

ANNUAL REPORT
on Work and Activities
of the Sava Commission
For the Period
April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007



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I Introduction

The International Sava River Basin Commission (Sava Commission) was established on June 27, 2005, in Zagreb (Croatia) on its 1st Regular Session, which was actually the Constitutional Session. General tasks and competencies of the Sava Commission are stipulated by the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), more specifically by the Annex I to the FASRB – Statute of the International Sava River Basin Commission. Following the Article 10 of the Annex I to the FASRB, the Sava Commission is obliged to submit the Annual Report on its work and activities to the Parties.

Accordingly, the Annual Report on work and activities of the Sava Commission for year 2006 meets this obligation, and covers the period as of April 01, 2006, to March 31, 2007, since the financial year of the Sava Commission lasts from April 1st to March 31st of the subsequent year.

During the reporting period, two new representatives of the Sava Commission were nominated who replaced the previous deputy members of the Sava Commission from Bosnia & Herzegovina and Republic of Croatia. Namely, two new nominated representatives of the Sava Commission were Mr. Savo Gluvić, the deputy member from Bosnia & Herzegovina (since September 21, 2006), and Ms. Ružica Drmić, the deputy member from the Republic of Croatia (since January 18, 2007).

Full list of the Sava Commission members and deputy members with key notes from their biographies is given in Annex I to the Report.

II Activities of the Sava Commission

During the reporting period, the Sava Commission held the continuation of the 6th Special Session (Zagreb, April 20, 2006) and two Regular Sessions – 2nd Regular Session (October 05-06, October 27, and November 15, 2006) and 3rd Regular Session (March 20-21, 2007). Thereof, the Sava Commission passed numerous conclusions and decisions in all fields of work stipulated under the FASRB.

The principal activities of the Sava Commission referred to:

- Further development and up-grade of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB,
- Initial activities in development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan;
- Prioritization of projects of the Sava Commission and collaboration with respective external projects of significance to the Sava River Basin;
- Preparation of documents related to navigation;
- Realization of conclusions of the “Joint Statement of the ministers of transport” signed in Brčko (B&H);
- Development of protocols to the FASRB;
- Financial management of the Sava Commission;
- Planning and initial activities in organization of the First Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB and development of the related documents;
- Information management;
- Administration management and development of subsidiary regulations of the Sava Commission;
- Cooperation and public participation.

Furthermore in context of development and upgrade of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB, the preliminary version was drafted in December 2005. The later upgrade of the Preliminary Strategy was prepared by the Secretariat in February 2007 and presented to the expert groups of the Sava Commission afterwards. This version of the Draft Strategy was accepted by the Sava Commission on its 3rd Regular Session with instructions on how to proceed in further development. Once the final draft is prepared, it will be presented to the public for discussions with stakeholders, prior to the adoption.

Along with numerous activities of the Sava Commission, five expert groups were established during 2006, and three *ad hoc* expert groups are in process of establishment. Basic information on the expert groups (dates of establishment, lists of chairpersons and members) is given in Annex II to the Report.

Two officials of the Secretariat were appointed during the reporting period, and these are the deputy secretary for river basin management and water planning (as of June 19, 2006) and deputy secretary for water quality and protection of aquatic ecosystems (as of July 03, 2006).

Detailed review of activities of the Sava Commission is presented in the sections below, and brief overview of the Sessions of the Sava Commission is given in Annex III to the Report.

1. Integrated water management

Three phases of work in the field of integrated water management can be distinguished within the reporting period.

In the first phase, during the first quarter of the year, only certain preparatory activities were performed by the Sava Commission, due to lack of capacity in the water management sector of the Secretariat. Some of these initial activities were supported by engagement of an external expert.

The activities of the Sava Commission in capacity sufficient for this phase of the implementation of the FASRB in the field of water management (the second phase) actually began in mid 2006 when the deputy secretary for river basin management (RBM) and water planning and deputy secretary for water quality and protection of aquatic ecosystem were employed. Herewith, conditions for the preparation of initial working documents for permanent expert groups, for which the decisions on establishment have already been made by the Sava Commission, were created.

The third phase is the period since the beginning of work of three permanent expert groups, dealing primarily with the Integrated Water Management – Permanent Expert Groups for River Basin Management (PEG RBM), Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC), and Flood Prevention (PEG FP) (November – December 2006), when the activities were extended so as to address a majority of the tasks specified under the FASRB and the Draft Strategy, as described in the following text.

1.1. Development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan

According to the Draft Strategy, as tasked for the year 2006, the initial activities in the process of development of the Sava RBM Plan (SRBMP) were performed in order to get prepared for the Sava River Basin Analysis (SRBA). These activities include:

1. Analysis of documents relevant for the preparation of SRBM Plan;
2. Analysis of the status of SRB countries in respect to the actual stage of WFD implementation, and
3. Preparation of the Structure and Road map (Action plan) for the Sava RBM Plan.

The initial activities of the Sava Commission were made through a framework of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (PEG RBM), which held three meetings during the reporting period (November 20-21, 2006; January 25-26, 2007, and March 29-30, 2007). The *Terms of Reference (ToR)* and *Programme of Work of the PEG RBM for 2006*¹

¹ All the Work Programmes and Work Plans, mentioned throughout the Annual Report, correspond to the financial year stated.

were approved, upon proposal of the Secretariat, by the PEG RBM, and adopted by the Sava Commission on its 3rd Regular Session.

Necessary steps were made by the Sava Commission in order to get involved into *the ongoing projects* relevant for the whole Sava River Basin, and to define the status of current activities on a basin level, as well as to collect the results of relevance for the RBM activities.

The following external projects were identified as being relevant for the whole Sava River Basin:

1. “Support to the Development of the Sava RBM Plan” (UNDP/GEF – DRP Sava Component Project);
2. “Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava River” (Regional CARDS Project);
3. “Sava River Basin: Sustainable Use, Management and Protection of Resources” (EU FP-6 Project);
4. “Development of an Ecological Network along the Sava River” (Government of the Netherlands);
5. “Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in the Sava River Basin” (UNDP/GEF DRP);
6. “Network of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin” (OSCE).

It is important to stress that all the projects were prepared and launched before the establishment of the Sava Commission and, as such, have suffered of deficiency of a basin-wide beneficiary and coordinating body. The level of involvement of the Sava Commission in the current projects depended primarily on the phase of the particular project development and the compliance of the anticipated project outputs with the overall goals of the Sava Commission in the field of integrated water management.

Future activities of the Sava Commission will benefit from the external projects in context of the following topics:

- RBM Plan Structure and Road Map (Action plan) – Project under item 1. above;
- Sava River Basin Analysis (SRBA) – Project under item 2. above;
- development of the Sava Information System (integrated development of the GIS and River Information Service-RIS) – Projects under items 2., 3., 4. and 6. above;
- hydropower, navigation and flood protection in line with the WFD implementation – Project under item 2. above;
- IFI funding possibilities for water resources management – Project under item 2. above;
- Development of projects – Project under item 2. above.

A potential overlapping of two key external projects (under items 1. and 2. above) was prevented by organization of the joint meeting with participation of the projects’ leaders, the ICPDR representatives and the Sava Commission Secretariat in September 2006.

Based on the discussion paper submitted by the *UNDP/GEF – DRP Sava Component project* and comments and inputs of the PEG RBM, a key document “*The Structure and the Road Map of the Sava RBM Plan*” was prepared by the Secretariat and adopted by the Sava Commission on its 3rd Regular Session. The Road Map, as an action plan for the development of the Sava RBM Plan, is to be treated as a “living” document and, as such, regularly updated during *the Sava River Basin Analysis* phase and afterwards, if necessary, since not all deadlines for the required activities could be precisely defined in this phase.

