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ANNUAL REPORT
on Work and Activities
of the Sava Commission
for the Period
April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

March 2008

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I Introduction

The Sava Commission has been established in accordance with Article 15 of the *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin* (FASRB), for the implementation of the FASRB. General tasks and competencies of the Sava Commission are stipulated by the 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 the year 2007 meets this obligation, and covers the period as of April 01, 2007, to March 31, 2008, since the financial year of the Sava Commission lasts from April 1st to March 31st of the subsequent year¹.

During the reporting period, two new representatives of the Sava Commission were nominated, who replaced the previous member and deputy member of the Sava Commission from the Republic of Serbia. Namely, two new nominated representatives of the Sava Commission were Mr. Aleksandar Prodanović, the member, and Mr. Dušan Pajkić, the deputy member (since October 23, 2007).

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

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

II Activities of the Sava Commission

During the reporting period, the Sava Commission organized the 1st Meeting of the Parties, and held the continuation of the 3rd Regular Session, and the three sessions – the 7th Special Session, the 8th Special Session, and the 4th Regular Session.

The 1st Meeting of the Parties

The Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB is foreseen to be held at least once every two years with the aim to review the work and actions of the Sava Commission, make decisions based on proposals and recommendations of the Sava Commission, consider and adopt proposals of new protocols and amendments to the FASRB, and consider and undertake any additional actions that may be required for fulfillment of purposes of the FASRB.

The 1st Meeting of the Parties (convened at Zagreb, on June 1, 2007) was attended by high officials of the four countries, as well as representatives of international institutions and organizations.

The following documents were prepared by the Sava Commission for adoption by the 1st Meeting of the Parties, whereof they were passed:

- *Report on implementation of the FASRB and work of the Sava Commission*, which outlined the progress of the Sava Commission in implementation of the FASRB in two principal fields of work – integrated water management and navigation;
- *Declaration*, prepared for the Parties in order to:
 - o reaffirm their commitment for further affirmation of the regional and international cooperation in the water area, and recognize a need to strengthen concrete actions to be undertaken in that course;
 - o stress a significance of further active engagement of the Parties in implementation of goals defined under the FASRB;
 - o emphasize the importance of adoption of the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB, as well as the development of a coordinative role of the Sava Commission;
- *Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB*, prepared in accordance with obligation under Article 21 of the FASRB, involving the principles and guidelines for monitoring of implementation of the FASRB and establishing a high quality reporting mechanism. Accordingly, the reporting mechanism is supposed to be linked and harmonized with liabilities that the Parties have already taken over in context of reporting obligations under other international agreements.

Sessions of the Sava Commission

At the sessions, held during the reporting period, 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:

- Continuous upgrade of the *Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB*;
- Further development of the *Sava River Basin Management (RBM) Plan* and other activities in the field of Water Management;
- Prioritization of projects of the Sava Commission and collaboration with external projects of significance to the Sava River Basin;
- Development of projects related to rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River;
- Preparation and adoption of a set of documents related to Navigation;
- Further development of Protocols to the FASRB;
- Development of the *Draft Geographic Information System (GIS) Strategy* for the Sava River Basin;
- Work of the expert groups of the Sava Commission;
- Financial management and development of subsidiary regulations of the Sava Commission;
- Administration management and development of subsidiary regulations of the Sava Commission;
- Cooperation and public participation;
- Development of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*;
- Development of the *Memorandum of Understanding* between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR;
- Planning and initial activities in organization of the Sava Day 2008, the first ever celebration since the 1st of June was proclaimed as the official Sava Day at the 1st Meeting of the Parties;
- Development of promotion material of the Sava Commission.

The two key documents, the *Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB* and the *Draft GIS Strategy*, were finalized and adopted during the reporting period. Both documents will be presented to wider public at a workshop which will be held in the beginning of June, within the program of celebration of the Sava Day 2008.

A considerable attention was given to the process of development of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*. The process was guided jointly by the ICPDR, the Danube Commission, and the Sava Commission, and the Sava Commission hosted one of the three workshops organized within this process.

Along with numerous activities of the Sava Commission, two additional expert groups were established during 2007, namely the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for hydrological issues related to navigation, and the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for GIS. The information on all active expert groups of the Sava Commission, including the lists of chairpersons and members, is given in Annex II to the Report.

Finally, the procedure related to engagement of the Advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission, was launched.

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

The year 2006 can be considered as a year of initial activities in the field of Integrated Water Management (IWM). The engagement of the two deputies to the Secretary, and the beginning of work of the three permanent expert groups, dealing primarily with the IWM – Permanent Expert Groups for River Basin Management (PEG RBM), Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC), and Flood Prevention (PEG FP), represented the most important prerequisites for an intensifying the activities needed to fulfill the objectives of the FASRB.

The initiated processes and activities were continued and some new were launched in 2007, what is described in the following text.

