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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**on Work and Activities**  
**of the Sava Commission**  
**for the Period**  
**April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009**

**April 2009**



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## I Introduction

General tasks and competencies of the Sava Commission (ISRBC) are stipulated by the *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)* and, more specifically, by the Annex I to the *FASRB – Statute of the International Sava River Basin Commission*. The obligation of the Sava Commission to submit the annual report on its work and activities to the Parties is stipulated by Article 10 of the Annex I to the *FASRB*.

On this basis, the *Annual Report on work and activities of the Sava Commission for the year 2008* was prepared. The *Report* corresponds to the financial year 2008 of the ISRBC, covering the period as of April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009. All the Work Programmes and Work Plans, mentioned throughout the *Annual Report*, also correspond to the financial year stated.

The reporting period witnessed a further intensification of the Sava Commission activities, providing first remarkable results towards the achievement of the principal goals of the *FASRB*, namely the establishment of the international regime of navigation on the Sava river and its navigable tributaries, and the establishment of sustainable water management in the Sava river basin. These achievements will be presented in detail in the following chapters of the *Report*.

During the financial year 2008, the chairmanship of the Sava Commission was handed over by Mr. Kemal Karkin (Bosnia & Herzegovina) to Mr. Branko Bačić (Republic of Croatia), in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure of the Sava Commission*. As for representation of the Parties in the Sava Commission, Mr. Miladin Avramov was nominated as the new deputy member of the ISRBC from the Republic of Serbia (since November 19, 2008). The list of the Sava Commission members and deputy members is given in Annex I to the *Report*.

## II Activities of the Sava Commission

During the reporting period, the Sava Commission organized the four sessions – 9<sup>th</sup> Special Session, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Session, 11<sup>th</sup> Special Session, and 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session.

The work under these sessions involved reconsideration of issues covering all fields of work stipulated under the *FASRB*, as well as the adoption of the corresponding conclusions and decisions, related to the following principal activities of the Sava Commission:

- Finalization and adoption of the *Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB*;
- Adoption of the *Guidelines for preparation of the first country report on implementation of the FASRB*;
- Preparation of the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* as a first step in the development of the *Sava RBM Plan*, as well as other activities in the field of water management;
- Activities on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river waterway;
- Development and adoption of a set of documents related to navigation;
- Preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities;
- Further development of protocols to the *FASRB*;
- Finalization and adoption of the *GIS Strategy for the Sava River Basin*;
- Work of the expert groups of the ISRBC;
- Financial management and development of internal financial regulations of the ISRBC;
- Administration management and development of internal legal regulations of the ISRBC;
- Cooperation and public participation;
- Implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, jointly with the ICPDR and the Danube Commission;
- Signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR*;
- Development and signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Sava Commission and the Danube Commission*;
- Organization of the first ever celebration of the Sava Day;
- Launch of the official bulletin of the ISRBC, the *Sava NewsFlash*;
- Redesign of the web-site and development of the promotion material of the ISRBC;
- Organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*.

The two key documents, the *Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB* and the *GIS Strategy*, were finalized and adopted during the reporting period. Following the public presentation and discussion of the strategies (Belgrade, June 6, 2008), the documents were finalized and adopted by the Sava Commission in October 2008.

In order to launch the implementation of the *Methodology of permanent monitoring of implementation of the FASRB*, adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Zagreb, June 1, 2007), the *Guidelines for preparation of the first country report on implementation of*

*the FASRB* were adopted and distributed to the Parties. The country reports, prepared subsequently by the Parties, provided a valuable additional input to the Sava Commission in the preparation of the Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties (to be convened at Belgrade, on June 1, 2009).

A considerable attention was given to the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, guided jointly by the ICPDR, the Danube Commission and the Sava Commission. The formal basis for cooperation with the two commissions was further strengthened by signing the memorandums of understanding.

Along with numerous activities of the Sava Commission, the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues was established, and the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Financial Issues started to work, during the reporting period. The list of the active expert groups of the ISRBC is given in Annex II to the *Report*.

Finally, the advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime was engaged in the Secretariat of the Sava Commission.

Detailed review of activities of the Sava Commission is presented in the sections below, and brief overview of the sessions of the ISRBC is given in Annex III to the *Report*. The list of acronyms is attached as Annex IV.

## **1. Integrated water management**

The focus of activities of the Sava Commission in the field of water management was further development of the strategic plans for the Sava river basin, such as the *Sava RBM Plan* and the *Sava River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan*, and the integrated systems for the basin, namely the Sava GIS and the monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems related to accidents and floods.