Having in mind that all the WFD-related activities are substantially postponed in comparison to the deadlines enacted by the WFD, the SRB Analysis (SRBA), which is the first step in the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan, is ambitiously planned to be performed in 2007. To achieve the target, a considerable effort is needed from the Sava Commission as the coordinating body, as well as from the institutions of the Parties in the execution of the analysis. The risks to fail in achievement of the targeted goals and certain assumptions are also given in the above mentioned key document, in a separate chapter.

A detailed *Table of Contents for the SRB Analysis Report* (version 1) was drafted by the Sava CARDS project and presented on the 2nd PEG RBM meeting. After discussion and suggestions given by the PEG, the upgraded version 2 was distributed to the PEG members for further adjustment.

Templates for collecting data from relevant institutions in the Sava river basin countries were also prepared and presented on the PEG RBM meeting. After an initial adjustment, the templates were distributed to the Sava countries through the PEG members for final approval and completion. The anticipated deadline for completion of the templates is mid May 2007. The first draft of the Water quality chapter is expected by the end of June 2007.

According to *the Work Plan in the field of water management for 2007*, approved by the Sava Commission on its 3rd Regular Session, and the *Work Programme of the PEG RBM for 2007*, agreed on the 3rd PEG RBM meeting, development of other chapters of the SRBA Report is to be agreed on the next PEG RBM meeting scheduled for June 2007.

For successful work on preparation of the Sava RBM plan, the involvement of relevant authorities of the Republic of Montenegro in this early phase has been recognized by the PEG RBM as an issue of essential importance. Therefore, the Sava Commission obliged the Secretariat to undertake all necessary steps to try to ensure the participation of the representatives of Montenegro in next meetings of the PEG RBM.

1.2. Accident Prevention and Control

The key activities of the Sava Commission in this field were made through a framework of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC), which held two meetings during the reporting period (January 18-19 and March 9, 2007). The *Terms of Reference* and *Work Programme of the PEG APC for 2007* were approved by the PEG APC and adopted by the Sava Commission on its 3rd Regular Session.

According to its ToR, the overall objective of the PEG APC is to provide assistance, guidance and coordination to all activities of the Sava Commission related to the implementation of the FASRB in the field of accident prevention and control, and the activities related to management of extraordinary impacts on the water and aquatic eco-system.

The analysis of the present status on national level was performed during the reporting period, referring to existing regulations (i.e. Water law), institutional organizations (i.e. organizations responsible for implementation of accident prevention, PIAC centers, authorized companies to remove pollution) and the existing data about protection plans, pollution sources, authorized laboratories, etc.

A majority of work was focused on consideration and further improvement of the Draft Protocol on emergency situations. This activity will continue during the year 2007.

Further activities in this field will be focused mainly to improvements and modifications of the integrated system to exchange warning, data and information accident prevention and control with reference to the existing and approved ICPDR system and to development of the operative structure and capacities within relevant bodies.

Preparation of priority projects, which are necessary to support the main objectives of the accident prevention and control system, will be initiated, and the preparation of initial testing of the integrated system to exchange data and information will be performed, during the year 2007. The warning system will be tested by end of the year.

In the Draft Strategy on implementation of the FASRB, the *Joint Sava Survey and development of the integrated system to exchange data and information on APC* are specified, along with the timetable. The preparatory activities for the Joint Sava Survey will be performed in 2007 and the Joint Sava Survey is planned for 2008. The improvement and modifications of the integrated system to exchange warnings, data and information and initial testing of the system is supposed to be performed in 2007. According to the results of the initial testing, the improvement of the system will be started in 2008.

1.3. Flood Management

The initial activities of the Sava Commission in the field of flood management were made through a framework of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention (PEG FP), which held one meeting during the reporting period (January 16-17, 2007). The *Terms of Reference and Work Programme of the PEG FP for 2006* were approved, upon proposal of the Secretariat, by the PEG FP, and adopted by the Sava Commission on its 3rd Regular Session.

The analysis of the relevant activities on national (Sava countries) level was performed during the reporting period, as well as of the state of affairs on international level (ICPDR and EU), with an emphasis on the initiatives with certain or potential influence on flood related activities in the Sava River Basin. The preparation of a *position paper* will be undertaken taking into account:

- the relevant ICPDR and its FP EG documents,
- up-to-date actions in the flood management field on the EU level,
- perform an initial inventory of the flood management in the SRB countries.

It is expected that the position paper will be prepared in the first quarter of financial year 2007.

Based on the inputs of all three PEGs dealing with the water management issues, the first major upgrade of the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB (March 2007) was prepared and submitted to the Sava Commission, which, thereof, gave instructions for further adjustments and steps required for its final approval.

Accordingly, the *Work plan of the Sava Commission for 2007* in the field of water management (RBM, APC and FP) was prepared.

1.4. Projects and studies

As first step in preparation of the development programs for the Sava river basin, a provisional list of the priority projects in the field of water management was defined by the Sava Commission, so as to include the following projects:

1. *Flood risk assessment study for the Sava river basin;*
2. *Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the Sava river basin;*
3. *Improvement of the monitoring system of water quality and quantity parameters for the Sava river basin;*
4. *Establishment of the early warning system for flood protection and the accident risk assessment study for the Sava river basin.*

The above listed priority projects rather present strategic studies that are expected to provide information necessary for a prioritization of projects and subsequent creation of action plans and development programs.

The Secretariat of the Sava Commission is given the responsibility to perform both preparation and management phases of the projects. Additionally, the Secretariat is supposed to contribute, with assistance of the Expert Groups, to further improvement of the list of priority projects, so as to cover other fields to a greater extent (e.g. the EU WFD-oriented projects) and to include not only the strategic studies, but more concrete projects as well.

So far, there has been a progress towards realization of the project „*Development and Upgrade of Hydro-meteorological Information and Forecasting System for the Sava River Basin*“. The project was initiated by the Hydro-meteorological Institutes of the Sava countries and gained the official support of the Sava Commission. The Terms of Reference for the project is being prepared and contacts have been made with the World Bank and the World Meteorological Organization, in order to provide the financial support for realization of the Project.

Additionally, the Sava Commission was invited to become a partner in project teams of the two EU FP-7 projects: *The role of local and scientific knowledge in Integrated Water Resources Management – a comparative approach*, and *Development of a European Index System for the Analysis of Remote sensing quality elements defining the ecological status of water bodies*.

In a view of further activities in development and realization of relevant projects of the Sava Commission, it is necessary to provide support of the countries in terms of their joint commitment toward resource mobilization (i.e. signing declarative acts/joint statements, financial participation, etc.).

2. Navigation

Work of the Sava Commission in the field of navigation was intensive from the beginning of the reporting period, in comparison to other fields of expertise, due to the full capacity of the Secretariat staff working in this field, and an early start of work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV), in May 2006.

The basic elements of the Draft Strategy, in the field of navigation, include:

- Navigation safety;
- Technical issues;
- Protection from pollution caused by navigation, and
- Waterways and infrastructure.

The main results, achieved within the reporting period, are described in the following text.

2.1. Navigation safety

In accordance with the Draft Strategy and the Work Plan for 2006, the following documents were identified as the basic for improvement of the present status of the navigation safety and as an important step toward the harmonization of regulations on the European level:

1. *Navigation Rules on the Sava River*;
2. *Rules on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licenses on the Sava River*;
3. *Rules for Waterway Marking on the Sava River*;
4. *Rules on Minimum Manning Requirements for the Vessels on the Sava River*.

Taking into account the priorities, the Secretariat prepared the draft texts of the above mentioned documents and presented them to the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV) for consideration. At three meetings of the PEG NAV (May 29-31, 2006; October 9-11, 2006, and February 5-7, 2007), the PEG adopted the documents under 1-3, and submitted them to the Sava Commission for final adoption. The Draft of the

document under 4 is currently under consideration in the framework of the PEG NAV.

Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates, between the CCNR and the Sava Commission, is one of the issues of great importance for further promotion of the navigation on the Sava river and the Sava Commission reached the agreement with CCNR to work jointly on unification of the rules as a precondition for the mutual recognition.

In context of navigation maps and manuals, the data related to the competent institutions and existing documentation in the countries were collected, which will constitute the basis for further activities. In cooperation with the competent institutions of the countries, the Secretariat prepared the draft indicator of river kilometers of the Sava river and delivered it to the PEG NAV for further reconsideration.

The Sava Commission has also identified the importance of the urgent marking of the waterway in the present condition for safety of the navigation and actively supported Parties in the realization of the proper marking.

2.2. Technical standards

Upgrading and harmonization of the technical standards and requirements for inland waterway vessels is very important precondition for sustainable development of the inland waterway transport. In this respect, the Sava Commission undertook the activities on unification of the regulation with the Danube Commission, and took an active role in drafting the *Resolution 61 – Recommendation on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels* and in further development of the *New Directive of the European Commission 2006/87/EC on Technical Requirements for Inland Waterway Vessels* with the aim to develop new technical requirements for the inland waterway vessels on the Sava river.

The data on institutions competent for passing the technical rules in the countries were collected alike, and the database on valid regulations referring to technical rules was also prepared.

The establishment of the database on regulations in the countries referring to transport of hazardous substances was completed and the process of harmonization with the respective European regulations (Danube Commission, UN/ECE) was launched. With a view to more detailed elaboration of this issue, the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Expert Group, which would deal with issues related to technical rules and transport of hazardous substances, will be proposed to the Sava Commission.

2.3. Prevention of the pollution caused by navigation

In the field of prevention of the pollution caused by navigation, the Sava Commission has been included into the process of development of the system for collection of waste from vessels on the Danube and Rhine. One of the priorities in the future work will be establishment of the similar system on the Sava River. The Draft Protocol, related to this matter, was submitted to the PEG NAV for consideration.

2.4. Waterway infrastructure

As one of the main preconditions for the waterway infrastructure development and maintenance, the Decision on the *Detailed Parameters for Waterway Classification on the Sava River* was passed on the 2nd Regular Session of the Sava Commission.

The next step is proposition on *Classification of the Sava river waterway*, which is currently under discussion of the PEG NAV. The Sava river waterway marking plan for navigation for year 2007 was likewise prepared based on the collected data. Unification of the Rules for waterway marking was done, as well.

The development of River Information Service (RIS) on the European level was continuously monitored and preparations for the beginning of implementation of the RIS on the Sava river were completed through implementation of the unified RIS standards within the first phase. For purpose of a more detailed elaboration of this issue, the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Expert Group, which would deal with RIS related issues, will be proposed to the Sava Commission.

The issue of low and high navigability levels was also discussed on session of the PEG NAV, and accordingly the proposition was to form the *Ad hoc* Expert Group, which would deal with establishment of the appropriate navigability levels. This *Ad hoc* Expert Group will be established soon.

Additionally, an initial version of the Draft *Protocol on exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay* was prepared by the PEG NAV.

2.5. Projects and studies

Based on the Joint Statement, signed by the ministers of transport of the Republic of Croatia, B&H and Serbia and Montenegro at the end of 2005 in Brčko, and subsequently joined by the Republic of Slovenia, the Sava Commission launched the activities related to the development of the *Study and Project Documentation for the rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava River*, including:

- drafting the ToR for the Study by the Secretariat;
- application for financial support (Regional CARDS Program);
- presentation of the ToR to international financial institutions (USAID, EBRD);
- communication with relevant bodies of the Parties and organization of the meetings (September 27 and December 19, 2006), held in Zagreb;
- modification of the ToR according to suggestions of the representatives of the Parties (ministries responsible for transport), in order to fit in their needs and interests in adequate manner;
- negotiation with the USAID about a possible financial support for the Study.

The USAID offered to develop two specific studies within the Project (Economic Demand Study and Institutional, Policy and Legal Framework Study) and the Sava Commission accepted this offer on the 3rd Regular Session. The work on these two Studies is currently under way and the Sava

Commission is performing activities on the realization of the other parts of the Project. The Parties have generally agreed to finance the Study on the equal share basis. The project management will be assigned to the Secretariat of the Sava Commission, and a Steering Committee will be established for the purpose of monitoring the project implementation.

Meanwhile, the initiative was launched by the Croatian Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development to prepare the *Pre-feasibility Study for the rehabilitation and development of the navigation on the Sava River*. For this purpose, the ToR for the Pre-feasibility Study was drafted by the Secretariat, and the agreement on financing the Pre-feasibility Study was made with the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of the Republic of Croatia, which transferred the amount of 159 500 EUR to the Sava Commission's bank account. The tendering procedure was accordingly realized and the contract with the consultant was signed on December 14, 2006. The Secretariat supported and monitored the work of the consultant and the preparation of the Final Report for the Pre-feasibility Study is to be finalized in April 2007.

The two studies present strategic documents that are expected to provide information necessary for subsequent creation of the design documentation and the program of works necessary for the development of transport on the Sava river.

3. Protocols

Activities were also performed in respect to creation of the draft Protocols. Four protocols have been drafted during the Sava River Initiative Process:

- *Protocol on transboundary impacts;*
- *Protocol on emergency situations;*
- *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation;*
- *Protocol on protection against floods.*

Further improvement of the protocols is being coordinated by the Sava Commission (Secretariat) and performed by the Expert Groups of the Sava Commission.

A preliminary review of the existing Draft *Protocol on transboundary impacts* was done, in the reporting period, by the *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group and the three Permanent Expert Groups dealing with the water management issues (RBM, APC and FP). The *Ad hoc* L-EG provided concrete remarks and proposals, taking into account respective international agreements and conventions regulating related issues.

The provisions of the Protocol refer to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impacts, for this purpose addressing the issues of transboundary impact assessment, cooperation of the Parties, and public participation.

Keeping in mind a multidisciplinary nature of the Protocol, as well as the fact that different legal aspects are being applied to transboundary management in each country of the Sava river basin, the *Ad hoc* L-EG has been given by the Sava Commission a role of the leading body in the further development of the Protocol. Because of its complexity, the representatives of other groups are involved into the work according to needs.

According to the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB, preparation of the final draft proposal of this Protocol should be finished in 2008.

The leading body in the development of the *Protocol on emergency situations* is Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control. The provisions of the Protocol refer to extraordinary impacts on the water, water regime and water eco-system and it obliges the parties to establish a coordinated or joint system of measures, activities, warnings and alarms in the Sava river basin. It defines the system of emergency prevention, preparedness, response and mutual assistance in case of extraordinary impacts. It also describes the rights of the public for access to information, public participation and access to justice. Each Party shall establish institutional arrangements and cooperation to exchange data, technology and research and develop methods and technologies for the prevention, preparedness and response to accidents. In the Protocol, the role of Sava Commission is proposed and the system of communications is defined.

According to the Draft Strategy and the Work Plan, the draft proposal of the Protocol should be distributed to the national authorities in 2007.

The existing Draft *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation* will be considered on the next meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation, scheduled for May 2007. The PEG for Accident Prevention and Control will be involved into the further work on the Protocol. The draft proposal of the Protocol should be finalized in 2007.

The leading body in the development of the *Protocol on protection against floods* is Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention.

On its 1st meeting, PEG FP discussed on the very first drafts of the related protocols of the Sava Commission and agreed that there is need for further analysis of the drafted Protocol on emergency situations and the Protocol on protection against floods, in order to achieve a consensus on the following issues:

1. Content of the protocols (meaning the issues that should be processed);
2. Possibility to merge these two protocols;
3. Suggest the technical amendments and remarks to the Protocols;
4. Possibility to extract certain parts that are already regulated by the FASRB or any other related act.

