination of implementation of the Project (hereinafter: Committee) aims to play this role.

This Methodology defines the general conditions for the work of the individual parties participating in the Committee integrating the rehabilitation and development of the Sava navigation with environmental objectives.

2. Legal Framework

The establishment of the Committee is based on the ISRBC Decisions No. 21/09, No. 01/10, No. 07/11 and No. 01/12.

3. The Purpose

The Committee is established for the general purpose of monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the Project.

4. Tasks of the Committee

Tasks of the Committee are the following:

- Overall monitoring of the Project;
- Coordination of the activities within the Project;
- Monitoring and fostering of implementation of the ISRBC decisions No. 21/09 and No. 01/10;
- Exchange of information regarding the work on different parts of the Project;
- Formulation of the Project-related information needs, comments, questions and recommendations to the Project team with support of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board, if needed (especially regarding the information needs; if the information input from external parties is required, this should be recommended to the Project team);
- Discussion and assessment of work on different parts of the Project;
- Elaboration of proposals for required improvements of the activities in different parts of the Project;
- Stimulation of implementation of the principles of the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin;
- Stimulation of activities on informing the public concerned and involving the stakeholders in the Project;
- Regular reporting to the ISRBC on its work and progress regarding the Project;
- Proposing relevant actions to the ISRBC;
- Consideration of other relevant recommendations and proposals regarding the Project.

5. Chairmanship and Participation

The Chairman of the Committee is the Secretary of the ISRBC and Vice Chairman of the Committee is Deputy Secretary for Navigation of the ISRBC.

If the institutions change their representatives within the Committee temporarily or permanently, the present representatives must fully inform the new representatives of the previous work and discussions in the Committee.

The mandate of the Committee members is bound to the organization they are representing. Each organization has the right to withdraw their representative/s at any time in written form.

Additional experts may also participate in the meetings, should their specific expert knowledge be needed or requested. Participation of such experts needs to be announced by a member of the Committee to the ISRBC, at least three working days prior to the meeting.

The Committee shall invite representatives of the EU and World Bank to participate in the meetings of the Committee. The Committee may invite representatives of other national or international organisations to participate in the meetings of the Committee.

During the meetings of the Committee, it is not permitted to either record film or sound.

The Committee may, with the prior consent of the ISRBC, establish an Interdisciplinary Advisory Board, in order to provide help and advice to the Committee on the development of the Project.

6. The Rules of Procedure

All conclusions, recommendations and proposals of the Committee shall be agreed unanimously by the attendant representatives of the Parties, provided that at least 3 Parties are represented (quorum). If no consensus is achieved, a majority approved statement can be issued instead. In such case, dissent must be documented appropriately. In any case, points of dissent can be directly addressed to the Project team as questions.

At least 2 of the attendant representatives of the Parties should agree on questions formulated and directed at the Project team by the Committee.

Representatives of international organizations and stakeholders have the right to regularly participate in the Committee meetings, express their position and views, and have them reflected in relevant meeting documents, as well as to submit relevant documents, conclusions, recommendations and proposals to the Committee, to be discussed or adopted at the meeting. If their conclusions, recommendations or proposals are not adopted, points of dissent must be documented appropriately.

All other general Rules of Procedure of the Committee that are not listed in this Methodology shall be implemented in accordance with the ISRBC Rules of Procedure regulating the work of its expert groups.

Reports from the Committee meetings shall be published on a publicly available section of the ISRBC web site.