1.1. Development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan

The ongoing activities in the process of development of the Sava RBM Plan (SRBMP) were continued in 2007, mainly through a framework of the PEG RBM which held four meetings during the reporting period.

Based on the steps agreed in *“The Structure and the Road Map of the Sava RBM Plan”* and in the *“List of Contents of Sava River Basin Analysis Report”*, the efforts were focused on preparation of the *Sava River Basin Analysis (SRBA) Report*. The main outcomes include:

- Preparation of the water quality chapter, drafted by the Sava CARDS Project *“Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava River”* as a supporting activity of the Project to the Sava Commission;
- Preparation and distribution of the templates for collecting data (i.e. on water quantity, flood management issues);
- Analysis of cross-cutting issues and the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the hydrological part of the SRBA Report.

In addition, the *Draft Public Participation Plan* was prepared.

During the work on the SRBA report, some potential difficulties have been recognized, such as:

- Significant delays in the data submission;
- Lack of data (monitoring, GIS ...), and lack of human resources (WFD teams), especially for WFD-specific issues (e.g. aquatic ecology, water sector economy);
- Inadequate funding of activities needed for preparing the SRBMP;
- Interpretation of the EU WFD key objectives in a way which undermines a role of the Sava Commission by granting a low priority to the activities of the PEG RBM.

In order to fulfill the undertaken obligations, the full commitment of all responsible institutions is needed.

1.2. Accident Prevention and Control

The key activities of the Sava Commission in the field of accident prevention and control were performed through a framework of the PEG APC, which held four meetings during the reporting period.

In addition to the participation in the development of protocols and projects, activities related to the analysis, improvement and modification of the Accident Early Warning System (AEWS) were also performed.

The activities related to the AEWS were focused on improvements and modification of the integrated system to exchange warning, data and information about the accident and a review of the operative structure and capacities within relevant bodies. On November 8, 2007, an announced test was performed by the ICPDR. The results of the test were discussed on the PEG APC meeting. The test has confirmed that the system is working as expected from a technical point of view, but on the other hand it is obvious that the operative structure in the countries would need further improvements. At present, the PIAC centers operate 24 hours a day only in Croatia and Slovenia. This fact might cause problems in case of accidents which happen in reality. In the future, major steps should be initiated towards the operational functionality of the PIAC centers in the countries, especially in B&H and Serbia.

1.3. Flood Management

The key activities of the Sava Commission in this field were made with the assistance of the PEG FP, which held four meetings during the reporting period. These activities include:

- Preparation and distribution of the forms and questionnaires for data collection;
- Preparation of a summary of findings on flood mapping inventory, evaluation of risk assessment methodologies, as well as the availability of basic data for flood related activities;
- Collection of national reports related to flood forecasting and warning;
- Continual follow up of the work of the National Hydrometeorological Services (NHMSs) of the Sava countries on the preparation of the project proposal *Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the Sava river basin*.
- Preparation of the project proposal “*WISE FLOOD*” with a broad range of institutions from other countries. The effort resulted in a common proposal of Slovenia and Croatia to become project partners on the Sutla River as a pilot area for testing various aspects of the new EC Floods Directive.

It is expected that the planned engagement of an advisor for the related area will significantly contribute to fulfillment of the raising obligations in the flood management in 2008.

1.4. Projects and studies

The following projects of the Sava Commission in the field of water management were dealt with during the reporting period:

1. *Technical assistance in the preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan* – the project proposal was prepared and submitted to the EC, and the project is expected to start in 2009;
2. *Joint Sava Survey* – the preparatory documentation for the survey is being finalized, based on which the financial support for the implementation will be sought;
3. *International Contingency Plan for the Sava River Basin* – the project ToR was developed, based on which possibilities of the financial support for the implementation will be investigated.

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.).

In addition to the projects of the Sava Commission outlined above, there was also a collaboration with external projects relevant for the Sava River Basin, namely:

1. *Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the Sava River Basin* – the project proposal was prepared by the NHMSs of the Sava countries;
2. *Protection of Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin Floodplains* – an ongoing 3-years project, financed through the LIFE - 3rd Countries program;
3. *Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava River* – a regional Sava CARDS Project, finished in January 2008, providing the assistance to the Sava Commission in a number of issues related to the SRBMP.

2. Navigation

Work of the Sava Commission in the field of navigation was characterized by intensive activities on the realization of the Project of the *Rehabilitation and Development of the Transport on the Sava River Waterway*, which was declared as an absolute priority in this field.

At the same time, the introduction of the basic regulation in the field of navigation was continued with the aim of establishment of the unified regulatory system in the whole Sava River Basin, which will be complementary to the European system.

Special attention was dedicated to the cooperation with the executive bodies for navigation safety and most significant users of the waterway in the Parties with the aim to inform them about activities and plans of the Sava Commission and to collect information about real needs and problems in the navigation safety and river transport on the Sava River Waterway.