The PEG FP members are obliged to deliver their written standpoints to the Secretariat and, thereof, the Secretariat is obliged to prepare the analysis based on the received standpoints.

It is expected that a consensus on direction for further development of the “Flood protocol” will be reached on the next PEG FP meeting scheduled for May 2007.

According to the Draft Strategy, preparation of the final draft proposal of this Protocol should be finished in 2008.

In addition to the four protocols, the Draft *Protocol on exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay* was prepared by the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation. Once the final consideration of the Draft Protocol is performed by the PEG for Navigation, other PEGs of the Sava Commission will be expected to give their standpoints on the Draft, as well. The draft proposal of the Protocol should be finalized in 2007.

4. Financial issues

4.1. Budget and financial contributions

At the continuation of the 6th Special Session of the Sava Commission, held in Zagreb on April 20, 2006, the decision on the *Second Regular Budget* of the Sava Commission for the financial year 2006 (period from April 01, 2006 till March 31, 2007) was adopted for an amount of 515.955,34 Eur (i.e. 128.988,84 Eur per country).

The inflow of the contributions, as well as the realization of the Budget for the financial year 2006 (i.e. the expenditures by basic intention), are described in Tables 1 and 2.

The budget items are comparable with the originally stipulated amounts.

Generally, the Broaden Current Costs were a little bit lower than planned, mainly due to later employment of the two officials of the Secretariat and the uncertainty of income, which caused savings in procurements of working materials and some other items. The Operational Costs were a little bit higher, due to accelerated working activities and expansion of operations in the second half of the financial year 2006, which caused a little bit higher travel expenses and the costs for additional equipment necessary, including depreciation.

Alongside with this, there was a problem with the realization of the Budget for the year 2006 associated with the unsteadiness of the payments of the regular financial contributions of the Parties (i.e. an uncertainty on the Income side of the Budget), which affected the work of the Secretariat of the Sava Commission, mainly in the first half of the financial year.

Table 1. Received contributions and other financial sources for the financial year 2006.

	<i>Regular payment (in 0,00 Eur)</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	128.989 ¹
Croatia	128.989 ²
Serbia	65.000 ³
Slovenia	128.989 ⁴
Total received contributions	451.967 ⁵
Total received amount of contributions	609.767 ⁶
Total received amount in Special and Trust Fund	209.463 ⁷

Note: ¹ The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on October 6 and December 18, 2006. ² The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on May 22 and July 27, 2006. ³ The amount was paid on March 20, 2007. ⁴ The contribution was paid in parts, on June 7, November 17, December 01, and December 12, 2006. ⁵ The total accepted Budget is 515.955,34 Eur. ⁶ Slovenia and Serbia paid the unpaid contributions for the financial year 2005. ⁷ The received amount includes the amount for the Pre-Feasibility Study for the rehabilitation and improvement of the Sava River waterway paid by the Government of the Republic of Croatia (159.500 Eur) and a part of contribution for the Study and project documentation for rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava River, paid by the Council of Ministers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina (49.963 Eur).

Table 2. The expenditures by basic intention of the financial year 2006.

<i>Budget Chapter</i>	<i>Expenditures (in 0,00 Eur)</i>
Broaden Current Costs	372.462 ¹
Broaden Operational Costs	62.355,94 ²
Equipment	11.856
Special and Trust Fund	111.300 ³

Note: ¹ All the Broaden Current Costs are to be paid Currently and Monthly by the Secretariat. ² Broaden Operational Costs are the costs associated with the working activities of the Secretariat. ³ The first contracted invoice was paid within the financial year 2006.

4.2. Financing projects and studies within special funds

During the reporting period, one project was financed from the Special and Trust Fund of the Sava Commission. As already mentioned, the Secretariat of the Sava Commission was given the responsibility to coordinate and monitor the execution of the *Pre-feasibility Study for Rehabilitation and Development of the Sava River Waterway*. For this purpose, the investor of the project, Government of the Republic of Croatia, paid the contractual amount to the Special and Trust Fund of the Sava Commission. The first invoice for the Draft Report of the Pre-Feasibility Study has been paid until the end of the financial year 2006.

4.3. Other activities

Through the financial year 2006, the Secretariat continued its working activities on development of internal and external financial management.

Audit of the Financial Management of the Sava Commission in 2005 was performed, and the Report was adopted at the 2nd Regular Session of the Sava Commission.

The following internal financial regulations and decisions were passed by the Secretary:

- *Regulations for Claim and Reimbursement of Travel Expenses;*
- *Regulation on Petty Cash;*
- *Regulation on financial management of the Secretariat;*

- *Decision on procurement procedures for minor purchases of the Secretariat.*

The Draft *Rules of Procurement Procedures*, that are to be passed by the Sava Commission, are still in the process of preparation.

Additionally, the establishment of the *Ad hoc* Financial Expert Group was approved by the Sava Commission at its 3rd Regular Session.

5. Administration management and legal support

During the reporting period, the emphasis, in context of legal and general affairs, was on preparation and adoption of a set of legal documents establishing the comprehensive organizational system of the Sava Commission and its Secretariat. The previously stated more specifically involves adoption of internal legal acts passed by the Secretary, provision of legal support in the work of the Sava Commission, organization of sessions of the Sava Commission and preparation of written documents, set-up and work of the *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group of the Sava Commission.

Along with the major legal acts passed by the Sava Commission on the 1st Regular Session, a set of other internal acts originating from responsibility of the Secretariat, which refer to organization of work of the Secretariat and administration management, were passed in the first part of the reporting period.

For purpose of best possible work results and efficiency, the Sava Commission also adopted the “*Criteria on Performance Evaluation of the Secretariat Staff Members*” (accompanied by the “*Staff Members Performance Evaluation Form*”), based on which the Sava Commission would evaluate their work once per year. In accordance with obligation under Article 21 of the FASRB, the basic elements and further the draft document “*Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB*” (to be adopted on the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB), were also prepared.

The initial draft of the methodology was prepared by REC within its support to the Interim Sava Commission. The approach taken in the development of the draft has been to review a broad range of examples of the subject documents to produce a state-of-the-art document. As these are practical documents for the actual work of bodies established for a specific purpose, there are many variations depending upon the particular circumstances. While certain provisions are commonly found, in many areas there are no established international standards – only well-working international examples.

The Sava Commission started from fact that the basis for monitoring of implementation of the FASRB is actually the establishment of high quality reporting mechanism. Accordingly, the reporting mechanism, whilst preparing the Methodology, had to be linked and harmonized with liabilities that the parties have already taken over in context of reporting obligations under other international agreements, with purpose to avoid duplication of efforts.

The *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group (*Ad hoc* L-EG) was established by the decision of the Sava Commission dated October 16, 2006, and members of the Expert Group are legal experts from all state Parties to the FASRB.

In order to develop proposals for resolution of certain legal issues being delegated by the Sava Commission, the *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group so far held two meetings (December 21-22, 2006, and February 13-15, 2007) whereon several legal issues were elaborated and thereof approved by the Sava Commission:

- *Criteria and Procedures for granting Observer status in the International Sava River Basin Commission;*
- *Openness of the Sava Commission sessions and availability of documents of the Sava Commission;*
- *Guidelines for Accessing SAVACOM Databases;*
- *Credentials, as a document necessary to enable the participation of representatives of the state Parties to the FASRB on the Sessions of the Sava Commission in cases when member and deputy members cannot attend them, and*
- *Review of Signatories & Parties of the Multilateral Treaties related to the Sava River Basin.*

6. Information management

6.1. Web-page of the Sava Commission

One of the important means and tools of communications is publicly accessible web-page of the Sava Commission (www.savacommission.org).

The web page (Figure 1) is constantly maintained and daily updated in seven languages (the six official languages of the Sava countries and English).