### **1.1. Development of the *Sava River Basin Management Plan***

The activities in the process of development of the *Sava RBM Plan* have been continued throughout 2008, not only through PEG RBM as the overarching umbrella of this activity, but also with an active participation of PEG FP, PEG NAV and *Ah* GIS EG.

Based on the steps agreed in *The Structure and the Road Map of the Sava RBM Plan* and in the *List of Contents of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report*, the efforts were focused mainly on preparation of the *Sava River Basin Analysis (Sava RBA) Report*, as well as on further development of the project proposal *Technical assistance for the preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan*.

According to the commonly agreed principles, the Analysis deals with:

- the Sava river and its tributaries with catchment areas larger than 1.000 km<sup>2</sup>;
- lakes with surface area of more than 50 km<sup>2</sup> and volume more than 5\*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>;
- groundwater bodies with threshold value of 1000 km<sup>2</sup>,

and deals not only with water quality but with water quantity, as well.

The first characterization report is in the final phase of preparation. The *Sava RBA Report* covers the following issues:

- overview of the Sava river basin and its general characteristics (relief, land use, main rivers and their sub-basins, flow characteristics, etc.);
- assessment of water quality of surface and groundwater (identification of water bodies, identification of significant drivers and pressures, assessment of impacts, identification of artificial water bodies and heavily modified water bodies, risk assessment);
- assessment of water quantity (main characteristics of water regime, water balance, water use/demand of different sectors as water supply, industry, agriculture, navigation, hydropower plants etc.);
- monitoring (brief analysis of monitoring data from Transnational monitoring network (TNMN) stations);
- economic elements (identification of economic significance of main water uses, projections of key economic indicators and drivers),
- accompanied GIS maps (prepared by the Secretariat based on data provided by the countries and/or compiled from data collected from other sources such as EEA, NASA, etc.).

Issues of special importance for the Sava river basin, such as:

- flood management;
- navigation, and
- hydromorphology,

are presented in separate annexes of the *SRB Analysis Report*.

During the development of the SRB Analysis, some gaps and uncertainties have been noticed, and will be further elaborated immediately after finalization of the *SRB Analysis Report*. However, the most significant gaps (insufficient elaboration) were already identified in:

- ecological characterization;
- ground water;
- economic analyses of water use, and
- cross-cutting issues.

The main reason for the gaps was a problem in data collection from the Parties, which has been one of the most time consuming and challenging tasks in the process of development of SRB Analysis. The gaps and uncertainties must be resolved in the next steps of development of the *Sava RBM Plan*.

In order to fulfill the undertaken obligations, the full commitment of all responsible institutions for implementation of the *FASRB* and the *EU WFD* is needed.

The approved project *Technical assistance for the preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan* will enable smooth transition in the next phase of the *Plan* preparation.

## 1.2. Accident Prevention and Control

The key activities of the Sava Commission in the field of accident prevention and control, performed in the framework of PEG APC, include:

- testing and improvement of the Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS);
- preparation of projects,
- development of protocols.

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. In 2008, two unannounced tests were initiated by the ICPDR (April 8, November 9). All Principal International Alert Centers (PIACs) in the Sava river basin, which have been established as communication units, successfully participated in the test. The PIACs had to accomplish two steps:

- confirm receipt of the initial message (test of reactivity);
- close the incident (test of basic handling of the system).

The tests have confirmed that the system is working as expected from a technical point of view, but it is obvious that the operative structure in the countries would need further improvements. PIACs in Slovenia and Croatia are a part of the whole system of civil and emergency protection system and they operate 24/7. In Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, PIACs have been established but they have not yet been incorporated in the structures which enable early warning and effective response in case of emergency situations causing or threatening to cause negative impact to water regime and aquatic eco-system. Legal system and national authorities in those two countries have not been developed yet to enable the incorporation of the existing PIACs into the emergency warning and response system. This is one of the main objectives of the ISRBC to be accomplished in the following period.

## 1.3. Flood Management

The main activities of the Sava Commission in the field of flood management, during the reporting period, were:

- comprehensive assessment of current flood management practices in the Parties;
- work on the draft protocol regulating flood protection in the Sava river basin,
- following up the ongoing project activities and preparation of new project proposals.

The assessment activity had been performed by collecting the most relevant information by means of adequate forms related to:

- hydrology, hydraulics and mapping practices in the Sava countries;
- regulatory and institutional setup and responsibilities,
- flood protection structures.

This joint activity resulted in an assessment report, comprising the following main outputs:

- basic information on flood-prone areas in the Sava river basin;
- characteristics of flood events in the Sava river basin;
- responsibilities in flood management in the Parties;
- flood protection structures and their state;

- national flood prediction and warning practices,
- review of strategic plans and regulatory acts.