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

2.1. Navigation safety

As a continuation of the activities from the previous period, the Sava Commission adopted the following documents:

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

By adopting the above mentioned decisions, the Sava Commission created an uniform legal framework for the utilization of the whole Sava River Waterway. Likewise, the basic regulations with the most significant influence on the navigation safety (rules of the road, boatmaster, marking) were aligned with the highest European standards.

At the same time, the Sava Commission continued with the joint activities with the CCNR and Danube Commission on the development of the unique framework for the issuance of the boatmaster certificate and its mutual recognition.

It is necessary to continue and intensify further improvement and unification of the basic regulation on the European level and with this aim, the Sava Commission started, jointly with the CCNR, Danube Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport, with the active comparison of the Navigation Rules from the different river basins. This activity will eventually result in unique navigation rules for main European Waterways.

2.2. Technical standards

At the end of the 2006, the EU adopted the *Directive of the European Commission 2006/87/EC on Technical Requirements for Inland Waterway Vessels*. This document is very important impulse toward the unification of the Technical Rules and the Sava Commission is actively involved in the work of the CCNR and EU Joint Working Group on the implementation and improvement of the Directive 2006/87/EC.

On the basis of the Directive 2006/87/EC, the Secretariat of the Sava Commission prepared the *Draft Technical Rules for the Vessels in the Sava River Basin* and presented it to the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV). With regard to the importance of the document and possible

effects on the waterway users, it is necessary to ensure involvement of the appropriate experts from the Parties.

The *European Agreement Concerning International Carriage of the Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways* – ADN, entered into force during 2007. Accordingly, activities will be undertaken related to implementation of the ADN in the Sava River Basin. The Secretariat of the Sava Commission prepared the basic principles for the ADN implementation and these principles will be presented to the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV).

2.3. Prevention of the pollution caused by navigation

In addition to the development of the draft Protocol on this particular issue, performed by the Sava Commission within the reporting period, the cooperation was established with the Danube Commission, related to development of the system for waste collection from vessels. Preparatory activities on the development of the Project of the System for the Waste Collection from Vessels in the Sava River Basin were started.

2.4. Waterway infrastructure

The Sava Commission paid special attention to the rehabilitation of the marking system on the Sava River Waterway in accordance with a demand of the Parties to start with the concrete activities as soon as possible. As one of the main preconditions for the establishment of the marking system, the Sava Commission adopted *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2008*. On the basis of this Plan and their own plans, the Parties undertook a lot of activities. Some of the main activities are the following:

- Republic of Serbia started with marking of the waterway on the sector between Belgrade and the confluence of the Drina River;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina ensured financial assets for the waterway marking on the sector from the confluence of the Drina River to the rkm 335 and started with preparatory activities;
- Croatia upgraded intensity and quality of the marking on the sector between Slavonski Brod and Sisak;
- Based on the initiative of the Sava Commission, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia agreed on the new river mileage and, this way, a long lasting problem of so-called “double river kilometres” is solved.

In the framework of the RIS implementation activities, the PEG NAV adopted the *Document on activities and timeframe for the RIS implementation on the Sava River* and several RIS standards, protocols and technologies. The Sava Commission actively participates in all significant activities in the RIS implementation on the European level (GIS Forum Danube; IRIS Steering Committee).

The Sava Commission established the *ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation. The Group started to work and the main issue is establishment of appropriate low and high navigability levels.

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 continued with the activities related to the development of the *Project of the rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava River Waterway*, as follows:

- *Pre-feasibility Study for Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Sava River Waterway* was completed and presented to representatives of the Authorities and stakeholders;
- *The Sava River Inland Waterway Transport Demand and Institutional, Policy and Legal Framework Study* was completed (financed by USAID and executed by Booz-Allen-Hamilton);
- Contract for the development of the *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway* was signed, and the project is under development. The Project should be finalized by the end of July 2008.

3. Protocols

A further development of five protocols to the FASRB took place during the reporting period:

- *Protocol on transboundary impacts;*
- *Protocol on emergency situations;*
- *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation;*
- *Protocol on protection against floods;*
- *Protocol on exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay.*

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

Keeping in mind a multidisciplinary nature of the *Protocol on Transboundary Impact*, a joint group has been made from the *ad-hoc* Legal Expert Group as a core, and representatives of other groups (PEG APC, PEG RBM and PEG FP), to work on the further development of the Protocol.

The draft version has been prepared and it was planned to be reviewed once again by the joint group after finalization of Annex I to the Protocol, which provides a list of activities causing a transboundary impact.

However, keeping in mind that B&H is the only Party to the FASRB which is not a signatory of the *Espoo Convention*, and that the “*Bucharest*

Agreement” on a similar subject will be signed soon, the Sava Commission will decide on further development of the Protocol after getting relevant information (i.e. which countries signed the “*Bucharest Agreement*”, and whether B&H would sign the Espoo Convention in near future).