Figure 1. Home-page of the Sava Commission web-site.

The following issues are included on the web page:

History	– brief history of the Sava Commission;
Mission	– mission of the Sava Commission;
Organization	– description of functioning of the Sava Commission, structure of the ISRBC and Secretariat, presentation of the ISRBC members and the officials of the Secretariat;
Sessions & meetings	– the official documents and reports from the sessions of the Sava Commission, meetings of the Parties, and other meetings;
Meetings schedule	– dates of the sessions of the Sava Commission and the meetings of the Expert Groups;
Documents	– final versions of documents of the Sava Commission and the Permanent Expert Groups;
Projects	– short description of projects run by the Sava Commission;
News archive	– archive of news;
Photo gallery	– gallery of photographs;
Contact	– access to e-mail to be sent to the Sava Commission;
Location	– description of routes to the premises of ISRBC;
Links	– links to web-pages of the relevant institutions;
Web mail	– access to e-mails for the officials of the Secretariat.

A steady state of approximately 1200 visits to the web-site per month has been reached within the reporting period, from more than 30 countries (including a considerable number of visits from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany), and with about 65% visits to the English web-site.

6.2. Sava information system

Exchange of data and information is specified in the FASRB as one of the principles of cooperation of the Parties within the implementation of the Agreement.

Integrated systems for the whole Sava river basin, such as GIS, River Information Service (RIS), and Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning Systems, are a foundation for efficient and systematic exchange of data and information.

In that respect, a number of preparatory activities were done within the reporting period, including preparation of initial documents for the *Ad hoc* Expert Group for GIS, such as the *Terms of Reference* for the *Ad hoc* GIS Expert Group, and the *Assessment Report on GIS Capabilities of the Parties and the Sava Commission*, in relation to their obligations towards the FASRB.

The comprehensive assessment report was prepared on the basis of information collected by the questionnaires distributed to the all relevant institutions in the field of water management, environment and navigation in the Sava countries. A majority of the responding institutions (94%) expressed their interest in establishing the Sava river GeoPortal as a specific access point to the Sava related information. This assessment serves as the main input for the preparation of the Draft proposal of the *Sava River GIS Strategic Plan* which is expected to be finalized in May 2007.

In order to shorten an initial phase of the work of the *Ad hoc* GIS EG, with the assistance of the Regional Sava CARDS project, the issue paper on potential synergy between GIS and RIS is being prepared.

All these activities are performed under the umbrella of the PEG RBM and in close cooperation with other PEGs.

With the above mentioned actions, a favourable environment for the *Ad hoc* GIS Expert Group is being created to start with intensive work as soon as all the EG members are nominated by the Sava countries.

Having in mind development of other Sava Commission activities (WFD SRBM Plan, flood related activities...), the mapping needs are increasing and the role of the *Ad hoc* GIS EG will be very important, especially as a supporting body for certain activities.

In order to ensure the application of new technologies, as well as compatibility with similar systems (such as GIS of the ICPDR, or RIS as used in the EU countries), the staff of the Sava Commission Secretariat attended a number of meetings, such as GIS Forum, GIS Workshops, IRIS & DIS Conferences, etc.

7. Public participation and stakeholders involvement

In order to ensure public participation in major activities related to the implementation of the FASRB, cooperation with NGOs and other institutions and local actors from the Sava river basin has been maintained.

Being aware of the importance of provision of participation of different stakeholders in the work of the Sava Commission, the initial document titled "*Criteria and Procedures for granting Observer status in the International Sava River Basin Commission*" was passed during the reporting period. By this document, the Sava Commission wanted to enable different actors and stakeholders to get actively involved into the work of the Sava Commission by being granted the observer status in accordance with the specific requirements.

The first institution that applied for and was granted the observer status at the Sava Commission is the Non-Governmental Organization "Green Action" from Zagreb (Croatia).

An active participation of the Sava Commission in a number of meetings with stakeholders took place during the year 2006, including workshops on implementation of the EU WFD in the Sava river basin, participation of the NGO sector in development of the Sava RBM Plan, possibilities for improvement of water quality of the Sava river, networking of NGOs and local actors in the Sava river basin, etc.

In addition, several meetings and other events were organized or co-organized by the Sava Commission, such as:

- Regional Conference „Network Development of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin“ (September 11-12, 2006, Donja Stubica, Croatia)
- Meeting with representatives of institutions responsible for maintenance and development of the inland waterways (September 20, 2006, in Vukovar, Croatia)
- International Roundtable „*Trans-boundary Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin*“ (held in Zagreb, on November 15-17, 2006) was co-organized by the Sava Commission within the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process. More information on the most important events attended by the Sava Commission can be found on the website;
- Meeting of captains of Harbour Master Offices in the Sava River Basin (November 28-29, 2006, Belgrade, Serbia).

For dissemination of information on activities and results of the work of the Sava Commission, a number of deliverables were made, such as reports, articles, press releases and other contributions for media, or participation in ceremonies.

The Draft *Public Participation Strategy* is planned to be developed in 2007, based on the proposal prepared within the UNDP/GEF DRP Sava Component Project. Due to a high number of stakeholders involved in the process of implementation of the FASRB, an effective and pro-active information and communication concept will be implemented, in order to target different groups which have been, or will be, identified within the external projects, such as:

- “Participation of NGOs in the Process of Development of Sava RBM Plan” (UNDP/GEF DRP Project);
- “Network of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin“ (OSCE Project);
- “Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava River” (Regional CARDS Project);
- “Support to the Development of the Sava RBM Plan” (UNDP/GEF – DRP Sava Component Project).

The concept of public participation will be based on the following forms of communication:

- The web-site accessible to all organizations and experts involved in the assessments and daily activities of the FASRB implementation;
- Regular seminars (or technical meetings) on selected topics, in order to help putting together expertise and knowledge of experts from various organizations and to favour integration between activities in the longer term;
- Specific information events and seminars targeting different levels of the Parties, from governmental to local level (e.g. to identify possible role of the local actors in the river basin management planning process);

- Specific presentations at technical/scientific conferences by experts from the institutions involved in the implementation process, in order to share information and knowledge with the wider expert community;
- Targeted events for stakeholders which might be organized for sharing results and policy messages to interested parties.

In most cases, it will be important to ensure coherence and complementarity between the information and communication means developed specifically for the purpose of the FASRB and those developed for more general information and communication.

8. Cooperation with international organizations

In order to align the activities with trends defined by EU directives and similar regulations, a cooperation with international organizations has been maintained, not only with those specified by the Article 5 of the FASRB, but also other river commissions, financial institutions, initiatives, etc.

ICPDR. A close cooperation has been established with the ICPDR, leading to the mutual observership and participation in majority of important events, such as the sessions of the Commissions, meetings of the Expert Groups dealing with RBM and the Accident Prevention and Control, and workshops on specific topics, where both sides are updated on the activities performed. In addition, a compatibility of the future Information System for the Sava river basin with the GIS of the ICPDR has been agreed, and possibilities of cooperation related to public participation and dissemination of information are being discussed.

Danube Commission. The official visit of the ISRBC delegation has taken place and the observer status has been obtained at the Danube Commission. A number of meetings of the Danube Commission were attended by the Sava Commission, including the 150th anniversary conferences, sessions of the Commission, meetings of the Expert Groups for Technical Issues, and for the Transport of the Dangerous Goods on the Inland Waterways.

A wide scope of work of the Sava Commission, covering both the issues of navigation and those of water management, has been recognized by the ICPDR and the Danube Commission. Accordingly, a joint process has been launched by the three commissions for achieving the *Joint Statement on Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin*, which should be finalized during the year 2007.