In the course of the activity, relevant GIS data are also provided and compiled in the GIS as an overview of the whole Sava river basin. The collected data will be the main information basis for any forthcoming flood related activity in the Sava river basin. This assessment has also been annexed to the *Sava RBA Report*.

In order to strengthen the joint activities in flood management, through joint work in PEG FP, the draft protocol on flood protection has been prepared and distributed to the Parties. Entering of this protocol into force will enable a closer cooperation of the Parties in line with the *EU Flood Directive*, including common actions in:

- preliminary flood risk assessment;
- flood mapping;
- preparation of the *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*;
- mutual assistance,
- hydrologic information exchange and flood forecasting and warning system.

In order to enable continuation of the already started activities, the first (initial) draft of the *Action Programme for Preparation of the Sava RB Flood Risk Management Plan* has also been prepared.

Cooperation with the USACE has been initiated in order to prepare the ToR for the joint flood mapping study for the Sava river. Their expert participated in one meeting of the PEG FP in order to share experiences and discuss the scope and expectations for further cooperation.

#### **1.4. Establishment of the information system**

Based on the previously prepared *Assessment of the Geographic Information System Capabilities of the FASRB Parties and the ISRBC Secretariat*, the *Geographic Information System Strategy for the Sava River Basin (Sava GIS Strategy)*, was finalized and adopted by the Sava Commission in 2008.

The *Strategy* aims to establish an effective and efficient (geo)information system and spatial data infrastructure that supports a wide range of water management planning functions and supporting activities in the framework of the Sava Commission, as well as to ensure that core geospatial information is available for use in multiple ways for the benefit of the ISRBC. The *Strategy* was prepared as a response to requirements stipulated by the *FASRB*, but also takes into account the *INSPIRE Directive* for the establishment of a European spatial data infrastructure, and WISE (Water Information System for Europe) as a wider initiative to modernize and streamline the collection and dissemination of information related to European water policy.

Based on the *Sava GIS Strategy*, the Terms of Reference for *Preparation of implementing documents for establishment of the Sava GIS*, was developed. Main expected outcomes of the project, that will be worked out in the year 2009, include:

- assessment on standards and a list of agreed standards to be used for Sava GIS;
- Sava GIS common naming rules and codes;
- list of GIS themes, reference data sets and objects;

- Sava GIS data model;
- proposal for the Sava Content Management System, and
- Action plan for the Sava GIS establishment.

### 1.5. 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 fiche, prepared and submitted to the EC at the end of 2007, has been further developed in the course of FY 2008 in close cooperation with DG Environment. It has been approved for financing in the amount of 1,33 mil €. The project will be financed by IPA funds;

2. *Hydromorphology part of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report*

The Proposal was prepared by the Secretariat, accepted by the UNECE and financed by Sweden. The outcomes of the project include:

- *Report on hydromorphology in the Sava River Basin,*
- *Accompanied GIS maps.*

Status of the preparation is as follows:

- Draft report submitted and discussed on the workshop with main stakeholders in the Sava river basin (March 23, 2009);
- Report from the workshop submitted,
- Final report in preparation.

3. *Hydrology Report for the Sava River Basin Analysis*

Scope of this project was to provide an overview of water resources in the Sava River Basin based on the analysis of relevant historical studies which could serve as an input for the *Sava RBA Report*. This project also showed a clear need for development of a new hydrologic study for the Sava river basin.

Main outputs of the project are:

- Hydrology inputs for the purposes of the Sava RB Analysis;
- Accompanied GIS maps (precipitation, evapotranspiration, etc.),
- Programme of work for a new hydrology study for the whole Sava river basin.

4. *Joint Sava Survey* – the project proposal named *Joint Sava Survey 2008* (JSS2008) was developed and submitted upon the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE TCP). The proposal did not pass the first selection for non-eligibility of one of the project partners. New version of project proposal will be prepared for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call of the SEE TCP;

5. *International Contingency Plan for the Sava River Basin* – the project proposal named *Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin* (WACOSS) passed the first selection within the SEE TCP call for proposals and was submitted to the second step in November 2008. The proposal did not pass this step for not meeting formal criteria. A new project proposal will be prepared for the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEE TCP call;

6. *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. As some of the project activities have already been initiated in Slovenia, a new project proposal will be developed and possibilities for financial support for its implementation will be investigated;

7. *Preparation of implementing documents for establishment of the Sava GIS* – tender documentation prepared and ready for procurement;
8. *Joint flood mapping study for the Sava River* – initial activities related to information on available data finished. Definition on project scope started in cooperation with USACE.