The final conclusions are expected in the first half of the financial year 2008. According to the *Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB*, preparation of the final draft of this Protocol should be finished in 2008.

The leading body in the development of the *Protocol on emergency situations* is PEG APC. 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. In the Protocol, the role of Sava Commission is proposed and the system of communication is defined.

After discussions and improvement of the text by the PEG APC, the draft version of the Protocol was sent to the *ad-hoc* Legal Group for further consideration, especially of the articles where role of the Sava Commission is defined and the articles closely connected to the existing legislation and bilateral agreements of the Sava riparian countries and the FASRB.

According to the *Draft Strategy*, the draft proposal of the Protocol should be distributed to the national authorities in 2008.

As indicated in the Chapter 2.3, the Draft *Protocol on prevention of the water pollution caused by navigation* was considered in the framework of the PEG NAV and other relevant expert groups of the Sava Commission and the text of the Draft was harmonized in accordance with proposals and comments of all expert groups. The draft proposal of the Protocol should be finalized in the first half of the financial year 2008.

The leading body in the development of the *Protocol on protection against floods* is PEG FP. The initial draft of the Protocol was prepared by the Republic of Serbia. An extensive work on the proposal was continued in the period thereafter.

The main concern of the PEG FP during the preparation of the Protocol was how to incorporate requirements of the recently adopted EC Floods Directive. The main assumption is that all Parties will adopt the requirements of the Directive. After the finalization by the PEG FP (expected in April 2008), the draft Protocol will be submitted to the *Ad-hoc* Legal EG for further consideration before submittal to the Sava Commission.

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

The Draft *Protocol on exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay* was prepared by the PEG NAV and sent to the PEG RBM for consideration. It was concluded that a joint work of experts from various expert groups is needed, for further development of the Protocol. According to the *Draft Strategy*, the draft proposal should be adopted by the Sava Commission during the financial year 2008.

4. Financial issues

4.1. Budget

At the 3rd Regular Session of the Sava Commission, held in Zagreb on March 20 - 21, 2007 and April 23, 2007, the decision on *the Third Regular Budget* of the Sava Commission for the financial year 2007, covering the period from April 01, 2007, till March 31, 2008, in amount of 515.960,00 Euro (i.e. 128.990,00 Euro per country), was adopted.

The inflow of the paid contributions in the year 2007 is described in Table 1, which outlines that the total amounts of regular contributions have been paid by all Parties.

Table 1. Contributions received in the financial year 2007 (in Eur).

| <i>Parties</i> | <i>Contributions for 2006, received in 2007</i> | <i>Contributions received for 2007</i> | <i>Total received amount in 2007</i> |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | - | 128,990.00 | 128,990.00 ¹ |
| Croatia | - | 128,990.00 | 128,990.00 ² |
| Serbia | 63,988.84 | 128,990.00 | 192,978.84 ³ |
| Slovenia | - | 128,990.00 | 128,990.00 ⁴ |
| Total received amount of contributions | 63,988.84 | 515,960.00 | 579,948.84 |

Note: ¹ The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on August 2 and November 29, 2007. ² The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on September 3 and September 26, 2007. ³ The unpaid contribution for the FY 2006 was paid on August 23, 2007, and the contribution for the FY 2007 was paid on February 25, 2008. ⁴ The amount was paid on June 4, 2007.

The realization of the Budget for the financial year 2007 (i.e. the expenditures by basic intention), are described in Table 2.

Table 2. Expenditures by basic intention in the financial year 2007 (in Eur).

| <i>Budget Chapter</i> | <i>Expenditures</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Broaden Current Costs | 434,417.13 |
| Broaden Operational Costs | 50,839.32 |
| Equipment | 1,995.26 |
| Total General Fund Expenditures | 487,251.71 |
| Reserve Fund Expenditures | 32,652.13 |
| Total Expenditures | 519,903.84 |

The budget items of the General Fund are comparable with the originally stipulated amounts, making a 95% realization of the planned amount.

As for the Reserve Fund, there was no inflow in the year 2007, and the expenditures of this Fund were for translation, organization of the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB, development of promotion material, etc.

4.2. Financing projects and studies within special funds

The total received amount in the Special and Trust Fund is 372,131.61 Eur, which consists of:

- the amount of 298,168.61 Eur, paid by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia for preparation of the *Pre-feasibility Study for Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Sava River Waterway*, and
- the amount of 73,963.00 Eur, which is an additional funding of Bosnia and Herzegovina for preparation of studies and project documentation of interest. A part of the additional funding (49,963 Eur) was paid in 2006 and the rest of 24,000 Eur was received on January 30, 2008.

The total expenditures of the Special and Trust Funds are 127,134.47 Eur and are associated with preparation of the *Feasibility Study for Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Sava River Waterway*.

4.3. Other activities

During the financial year 2007, the Secretariat continued its working activities on development of internal and external financial management.