UNECE. The Sava Commission has been included in the work of the UNECE on the same basis as other intergovernmental organizations. A number of events have been attended, including the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, workshops organized within the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process, and meetings of the Working Groups on Inland Water Transport and Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation. At the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, an interest of the Sava Commission was accepted for its inclusion into the UNECE activities within the two following topics:

Synergies between the Water Convention and the EU WFD and Pilot programmes on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, in the period 2007 – 2009. The Sava Commission also took part in preparation of the UNECE Guidelines for promotion of the Aarhus Convention principles in international forums, as well.

Additionally, a cooperation has been established with other Navigation Commissions (such as the Mosel Commission and, especially, the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine), other River and Lake Protection Commissions (e.g. commissions for the protection of the rivers Rhine, Elbe, and Oder), regional organizations (OSCE, Stability Pact for the SEE, SEETO), specialized agencies, associations and groups (World Meteorological Organization, GIS Forum, PIANC International Navigation Association), and international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD, EIB, USAID). The Sava Commission has also been involved into a number of initiatives, including the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process, the Mediterranean EU Water Initiative / Water Framework Directive Joint Process, and the Adriatic Initiative. Finally, contacts have been made with the EC Delegation to Croatia and the Diplomatic Corps in the Republic of Croatia.

9. Cooperation with national organizations

According to Article 6 of the FASRB (Cooperation with National Organizations), the Parties should nominate the organizations (authorities or bodies) competent for implementation of the FASRB. Republic of Croatia has notified the Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. Republic of Slovenia has notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Transport, Government Office for Local Self-government and regional policy and Government Office for Development. Republic of Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina have not yet officially notified their responsible bodies.

A close cooperation has been established with the Ministries of the Parties responsible for inland waterway transport, in regard with the preparation of the Study and Project Documentation for the rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava River and two meetings with representatives of the Ministries have been organized by the Sava Commission. There has also been a good cooperation with other relevant Ministries of the Parties, especially through the involvement of their representatives in the work of the expert groups of the Sava Commission.

In addition to the national institutions responsible for implementation of the FASRB, a cooperation has been established with other national organizations, such as National Hydro-meteorological Services of the Parties, Agencies responsible for development and maintenance of inland waterways, Harbour Master Offices, Faculties and Institutes dealing with natural and technical sciences, all kinds of technologies, nature conservation, etc.

A tradition of organizing meetings with the Harbour Masters from the Sava river has been initiated, as well, and the 1st Meeting was held on November 28-29, 2006, in Belgrade (Serbia). A need and importance for the urgent marking of the Sava waterway in the present condition, as well as for better cooperation of the Harbour Master Offices along the Sava river, was recognized at the Meeting.

Finally, activities related to the organization of the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB, which will be held on June 01, 2007 in Zagreb, as well as the preparation of the documents for the meeting, were launched during the year 2006.

ANNEX I

List of the Sava Commission members and deputy members

Kemal Karkin, Chairman

Member to the Sava Commission from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Born in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on November 20, 1948, Mr. Kemal Karkin holds a B.Sc. in Traffic Engineering obtained at the Faculty of Transport in Belgrade (Serbia).

His professional career in the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina began in 1992, firstly as the Associate Specialist, and afterwards as the Assistant Minister (1993 – 1996) and the Director of the Project Implementation Directorate (1996 – 2003).

As of December 2003 (to date) he holds a position of the Head of the Project Implementation Unit at the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His main fields of work refer to the organization management, project management, identification of projects and programs for reconstruction and construction, preparation of legislative and other regulations, preparation of bilateral agreements and negotiations, B&H accession to international organization membership and accession to international conventions, etc.

Savo Gluvić

**Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Bosnia and Herzegovina –
as of September 21, 2006**

Born in Bosanska Gradiška (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on February 25, 1956, Mr. Savo Gluvić holds a B.Sc. in Economy obtained at the Faculty of Economy in Banjaluka (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

He began her professional career in year 1980 at the Water Management Enterprise „SAVA“ in Gradiška (Bosnia and Herzegovina) firstly as the Officer for Planning and Development (1980-1984), then as the Manager of the RJ “Plovni put” (1984-1988), and as the Assistant Manager for Economic Affairs (1988-1989) also at the Water Management Enterprise „SAVA“.

As of September 1989, he holds a position of the General Manager at the Water Management Enterprise „SAVA“ in Gradiška.

His main fields of work refer to field of economic affairs, business planning and development, enterprise management, human resources management, organization management, etc.

Branko Bačić, Deputy Chairman
Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Croatia

Born in Dubrovnik (Croatia), on June 07, 1959, Mr. Branko Bačić holds a B.Sc. in Geodesy obtained at the Faculty of Geodesy in Zagreb.

He began his professional career in year 1982 at the Administration for cadastre and geodesy of the Municipality Korčula (Croatia), where he became the General Director in 1986. He continued his career as the Mayor of the Municipality Blato (1993 – 2003), and, afterwards, as the Member of the Croatian Parliament (2003 – 2004).

As of 2004, he holds a position of the State Secretary at the Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of Republic of Croatia.

His main fields of work refer to maritime affairs, ports, transport, navigation, related regulations, documents and projects, regional and international cooperation, etc.

Željko Ostojić
Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Croatia – till
January 18, 2007

Born in Nova Gradiška (Croatia), on April 21, 1945, Mr. Željko Ostojić holds a B.Sc. in Geodesy obtained at the Faculty of Geodesy in Zagreb (Croatia).

He began his professional career in year 1972 at the Communal Enterprise “Varkom” in Varaždin (Croatia) as the manager of the construction site of plumbing and sewerage system in Varaždin. He continued his career as the chief planner for water management installations at the “Hidrotehnika” Čakovec (1976 – 1977), and, afterwards, at the “Medical Center” in Varaždin (1977 – 1980).

In 1980, he started working at the State Administration for Water Management in Zagreb, firstly as the expert associate and then as the advisor. Currently, he holds the position of the Head of the Department for International Cooperation at the Administration for Water Management.

His main fields of work refer to water management, water protection, preparation of the water related legislation, development of international regulations related to water area, civil protection, international cooperation, etc.

Ružica Drmić

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Croatia – as of January 18, 2007

Born in Vrpolje (Croatia) on March 20, 1961, Ms. Ružica Drmić holds a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering obtained at the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Zagreb (Croatia).

She began her professional career in year 1985 at VRO ZAGREB OOUR „VODOPRIVREDA BIĐ-BOSUT“ in Vinkovci (Croatia) as the associate planner. She continued her career at the County Brodsko-Posavska (1991 – 1994), and, afterwards, at the „CROATIAN WATERS“ in Zagreb (1994 – 2006) initially as the planner, and later on as Head of the Sector for planning, engineering and technical control.

As of the November 2006, she holds a position of the Assistant Minister at the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of Republic of Croatia.

Her main fields of work refer to field of civil engineering, constructions building, planning, water legal inspection, engineering, water management, organization management, international cooperation, etc.

Nikola Marjanović

Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Serbia

Born in Novi Sad (Serbia), on February 15, 1948, Mr. Nikola Marjanović holds a PhD in Hydraulic Engineering obtained at the University of California in Davis (USA).

He began his professional career in year 1975 at the Water Management Institute “Jaroslav Černi” in Belgrade (Serbia) as the Assistant at the Department for Water Regime. He continued his career at the Faculty of civil engineering of the University of California in Davis (1980 – 1986), Water Management Institute “Jaroslav Černi” in Belgrade (1986 – 1989), Company “ENERGOPROJEKT HIDROINŽENJERING” in Belgrade (1990 – 1994; 1995), Faculty of Civil Engineering in Subotica (1996; 1998 – 1999), OXFAM Belgrade (1999 – 2001), and CHF Belgrade (2001 – 2004).

As of the year 2004, he holds a position of the Director at the Republic Water Directorate of the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of Republic of Serbia.