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 collaboration with an external project relevant for the Sava river basin, the *Protection of Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin Floodplains*, which is an ongoing 3-years project, financed through the LIFE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Countries program.

## **2. Navigation**

Work of the Sava Commission in the field of navigation focused mainly on rehabilitation and development of the navigation on the Sava river waterway, which is an absolute priority in this field.

At the same time, the follow up of implementation of the decisions on the basic regulation in the field of navigation, as well as the further development of the technical rules and rules for transport of dangerous goods, was continued with the aim to upgrade the decisions in force and to add new regulations to the regulatory system, in order to improve navigation safety and environmental protection.

### **2.1. Navigation safety**

In the reporting period, the Sava Commission adopted several decisions regarding the navigation safety. The decisions are regularly presented to representatives of the competent authorities from the Parties on meetings of the captains from the Sava port master offices, and their implementation in the Parties is followed by the Sava Commission with the aim to further improve the documents based on the inputs from the field.

The Sava Commission, jointly with the Rhine Commission, Danube Commission, Mosel Commission, UNECE and Austria, continued the comparison process between the existing navigation rules on European level, in order to achieve the improvement of the *European Code for Inland Navigation (CEVNI)* and a maximum of harmonization between the rules in different river basins. It also started to work on the establishment of criteria for mutual recognition of the boatmaster certificates with the aim to minimize administrative obstacles for the development of the inland navigation. Process of upgrading the navigation rules on European level is expected to finish until the end of 2009.

It is necessary to continue and intensify further improvement of the basic regulation on the basis of information provided by the implementation authorities from the Parties and the improvements on European level.

## 2.2. Technical standards

As for the technical requirements for the inland waterway vessels, the *Draft Technical Rules for the Vessels on the Sava River Basin* and the *Draft Rules for the Transport of the Dangerous Goods in the Sava River Basin* were developed by the Secretariat. Both documents are currently under discussion in the framework of PEG NAV. The *Draft Technical Rules for the Vessels on the Sava River Basin* are based on the EU Directive 2006/87/EC, laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, and the *Draft Rules for the Transport of the Dangerous Goods in the Sava River Basin* propose the application of the *European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways* (ADN).

Adoption of these rules will be a basis for the introduction of highest technical standards in the shipbuilding and transport of dangerous goods, and will significantly contribute to improvement of the navigation safety and environmental protection.

## 2.3. Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation

In the field of protection from water pollution caused by navigation, in addition to the development of the draft protocol on this particular issue, the Sava Commission is involved in the project *Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube* (WANDA), which is aimed to develop proposal for establishment of a harmonized waste management system for the Danube. Through participation in the Project, the Sava Commission will be able to receive the latest information on the WANDA project, to contribute with its expertise to the project, to provide feedback on a strategic level and make use of the project's results for further activities in this regard.

With the aim to promote highest environmental standards in the development of waterways, the Sava Commission, jointly with Danube Commission and ICPDR, guided the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*. After its adoption in December 2007 (ICPDR, DC) and January 2008 (ISRBC), the three commissions and a wide range of stakeholders from the Danube basin continued to discuss the issue of application of the *Joint Statement* as a guiding document for the development of the programme of measures requested by the *EU WFD*, maintenance of current inland navigation, as well as planning and investments in future infrastructure and environmental protection projects.

## 2.4. Waterway infrastructure

In accordance with the *FASRB* and *Protocol on the Navigation Regime to the FASRB*, the Sava Commission coordinated and supported activities on the waterway marking and infrastructure rehabilitation, and, in this respect, adopted the following decisions:

- Decision 19/08 on adoption of *Classification of the Sava River Waterway*;
- Decision 37/08 on *Amendments to the Decision 29/07 on Adoption of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2008*;
- Decision 02/09 on Adoption of the *Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2009*.

The *Detailed Design of the Marking System of the Sava River Waterway on the B&H Marking Sector* was prepared in the framework of the Sava Commission. The project was financed from B&H funds and is the basis for rehabilitation of the marking system on the B&H sector.

The Parties made significant progress in the re-establishment of the marking system through various activities:

- Croatia improved existing marking system on their sector of responsibility;
- Serbia re-established marking system on the cca 150 rkm;
- B&H completed demining activities in the area of the signs, finished the tendering process for the marking activities and started with the marking.

Re-establishment of the whole system will be done in the second half of 2009, thus significantly improving the navigation safety.

In the framework of the RIS implementation activities, the Sava Commission adopted two decision regarding the RIS standards:

- Decision 03/09 on adoption of the *Vessel Tracking and Tracing Standard*,
- Decision 04/09 on adoption of the *Inland ECDIS Standard*.