Audit of the Financial Management of the Sava Commission in 2006 was performed, and the Report was adopted at the 8th Special Session of the Sava Commission.

The *Rulebook on Bookkeeping* and the *Rules of Procurement Procedures* were prepared and adopted, and the *ad-hoc* Financial Expert Group was established.

5. Administration management and legal support

During the reporting period, the emphasis, in context of legal and general affairs, was on the preparation of the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB and development of related documents, including the *Report on implementation of the FASRB and work of the Sava Commission for the period December 29, 2004 - March 31, 2007*, the *Declaration*, and the “*Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB*”.

Under this section of work, the permanent legal support was provided within the work of the Sava Commission and the Secretariat, involving organization of sessions of the Sava Commission, preparation of all kinds of written documents and set-up and work of the *ad-hoc* Legal Expert Group of the Sava Commission.

The special attention was given to legal aspects of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, *Memorandum of Understanding* between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR, and set of decisions related to Navigation, due to their high importance to the Sava Commission as well as to the cooperation in the region as a whole.

In order to develop proposals for resolution of certain legal issues delegated by the Sava Commission, the *ad-hoc* Legal Expert Group held two

meetings during the reporting period, whereon, several legal issues were elaborated, with emphasis on legal aspects of the protocols and the *Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB*.

In addition, an analysis of bilateral agreements between the Parties in light of Article 29 paragraph 3 of the FASRB is under preparation.

6. Information management

One of the important means and tools of communications is publicly accessible web-page of the Sava Commission (www.savacommission.org). The web page is constantly maintained and daily updated in seven languages (the six official languages of the Sava countries and English).

As for the development of an integrated Information System for the Sava River Basin, the main activities performed within the reporting period include:

- Preparation of the Draft *GIS Strategy for the Sava River Basin* (2007 – 2012), based on the previously prepared *Assessment Report on GIS Capabilities of the Parties and the Sava Commission*, and taking into account the EC INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC). The Strategy will be adopted after the presentation of the Draft to wider public;
- Preparation of a preliminary list of maps needed for the SRBA Report;
- Preparation of the databases on stakeholders and projects of relevance for the Sava Commission.

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), a number of meetings, such as GIS Forum, GIS Workshops, IRIS & DIS Conferences, etc., were attended.

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 adjusted according to real needs and adopted in 2007. By this document, the Sava Commission enables 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.

During the reporting period, two non-governmental organizations (on regional and national levels) were granted the observer status to the Sava Commission – the NGO “Green action” (seated in Croatia) and the Danube Environmental Forum (seated in Hungary), and the Sava Commission

permanently encourages other governmental and/or non-governmental organizations to become observers to the Sava Commission.

Stakeholders and wider public are continuously informed through the official web site of the Sava Commission, as well as by means of posters and a leaflet issued by the Sava Commission and disseminated on different workshops and meetings. 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 work of the Sava Commission has been presented at a number of workshops, seminars and conferences, including national and regional workshops in the framework of the Sava CARDS and the LIFE projects, the UNECE and OSCE workshops and meetings, as well as the conferences in the framework of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

The Sava Commission actively participated at the *International Roundtable on Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in South-Eastern Europe*, held on November 14-16, 2007, at Brdo (Slovenia), within the »Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration« process. The Sava Commission prepared a draft Joint Statement on improvement of the transboundary groundwater management in the Sava River Basin, along with a proposal of activities, which was adopted at a high-level segment of the Roundtable by representatives of the Parties.

In addition, several meetings and other events were organized or co-organized by the Sava Commission, such as an international workshop within the process of development of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin* (October 4-5, 2007, Zagreb), and a number of meetings with representatives of national authorities and institutions (i.e. relevant ministries, Harbour Master Offices, shipping industry and ports) from the Sava River Basin.

More information on the most important events attended by the Sava Commission can be found on the website.

During the reporting period, initial activities were made in:

- *Development of promotion material* of the Sava Commission, such as a brochure on the Sava Commission, the Sava Commission bulletin, and leaflets and posters for different target groups;
- Preparation of celebration of the Sava Day 2008, where a number of events were planned, including the signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination between the ICPDR and the Sava Commission*, and a workshop for presentation of the *Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB* and the *Draft GIS Strategy* for the Sava River Basin to wider public.

8. Cooperation with international organizations and other relevant institutions

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 with other river commissions, financial institutions, initiatives, etc.

ICPDR

A close cooperation with the ICPDR has been maintained, including the mutual participation in majority of important events, such as the sessions of the Commissions, meetings of the Expert Groups dealing with RBM, GIS and the Accident Prevention and Control, and workshops on specific topics, where both sides are updated on the activities performed. The ICPDR representatives also attended the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB.

A number of coordination and cooperation issues were discussed with the ICPDR, including the cooperation on a technical level (i.e. information exchange regarding the steps towards the RBM plans, the interoperability regarding Danube GIS and Sava GIS), coordination of meetings of the two commissions, joint action in searching for funding possibilities, and the cooperation related to public participation and dissemination of information.