His main fields of work refer to water supply systems, environmental impact assessment, protection against floods, hydrological analyses, protection and management of water quality, planning the installations for processing the drinking water, and installations for treatment of waste waters, etc.

Miroslav Nikčević

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Serbia

Born in Šabac (Serbia) on December 17, 1959, Mr. Miroslav Nikčević holds a PhD in Biology obtained at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Biology.

He began his professional career in year 1986 as the researcher at the Laboratory for Aqua-culture “Anstalt Helgoland” in Hamburg (Germany). He continued his career as Associate Researcher at the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies of the Belgrade University (1987 – 1999), the Director of project “Mladica (*hucho hucho*) – protection and cultivation” (1995 – 1997), and as the Assistant to the Federal Secretary for Labor, Health, Social Welfare – head of the Sector for Environment (2001 - 2003).

As of the year 2004, he holds a position of the Director at the Administration for Environmental Protection of the Ministry of science and environmental protection of Republic of Serbia.

His main fields of work refer to environmental protection, environmental impact assessment, environmental legislation, environmental strategies and policies, nature protection, international cooperation, etc.

Mitja Bricelj

Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Slovenia

Born in Ljubljana (Slovenia), on April 04, 1959, Mr. Mitja Bricelj holds a M.Sc. in Geography obtained at the Ljubljana University, Faculty of Geography.

He began his professional career in year 1984 as the journalist in Newspapers “Delo” in Ljubljana. He continued his career as the Researcher at the Institute for Geography of the Ljubljana (1986 – 1990).

In 1990, he continued his professional career in the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Slovenia, where he currently holds the position of the State Secretary.

His main fields of work refer to water resources management and protection, coastal protection and management, eco-systems protection, implementation of respective legislation, conventions and protocols, development strategies and policies, international cooperation, project management and coordination, etc.

Aleksander Čičerov

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Slovenia

Born in Ljubljana (Slovenia), on May 15, 1949, Mr. Aleksander Čičerov holds a M.Sc. in International Law obtained at the Ljubljana University, Faculty of Law.

He began his professional career in year 1974 as the Head of the Sector for International Law at the Secretariat for International Involvement of Republic of Slovenia. He continued his career at the Assembly of Republic of Slovenia (1983 – 1991), Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs of Republic of Slovenia (1991 – 1993), Administration for Air Traffic of Republic of Slovenia (1993 - 1997), Ministry of Transport and Communications of Republic of Slovenia (1997 – 2000).

In 2000, he continued his professional career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Slovenia, where he currently holds the position of the Head of the Department for International Public Law.

His main fields of work refer to international legal affairs, international law, political affairs, international cooperation, negotiations, development of respective legislation, documents, strategies and policies, etc.

ANNEX II

Basic information on the Sava Commission expert groups

Following expert groups were established during the reporting period:

- Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (PEG RBM);
- Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC);
- Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention (PEG FP);
- Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV);
- *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group (*Ad hoc* L-EG),

In addition to the above specified expert groups, three *ad hoc* expert groups are in the process of establishment:

- *Ad hoc* Expert Group for hydrological issues related to navigation (*Ad hoc* HIN EG);
- *Ad hoc* Expert Group for GIS (*Ad hoc* GIS EG);
- *Ad hoc* Financial Expert Group (*Ad hoc* F-EG).

According to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), the expert groups are envisaged as the official platform for provision of assistance, guidance and coordination to all activities of the Sava Commission related to the implementation of the FASRB. It also means that all relevant papers, documents and proposals prepared by the Secretariat are to pass an evaluation of the expert groups prior to submission to the Sava Commission for approval.

The composition of the expert groups and their chairpersons are presented below.

**Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management
Established on October 16, 2006**

	Name	Affiliation
Chairman:		
Chairman	Dragan Zeljko	Deputy Secretary for Integrated River Basin management and Water planning
Deputy Chair.	Samo Grošelj	Deputy Secretary for Protection of Water and Aquatic Ecosystem
Members:		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Velinka Topalović	Republic Directorate for Waters, Banjaluka Office
	Naida Anđelić	Public Enterprise “Water Area of the Sava River Basin” Sarajevo
Croatia	Mario Obrdalj	Croatian Waters
	Mare Prpić	Croatian Waters
Serbia	Miodrag Milovanović	Institute “Jaroslav Černi” Belgrade
	Nebojša Pokimica	Ministry of science and environment – Environmental Administration, Serbia
Slovenia	Stanka Koren	Ministry of environment and spatial planning of Republic of Slovenia, Environmental Agency, Water Management Department
	Aleš Bizjak	Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

**Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control
Established on November 06, 2006**

	Name	Affiliation
Chairman:		
	Samo Grošelj	Deputy Secretary for Protection of Water and Aquatic Ecosystem
Members:		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Amra Ibrahimpašić	Public Enterprise “Water Area of the Sava River Basin” Sarajevo
Croatia	Stanislav Pandurić	Croatian Waters, “VGO Sava”
Serbia	Dušan Dobričić	Republic Directorate for Waters, Serbia
Slovenia	Janez Polajnar	Ministry of environment and spatial planning of Republic of Slovenia, Environmental Agency, Hydrology Sector

**Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention
Established on September 18, 2006**

	Name	Affiliation
Chairman:		
	Dragan Zeljko	Deputy Secretary for Integrated River Basin Management and Water Planning
Members:		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Slobodan Čubrilo	Institute for water management, Bijeljina Office
Croatia	Zlatimir Bačić	Croatian Waters
Serbia	Radovanka Pavlović	Republic Directorate for Waters, Serbia
Slovenia	Robert Kepa	Ministry of environment and spatial planning of Republic of Slovenia, Environmental Agency, Water Management Department

**Permanent Expert Group for Navigation
Established on April 20, 2006**

	Name	Affiliation
Chairman:		
	Željko Milković	Deputy Secretary for Navigation
Members:		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Senaida Mehmedovski	Ministry of communications and transport of B&H
Croatia	Miroslav Ištuk	“Agency for inland waterways” Vukovar, Croatia
Serbia	Ljubiša Mihajlović	Agency for maintenance and development of inland waterways “PLOVPUT” Serbia
Slovenia	Danilo Sabadin	Ministry of transport of Republic of Slovenia, Maritime Administration

**Ad hoc Legal Expert Group
Established on October 16, 2006**

	Name	Affiliation
Chairwoman:		
	Melita Žižanović-Dakić	Special Advisor for Legal and General Affairs
Members:		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Emir Hasić	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia	Sanja Genzić	Croatian Waters
	Marina Ivica-Matkovac	Ministry of sea, tourism, transport and development
Serbia	Gordana Petković	Ministry of science and environment – Environmental Administration
Slovenia	Urška Kramberger - Korošec	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ANNEX III

Sessions of the Sava Commission

During the reporting period, the Sava Commission held the continuation of the 6th Special Session and two Regular Sessions (2nd and 3rd Regular Session). Thereof, many conclusions and decisions were adopted by the Sava Commission and the latter are briefly introduced in the section below.

Continuation of the 6th Special Session Zagreb, April 20, 2006

The 6th Special Session of the Sava Commission was convened for March 31, 2006, but due to complexity of issues that were thereon discussed the continuation of the session took place on April 20, 2006, in order to elaborate all agenda items as appropriate.