As a contribution to rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river, the development of the *Detailed Technical Specification and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River* was proposed to the Parties by the Sava Commission. Following the presentation of the project ToR to the Parties, the interest for the project was expressed by B&H, Croatia and Serbia, while Slovenia would join the project in a later phase, after the establishment of navigation on the section from Sisak to Brežice.

Croatia, B&H and Serbia agreed to finance the project on an equal basis and proposed to the Sava Commission to adopt a decision on the project implementation. All necessary procedures are expected to start in June 2009.

The *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation continued to work on the establishment of appropriate low and high navigability levels. The group established the methodology for calculation and performed a pilot calculation for two water level gauges. It also proposed amendments to the Decision 26/06 on adoption of the *Detailed Parameters for Waterway Classification on the Sava River*, as well as the establishment of two new water level gauges in vicinity of the Drina confluence.

## **2.5. Projects and studies**

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

1. *Project of rehabilitation and development of the navigation on the Sava River Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway* was finalized and the Final Report was accepted in October 2008. Study was developed during 10 months and was financed by the Parties equally. Main outputs of the project include the feasibility and environmental analysis, as well as the action plan. One of the main conclusions is that “the Cost Benefit Analysis clearly demonstrated that the investment performance for immediate upgrading of the section between Belgrade and Sisak to SCC Class Va are very

positive...“. The Final Report was presented to stakeholders from the Parties and representatives of international organizations on January 14, 2009.

Three meetings with representatives of the ministries of transport from the Parties and the Sava Commission were held in order to coordinate the activities on the Project.

Slovenia and Croatia agreed to carry on with preparatory activities for establishment of navigation upstream from Sisak and, in this respect, Croatia developed preparatory analysis for definition of the fairway from Sisak to Bregana.

Croatia carries on with the activities on the *Environmental Impact Assessment Study* for the waterway rehabilitation from rkm 207 (Račinovci) to rkm 586 (Sisak), and the detailed design for the waterway rehabilitation on the same sector, with support from the IPA fund.

Croatia and B&H established a joint expert group for monitoring of the development of detailed design for the waterway rehabilitation on the same sector with the funding from the IPA fund (the Sava Commission will participate in the work of the expert group).

Serbia and B&H, with the support of the Sava Commission, applied for funding from the EU IPF fund for financing the detailed design for the waterway rehabilitation from rkm 0 (Beograd) to rkm 207 (Račinovci).

The Parties and the Sava Commission established contacts with international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD and EC funding programmes) for further financing of the construction works on the waterway rehabilitation.

In this moment, Croatia secured funds from IPA for financing detailed design of the waterway from Račinovci to Sisak. Detailed design for waterway from Belgrade to Račinovci is strongly supported by EU institutions and currently is under consideration for funding from IPF fund. The World Bank expressed interest in financing the construction works on the waterway.

2. *Detailed Design of the Marking System of the Sava River Waterway on the B&H Marking Sector*

Project was finished in October 2008. It was developed during 5 months and financed by B&H. *Detailed design* is the basis for rehabilitation of the marking system on the B&H sector.

3. *Detailed Technical Specification and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River*

ToR for the project was developed and presented to the Parties. Croatia, B&H and Serbia agreed to finance the project on equal basis and proposed to the Sava Commission adoption of a decision related to the project implementation. All necessary procedures are expected to start in June 2009.

4. *Master plan for the development of the nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin*

Project fiche was adopted by the Sava Commission. In the upcoming period, it will be important to establish contact with competent authorities in the Parties and decide on the financing model.

### 3. Cooperation and public participation

#### 3.1. Cooperation with international organizations and other relevant institutions

Cooperation of the Sava Commission with a large number of international organizations has been maintained during the reporting period, with a special emphasis on the organizations and institutions specified in Article 5 of the *FASRB*.

The cooperation with the ICPDR and Danube Commission is performed primarily by means of mutual participation at sessions and expert group meetings of the commissions, as well as other events organized by any of them.

This way, the Sava Commission activities related not only to development of the *RBM Plan*, but also to the GIS establishment and the AEWS implementation, are coordinated with those of the ICPDR. In a similar manner, the cooperation with the Danube Commission is achieved, providing a basis for development of the ISRBC documents related to navigation, harmonized with the corresponding regulations of the Danube Commission.

Formal basis for cooperation with the two river commissions was additionally strengthened by signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR* (Belgrade, June 5, 2008) and the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Sava Commission and the Danube Commission* (Budapest, January 29, 2009), providing the opportunities for further improvement of the cooperation.