Accordingly, the representatives of the Sava Commission participated in a number of the activities of the ICPDR, related to the celebration of the Danube Day 2007, the Joint Danube Survey 2, and the publication of articles in the “Danube Watch”.

Finally, a draft *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination between the ICPDR and the Sava Commission* was prepared jointly, and is planned to be signed at a meeting within the celebration of the Sava Day 2008.

Danube Commission

A number of meetings of the Danube Commission were attended by the Sava Commission, including the sessions of the Commission, meetings of the Expert Groups for Technical Issues, and for the Transport of the Dangerous Goods on the Inland Waterways. The Danube Commission was also represented at the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB.

As mentioned earlier in the text, the process of development of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, was guided in a close cooperation between the Sava Commission on one hand, and the ICPDR and the Danube Commission, on the other hand.

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 6th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, workshops (i.e. organized within the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and others), and meetings of the Working Groups (Monitoring and Assessment Working Group, Task Force on Water and Climate, Working Group on Inland Water Transport and Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation). The UNECE was represented at the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB, as well.

Additionally, a cooperation has been maintained with other commissions (Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine River), regional organizations (OSCE, Stability Pact for the SEE), specialized agencies, associations and groups (World Meteorological Organization, GIS Forum, PIANC International Navigation Association), and international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD, EIB, USAID).

The cooperation with the US Government resulted in *The Sava River Inland Waterway Transport Demand and Institutional, Policy and Legal Framework Study* (financed by USAID and executed by Booz-Allen-Hamilton). Preliminary talks have been made regarding a possible cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), related to their possible engagement in the execution of the *Flood Mapping Study for the Sava River Basin*, and joint organization of a workshop on sustainable navigation and maintenance of inland waterways in one of the Parties.

The “Toyota” and “Coca Cola” companies have been contacted to discuss possibilities of a partnership.

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, Transport and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Forestry, Water Management and Regional Development. The 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. The 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. Additionally, a workshop on the Feasibility Study was held on March 11, 2008, in Brežice (Slovenia).

There has also been a good cooperation with other relevant Ministries of the Parties, not only through the involvement of their representatives in the work of the expert groups of the Sava Commission, but also in relation to preparatory activities in the organization of the Sava Day 2008.

A number of meetings with representatives of national authorities and institutions have been held, including the 2nd meeting with representatives of the Harbour Master Offices (September 20-21, 2007, in Sisak), and a meeting with representatives of the shipping industry and ports from the Sava River Basin (December 5, 2007, Brčko).

In addition to the national institutions responsible for implementation of the FASRB, a cooperation has been maintained with other national organizations, such as National Hydrometeorological 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.

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 his 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, Transport and Infrastructure 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.

Ružica Drmić
Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Croatia

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 regional development, 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 – till October 23, 2007

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 till October 2007 he was performing duty 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 – till October 23, 2007

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 till May 2007 he was performing duty 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.

Aleksandar Prodanović

Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Serbia – as of October 23, 2007

Born in Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) on February 13, 1969, Mr. Aleksandar Prodanović holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering obtained at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade (Serbia).

He began his professional career as an engineer at the Public Company “Srem-gas” in Sremska Mitrovica, where he worked until year 2000. He continued his career at the Municipal Assembly in Sremska Mitrovica as the President of the Assembly (2000-2004) and, afterwards, as a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Serbia and a Member of Parliament of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

As of October 2007 (to date) 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 the organization management, project management, strategic planning, identification of relevant projects and programs, etc.

Dušan Pajkić

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Serbia – as of October 23, 2007

Born in Belgrade (Serbia) on October 13, 1970, Mr. Dušan Pajkić holds a B.Sc. in Technology obtained at the Faculty of Technology in Novi Sad (Serbia).

He began his professional career in 1997 as an engineer for technical support at company “Megaron”. He continued his career at the “Vectra” c.o. as the head of the production (2000-2002), then as a technical director at company “Minakva” BB (2002-2006) and, afterwards, as an assistant to the county secretary for environmental protection and sustainable development (2006-2007).

As of May 2007 (to date) he holds a position of the Assistant Minister at the Ministry of environmental protection of Republic of Serbia.