The brief overview of the conclusions and decisions that the Sava Commission passed on the 6th Special Session is presented below:

- Information on deposition of all FASRB-related documents at the UN;
- Selection and appointment of candidates for positions of the Deputy Secretary for Integrated River Basin Management and Water Planning and the Deputy Secretary for protection of waters and aquatic ecosystem.
- Procedure on establishment of permanent expert groups, more specifically the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management, Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control, Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention;
- Decision on establishment of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation;
- Procedure on establishment of *ad hoc* expert groups;
- Further development of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of FASRB, as well as the Work plan for 2006 and tentative Work plans for 2007 and 2008;
- Prioritization of Sava Projects and possibilities of the projects' financing;
- Initiation of the Meeting of relevant ministries, respective bodies and institutions in context of joint collaboration in realization of the priority projects and goals of the FASRB, with priority in field of water management;
- Adoption of Report on realization of the Budget for financial year 2005 and adoption of the Budget for financial year 2006;
- Adoption of the Criteria and Procedures for Granting Observer Status in the International Sava River Basin Commission;
- Request for the Observer Status of the Sava Commission at the ICPDR;
- Set-up of the Sava Commission web-site;
- Up-date on realization of the Joint Statement of the Ministers of Transport signed in Brčko (B&H);

- Organization of the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB.

2nd Regular Session

Zagreb, October 05-06, October 27, & November 15, 2006

The 2nd Regular Session of the Sava Commission was held in three parts due to fact that neither the member nor the deputy member from the Republic of Serbia were present on the First and Second Part of the Session. Nevertheless, the Sava Commission concluded to proceed with the First and Second Part of the 2nd Regular Session in context of processing and discussing the materials of the Session but without making any official decisions.

The brief overview of the conclusions and decisions that the Sava Commission passed on the Second Regular Session is presented below:

- Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC;
- Establishment of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention and the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control;
- Adoption of the Annual Report on Work of the Sava Commission for year 2005;
- Report on Audit of the Financial Management of the Sava Commission;
- Status of the regular contributions of the Parties to the FASRB;
- Organization of the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB (to be held in Zagreb, Croatia) and preparation of the Draft Report for the First Meeting of the Parties;
- Realization of the Joint Statement of the Ministers of Transport signed in Brčko (i.e. Conclusions from the Meeting of the State secretaries and other representatives of the Ministries of transport of the State Parties to the FASRB and representatives of the Sava Commission held in Zagreb on September 27, 2006) and further activities toward preparation of the Study and project documentation for the rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava river (Decision on acceptance of the proposition of the Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of the Republic of Croatia related to the preparation of the Pre-feasibility study for rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river to be financed by the Republic of Croatia);
- 1st Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation, approval of the Terms of Reference and the Programme of Work for the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation;
- Adoption of the Decision on Detailed Parameters for Waterway Classification on the Sava River;
- Preparation of the Terms of Reference for the Study on the waterway traffic on the Sava river;
- Approval of the Work Plan for Navigation for the Financial Year 2006 and tentative Work Plans for Navigation for Financial Years 2007 and 2008;

- Status Report on Water Management Issues;
- Definition of future cooperation with the EC Regional CARDS project for the Sava River Basin, UNDP/GEF DRP Sava Component project and the ICPDR Secretariat;
- Activities in preparation of the Road Map for Development of the Sava RBM Plan;
- Preparation of the Database of stakeholders and relevant projects in the Sava River Basin;
- Initiative related to the project “Development of the Hydro-meteorological Information and Forecasting System for the Sava River Basin” and next activities on preparation of the project proposal and Terms of Reference;
- Co-organization of the International Roundtable on “Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin” under the Petersberg process – Phase II (Zagreb, November 15-17, 2006);
- Donation of the GIS software ensured by GIS DATA;
- Approach in development of the Draft Protocols to the FASRB;
- Further development of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of FASRB;
- Establishment of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management;
- Proposal on establishment of the ad hoc expert groups (Ad hoc expert group for hydrological issues related to navigation and Ad hoc expert group for GIS);
- Establishment of the *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group of the Sava Commission;
- Preparation of the Methodology for permanent monitoring of implementation of the FASRB;
- Adoption of the “Criteria for the Performance Evaluation of the Secretariat Staff Members”;
- Development of the subsidiary financial rules and regulations;
- Initiative of the commissions for navigation and river water protection related to development of the “Proposal for Developing a Consensus Statement on Inland Waterway Transport in the Danube River Basin” with overall coordination role of the ICPDR;
- Information on “Joint Statement of the Presidents of the Danube Commission, central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR), International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR), International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the International Sava River Basin Commission on Cooperation related to Environmental protection and Sustainable Development of Inland Navigation”;
- Cooperation with the Danube Commission;
- Granting the observer status to NGO “Green Action”.

3rd Regular Session Zagreb, March 20-21, 2007

The First Part of the 3rd Regular Session of the Sava Commission was held on March 20-21, 2007, whereof the Sava Commission decided to hold the continuation of the session in order to elaborate the remaining agenda items that could not be processed on the first part.

The brief overview of the conclusions and decisions that the Sava Commission passed on the First Part of the 3rd Regular Session is presented below:

- Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC;
- Up-grade of the Draft Report on Implementation of the FASRB and Work of the Sava Commission, Draft Declaration and the status of work on the Methodology for permanent monitoring of implementation of the FASRB;
- Organization of the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB (nomination of the Organization Board for the First Meeting of the Parties, other procedural and organizational issues);
- Further up-grade of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB;
- Up-date on activities in the field of navigation ((a) completion of the Pre-Feasibility Study for Rehabilitation and Development of the Sava River Waterway, (b) information related to activities on preparation of the Study and Project Documentation for Rehabilitation and Development of the Transport on the Sava River and further activities on its preparation, (c) statement that the Republic of Serbia would not participate in co-financing of the Study and Project Documentation for Rehabilitation and Development of the Transport on the Sava River since the Republic of Serbia already prepared the Master Plan and Feasibility Study – Inland Water Transport for Serbia, (d) proposition of the USAID to develop the Economic demand study and institutional, policy and legal framework study in accordance with the scope from section 5.1 and 5.2 of the ToR for the Study and Project Documentation for Rehabilitation and Development of the Transport on the Sava River, (e) Reports from the 2nd and 3rd Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation, Program of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation for the financial year 2007, Work Plan in the field of Navigation for year 2007;
- Up-date on activities in the field of water management ((a) correspondence and documentation related to the project on “Development and up-grading of hydro-meteorological observing, information & forecasting system in the Sava River Basin” to the representatives of the Sava Commission, (b) information on project titled “Protection of Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin in Floodplains”, (c) results of the SARIB project referring to the database

established within the project, (d) information on the EU FP-7 projects “The role of local and scientific knowledge in Integrated Water Resources Management – a comparative approach” and “Development of a European index system for the analysis of remote sensing quality elements defining the ecological status of water bodies”, (e) Reports from the 1st and 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management, Terms of Reference for the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management, Program of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for the financial year 2006, (f) Report from the 1st Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control, Work Program of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control for financial year 2007, Terms of Reference for the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control, (g) Report from the 1st Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention, Terms of Reference for the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention, Program of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention for the financial year 2006, (h) adoption of the Work Plan in the field of Water Management for year 2007;

- Status of work on Protocols (i.e. the *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group shall coordinate further activities on development of the Draft Protocol on Transboundary Impact, info on development of other protocols to the FASRB);
- Up-date on establishment of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Groups.

ANNEX IV

List of acronyms

ACRONYMS

APC	Accident Prevention and Control
B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
DC	Danube Commission
DIS	Danube Information System
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU WFD	European Union Water Framework Directive
FASRB	Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin
FP	Flood Prevention
GIS	Geographical Information System
IAC	International Agriculture Center
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IRIS	Implementation of River Information Services
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PEG	Permanent Expert Group
PIANC	International Navigation Association
RBM	River Basin Management
RIS	River Information Service
SARIB project	Sava River Basin project
Sava Commission	International Sava River Basin Commission
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory
SRB	Sava River Basin
Strategy	Strategy on implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP/GEF DRP	United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility Danube Regional Project



UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

ANNEX V

Pictures from the Sessions

Second Regular Session
October 05-06 2006, October 27 2006 & November 15 2006
Zagreb







Third Regular Session
March 20-21, 2007, Zagreb,