An important factor in the cooperation of the commissions is the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, guided jointly by ICPDR, DC and ISRBC. Within this process, both Danube commissions participated in the Workshop on *Environmentally Sustainable Management and Maintenance of Inland Waterways*, organized by the ISRBC in cooperation with the USACE (Belgrade, October 21, 2008).

The Sava Commission has been involved in the work of the UNECE on the same basis as other intergovernmental organizations. It has been active in the preparatory phase of the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region*, whose draft will be presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (fall 2009), and in the framework of the UNECE working groups (i.e. Monitoring and Assessment, Inland Water Transport and Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation).

Additionally, the UNECE provided support to the Sava Commission in the preparation of the *SRBA Report* (by securing funding for preparation of the *Hydromorphology Part of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report*), and expressed a strong interest to support several existing ideas for priority projects of the Sava Commission.

Cooperation of the Sava Commission with the European Commission was based on the participation of the Sava Commission representatives in the working groups of DG TREN and DG ENV. Additionally, an intensive communication has been kept during the preparation of

the project *Technical assistance in the preparation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan*, that was approved for financing by EC and the implementation is foreseen for the second half of this year.

Additionally, a cooperation is being maintained with other navigation commissions (i.e. 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, RCC, SEETO), international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD, EIB, USAID), and specialized organizations, associations and groups (WMO, GIS Forum, PIANC).

The ISRBC became a member of the GWP and, in this framework, had a fruitful cooperation with the GWP-Med. The Sava Commission has also been involved in a number of processes and initiatives, including the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process, the MED EU WI/WFD JP, and the Adriatic Initiative. Finally, contacts have been continued with the EC Delegation to Croatia and the Diplomatic Corps in the Republic of Croatia.

The Sava Commission has discussed possibilities for cooperation with “Toyota” and launched the cooperation with “Coca Cola” within the celebration of the Sava Day 2008.

### **3.2. Cooperation with national institutions**

A continuous cooperation of the Sava Commission with the national institutions competent for implementation of the *FASRB*, has taken place in the reporting period.

In addition to the cooperation related to the *FASRB* implementation in general, which also included participation of representatives of the Parties in the work of the Sava Commission expert groups, a particular attention has been paid to:

- development of the *Sava RBM Plan* (ministries of the Parties responsible for water management and environment),
- rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava river (ministries of the Parties responsible for inland waterway transport),
- preparation of the projects relevant for the Sava river basin (all involved ministries),
- preparatory activities in the organization of the Sava Day 2008.

In addition to the national institutions responsible for realization of the *FASRB*, a cooperation has been kept with other organizations, such as national hydro-meteorological services of the Parties, agencies responsible for development and maintenance of inland waterways, port master offices, faculties and institutes dealing with natural and technical sciences, all kinds of technologies, nature conservation, etc. A tradition of annual meetings with captains of port master offices from the Sava river basin has been maintained, as well, by organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (Gradiška, October 6-7, 2008).

### **3.3. Public participation and stakeholders involvement**

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

One of the best examples of stakeholders involvement is the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, where the issue is continuously discussed by a variety of stakeholders from navigation and environmental sector.

With the aim to provide for transparency of the *FASRB* implementation, stakeholders participation in the following events / activities has been ensured:

- monitoring of the *FASRB* implementation;
- sessions of the Sava Commission;
- development of the *Strategy*;
- development of protocols to the *FASRB*;
- presentation of main projects.

As mainly the stakeholders from governmental and civil sectors have been involved so far, the Sava Commission is considering possibilities for extending the platform for cooperation of stakeholders in the Sava river basin, so as to strengthen the involvement of the academic and business sectors, as well.

Stakeholders and wider public are permanently informed on the *FASRB* implementation through:

- the newly redesigned official web-site of the Sava Commission (Fig.1), where information on the activities and a majority of the ISRBC documents and projects is available;
- the new official bulletin of the Sava Commission, the *Sava NewsFlash* (Fig. 2), which is issued twice per year as a bilingual publication (in English and one of the official languages of the Sava Commission);
- posters, leaflets and flyers, issued by the Sava Commission and disseminated on workshops and meetings,
- contributions to bulletins and web-sites of other organizations/institutions.

The information is also disseminated through specialized publications, such as the publication of the Sava Commission rules and other documents related to navigation (Fig. 3), which is currently in print, as well as through reports, articles, press releases and other contributions for media, or participation in ceremonies, celebrations, conferences and other events.