His main fields of work refer to the management and organization of the production facilities, organization management, organization of production, purchase of technologies, introduction of the quality systems, environmental protection, strategic planning, 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

The following expert groups have been active during the whole 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),

and the three *ad-hoc* expert groups were established in the financial year 2007:

- *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 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

| | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 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 | Alan Cibilić | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| | Arijana Senić | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| Serbia | Miodrag Milovanović | Institute “Jaroslav Černi”, Belgrade |
| | To be nominated | |
| Slovenia | Stanka Koren | Ministry of environment and spatial planning, Environmental Agency, Water Management Department |
| | Aleš Bizjak | Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia |

Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control

| | 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 | Marijana Gubić | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| Serbia | Dušan Dobričić | Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, Republic Directorate for Waters |
| Slovenia | Janez Polajnar | Ministry of environment and spatial planning, Environmental Agency, Hydrology Sector |
| Deputy Members: | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Aleksandra Kovačević | Republic Directorate for Waters, Banjaluka Office |
| Croatia | Tanja Ecimović | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| Serbia | To be nominated | |
| Slovenia | To be nominated | |

Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention

| | 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 | Vesna Tusić | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| Serbia | Radovanka Pavlović | Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, Republic Directorate for Waters |
| Slovenia | Robert Kepa | Ministry of environment and spatial planning, Environmental Agency, Water Management Department |
| Deputy Members: | | |
| Bosnia & Herz. | Aida Bezdob | Public Enterprise “Water Area of the Sava River Basin”, Sarajevo |
| Croatia | Višnja Mamula | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| Serbia | Marina Babić-Mladenović | Institute “Jaroslav Černi”, Belgrade |
| Slovenia | To be nominated | |

Permanent Expert Group for Navigation

| | 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 | Directorate for maintenance and development of inland waterways “PLOVPUT”, Belgrade |
| Slovenia | Danilo Sabadin | Ministry of transport, Maritime Administration |
| Deputy Members: | | |
| Bosnia & Herz. | To be nominated | |
| Croatia | Dražen Velnić | Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure |
| Serbia | To be nominated | |
| Slovenia | To be nominated | |

Ad-hoc Legal Expert Group

| | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Chairwoman: | Melita Žižanović-Dakić | Special Advisor for Legal and General Affairs |
| Members: | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | To be nominated | |
| Croatia | Sanja Genzić | Ministry of regional development, forestry and water management |
| | Marina Ivica-Matkovac | Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure |
| Serbia | Gordana Petković | Ministry of environmental protection |
| Slovenia | Urška Kramberger - Korošec | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |

Ad-hoc GIS Expert Group Established on November 13, 2007

| | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Chairman: | Dragan Zeljko | Deputy Secretary for Integrated River Basin Management and Water Planning |
| Co-chairman: | Siniša Špegar | Advisor for Technical Issues of Navigation |
| Members: | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Nebojša Nikolić | Republic Directorate for Waters, Bijeljina Office |
| | Hajrudin Mičivoda | Public Enterprise "Water Area of the Sava River Basin", Sarajevo |
| Croatia | Bojana Horvat | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| | Tijana Turudić | Croatian Waters, Zagreb |
| Serbia | Miloš Stanić | Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade |
| | Aleksandar Milićević | Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, Republic Directorate for Water |
| Slovenia | Aleš Veršič | Ministry of environment and spatial planning, Environmental Agency |
| | Gregor Sluga | Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia |

Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation
Established on November 13, 2007

| | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Chairman: | Željko Milković | Deputy Secretary for Navigation |
| Members: | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Aziz Čomor | Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, Federation B&H, Sarajevo |
| Croatia | Dušan Trninić | State Hydro-meteorological Institute, Zagreb |
| Serbia | Jasna Muškatirović | Directorate for maintenance and development of inland waterways "PLOVPUT" , Belgrade |
| Slovenia | Jana Meljo | Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia |

Ad-hoc Financial Expert Group
Established on November 13, 2007

| | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Chairwoman: | Majda Despotović | Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs |
| Members: | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Veselka Jeremić | Ministry of communications and transport of B&H |
| Croatia | Marijana Cindrić | Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure |
| Serbia | Valentina Mileusnić Vučić | Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, Republic Directorate for Water |
| Slovenia | Andreja Sovdat | Ministry of environment and spatial planning, Financial Department |

ANNEX III

Sessions of the Sava Commission

As of April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, the Sava Commission held the continuation of the III Regular Session (April 23, 2007) and three sessions in total: VII Special Session (July 12, and July 20, 2007), VIII Special Session (November 12-13, 2007) and IV Regular Session (January 09-10, 2008). Work under these sessions, involved reconsideration of many issues, and adoption of different conclusions and decisions, which are briefly introduced in the section below.

Continuation of the Third Regular Session Zagreb, April 23, 2007

The continuation of the Third Regular Session of the Sava Commission was held on April 23, 2007, whereof, the Sava Commission processed the issues which were not considered on the first part of the session due to time constraint.

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

- Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC;
- Organization of the First Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB, procedural and organizational issues), adoption of the Draft Report on Implementation of the FASRB and Work of the Sava Commission for the period December 29, 2004 – March 31, 2007, Draft Declaration and Draft Methodology for permanent monitoring of implementation of the FASRB;
- Further up-grade of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB;
- Up-date on activities in the field of navigation and water management;
- Status of work on Protocols;
- Up-date on establishment of the Ad-hoc Expert Groups.