The ISRBC organized or co-organized a number of consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders, including:

- meeting with shipping industry and ports' representatives (Brčko, May 8, 2008; organized by the ISRBC);
- meetings with local communities within the Sava Day 2008 celebration (June 1-5, 2008; organized by the cities along the Sava river in all Parties);
- Public presentation of the *Draft Strategy for Implementation of the FASRB* (Belgrade, June 6, 2008; organized by the ISRBC);
- Workshop on *Environmentally Sustainable Management and Maintenance of Inland Waterways* (Belgrade, October 21, 2008; organized by the ISRBC in cooperation with the USACE);
- Capacity Building Workshop *Shared Groundwater Resources Management* (Postojna, December 2-4, 2008; organized by GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE, Ministry of Environ-

ment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, Karst Research Institute of Slovenia, and the ISRBC);

- Public presentation of the *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of the Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway* (Zagreb, January 14, 2009; organized by the ISRBC);
- Follow-up meeting on the implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin* (Budapest, January 29-30, 2009; organized by the DC, ICPDR and ISRBC);
- Consultation Workshop on *Hydromorphological Issues in the Sava River Basin* (Zagreb, March 23, 2009; organized by the ISRBC, supported by UNECE).

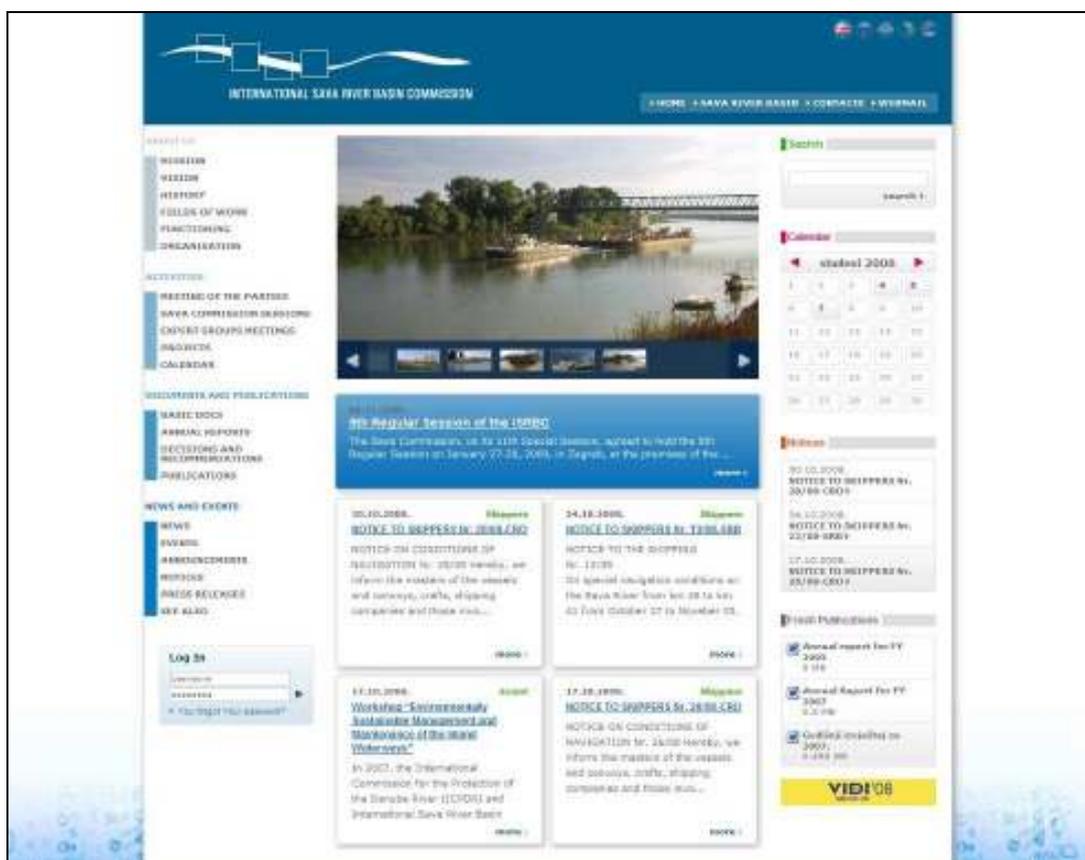


Fig. 1. The redesigned web-site of the Sava Commission, launched in October 2008.

As an important activity in terms of promotion of the *FASRB* and the Sava Commission itself, the first celebration of the Sava Day, since its proclamation at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*, was organized in 2008. The program of the Sava Day 2008 celebration included a set of promotion activities performed within 8 days, including:

- Eco-camp for the youth (Nature Park „Lonjsko polje“, May 30-31, 2008);
- Rafting and kayaking tour Brežice – Sisak (May 31 – June 1, 2008);
- 5-day navigation on the Sava river, from Sisak to Belgrade (June 1-5, 2008), for representatives of ministries, local authorities, counties, port offices, inland waterway shipping and water management companies, other organizations and institutions, NGOs and media from all four Parties to the *FASRB*;

- welcome programs and meetings with local authorities and organizations in Sisak, Gradiška, Slavonski Brod, Brčko, and Šabac (June 1-5, 2008);
- 10<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Sava Commission (held on June 5, 2008, on board the ship during the navigation from Šabac to Belgrade);
- Signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation and coordination between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR* (Belgrade, June 5, 2008), and
- Workshop for presentation of the *Draft Strategy for Implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin* (Belgrade, June 6, 2008).