VII Special Session Zagreb, July 12, 2007 and July 20, 2007

The VII Special Session of the Sava Commission was held in two parts, on July 12 2007 and July 20 2007, whereof, the Sava Commission discussed different issues and passed respective conclusions and decisions, of which the important once are presented in the text below:

- Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the Sava Commission and their realization;
- Development of the Annual Report on Work and Activities of the ISRBC for Year 2006;
- Development of the Draft Strategy on implementation of the FASRB;

- Comprehensive activities in the field of water management and closely related projects;
- Comprehensive activities in the field of navigation, preparation of the documents related to navigation and on-going projects related to navigation;
- Preparation of the “Economic Demand Study and Institutional, Policy and Legal Framework Study” developed by the Booz-Allen-Hamilton;
- Development of the “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Sava Commission and ICPDR;
- Work of the Expert Groups of the Sava Commission;
- Proposal on establishment of additional *Ad hoc* Expert Groups of the Sava Commission;
- Development of the draft protocols;
- Information Management Issues;
- Financial issues;
- Announcement of the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Special Advisor for economic and financial affairs at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission;
- Promotion activities of the Sava Commission;
- Activities toward the “Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin” of the ICPDR, the Danube Commission and the Sava Commission;
- Hydropower use of the Sava River in the boundary area between Croatia and Slovenia;
- Cooperation with different international organizations, etc.

VIII Special Session November 12-13, 2007

The Sava Commission held its VIII Special Session on November 12-13, 2007, and, thereof, passed different conclusions and decisions, whose brief overview is presented below:

- Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the Sava Commission and their realization;
- Adoption of the Annual Report on Work and Activities of the Sava Commission for the period April 1st 2006 – March 31st 2007;
- Further development of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB;
- Status Report on activities in the field of water management performed within the period between the two Sessions;
- Possibilities for cooperation of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Sava Commission;
- Further development of the “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Sava Commission and ICPDR;
- Work of the Expert Groups of the Sava Commission;
- Approval of the Program of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for financial year 2007;

- Approval of the Program of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention for financial year 2007;
- Status Report on activities in the field of navigation performed within the period between the two Sessions;
- Award of the Contract for the development of the “Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway”;
- Adoption of the Marking Plan on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2008;
- Adoption of the Navigation Rules on the Sava River Basin;
- Adoption of the Rules for Waterway Marking on the Sava River Basin;
- Adoption of the Rules on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster’ Licenses on the Sava River Basin;
- Adoption of the Rules on Minimum Manning Requirements for the Vessels on the Sava River Basin;
- Status Report related to development of the draft protocols;
- Establishment of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for hydrological issues related to navigation and adoption of its Terms of Reference;
- Establishment of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS and adoption of its Terms of Reference;
- Announcement of the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Special Advisor for economic and financial affairs at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission;
- Financial issues: Report on Audit of the Financial Management of the ISRBC in year 2006; Adoption of the Report on realization of the Budget for financial year 2006; Development of the draft Rules of Procurement Procedures;
- Information Management Issues;
- Further development of the “Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin” of the ICPDR, the Danube Commission and the Sava Commission;
- Granting the *ad hoc* observer status to the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF);
- Cooperation with different international organizations, etc.

IV Regular Session Zagreb, January 09-10, 2008

The Sava Commission held the IV Regular Session on January 09-10, 2008, and, thereof, passed different conclusions and decisions, whose brief overview is presented below:

- Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the Sava Commission and their realization;
- Status Report on implementation of the FASRB and further development of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB;
- Organization of the Workshop for presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB;
- Activities in the field of water management and closely related projects;

- Application for membership at the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med);
- Work of the Expert Groups of the Sava Commission;
- Activities related to the “Final Report on Sava River Inland Waterway Transport Demand and Institutional, Policy and Legal Framework Study” developed by the Booz-Alen-Hamilton (BAH);
- Progress in development of the draft protocols;
- Acceptation of the Draft Geographic Information System (GIS) Strategy for the Sava River Basin;
- Nomination of the deputy members to the Permanent Expert Groups of the Sava Commission;
- Adoption of the prepared text of the “Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin” of the ICPDR, the Danube Commission and the Sava Commission;
- Appointment of the Special Advisor for economic and financial affairs in the Secretariat of the Sava Commission;
- Launching the procedure related to engagement of the Advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission;
- Financial issues: Adoption of the Budget for financial year 2008; Allocation of the financial assets from the Reserve Fund for development of the promotion material of the Sava Commission; Development of the draft Rules of Procurement Procedures;
- Priority projects of the Sava Commission;
- Cooperation with different international organizations, etc.

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 |



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| UNECE | 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

Continuation of the Third Regular Session
Zagreb, April 23, 2007



VII Special Session
July 12 and 20, 2007, Zagreb



VIII Special Session
November 12-13, 2007, Zagreb



IV Regular Session
January 09-10, 2008, Zagreb