Majority of the activities have been realized with a kind support of “Coca Cola Beverages Company” from the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, and the MIO-ECSDE.



Fig. 2. The official bulletin of the Sava Commission, launched in May 2008.

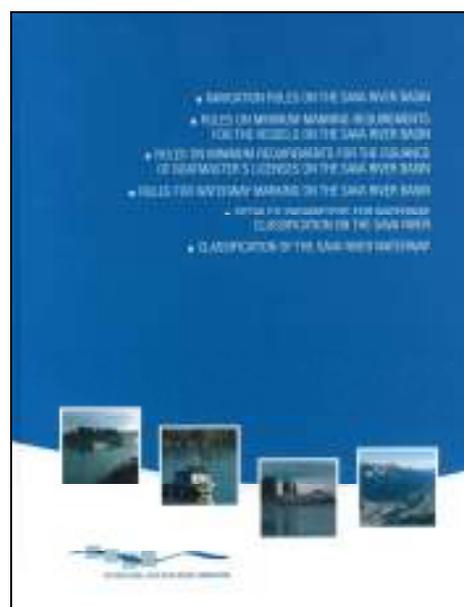


Fig. 3. Publication of the ISRBC rules and other documents related to navigation.

## 4. Legal issues

### 4.1. Protocols to the FASRB

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

- *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation;*
- *Protocol on flood protection;*
- *Protocol on emergency situations;*
- *Protocol on transboundary impacts,*
- *Protocol on sediment management.*

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 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 was adopted by the Sava Commission and sent to the Parties for comments and amendments. A meeting with delegations of the Parties, for harmonization of the text, was held (Zagreb, March 24-25, 2009), and the final draft was adopted. Signing of the Protocol is expected to take place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*, on June 1, 2009.

Preparation of the draft *Protocol on flood protection* was led by PEG FP. The draft, finalized by PEG FP in close cooperation with the Ah L EG, was adopted by the Sava Commission and distributed to the Parties in March 2009 for final review.

The leading body in the development of the draft *Protocol on emergency situations* was PEG APC. The draft was adopted by the Sava Commission in March 2009 and sent to the Parties for final review.

The draft *Protocol on transboundary impacts* was developed by an interdisciplinary expert group consisted of the *Ad-hoc* L EG as a core, and representatives of other groups (PEG APC, PEG RBM and PEG FP).

Keeping in mind an issue arisen during the drafting of the Annex to the *Protocol* (containing a list of activities which require application of procedures stipulated under the Protocol), due to certain similarity and possible overlapping with the *Espoo Convention* and, in particular, status of the Parties to the *FASRB* related to adhesion to the *Espoo Convention*, status of the *Bucharest Agreement* signed in 2008 on a similar subject under frame of the *Espoo Convention*, the group reconsidered possible options in detail and concluded that there was enough space to continue the work on its development. The group focused its efforts, in particular, to the obligation defined by the FASRB related to regulation of the procedures for the issuance of water law acts (licenses, permits and confirmation) for installation and activities that may have a transboundary impact on integrity of the water regime.

After having finished the draft, it will be submitted to other relevant expert groups (PEG APC, PEG RBM and PEG FP) and, subsequently, to the Sava Commission for verification and further procedure. The draft is planned to be sent to the Sava Commission by the end of 2009.

As for the *Protocol on sediment management*, the starting point for its development was a protocol addressing the issue of exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay, prepared by PEG NAV. However, in the course of the development, a need for the extension of this protocol to cover the whole field of sediment management, was identified. Accordingly, a task group, established by the Sava Commission, prepared the first draft of the *Protocol*. This draft will be sent to the expert groups of the Sava Commission for consideration, in April 2009.

#### **4.2. Administration management and legal support**

During the reporting period, the emphasis, in context of legal affairs, was on drafting and preparation of set of protocols to the *FASRB*, together with other expert groups of the Sava Commission, in order to finalize it in due time.

Following the decisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties and adopted *Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB*, efforts were especially invested in development of the Sava Commission's *Guidelines for preparation of the first country report on implementation of the FASRB*, which enable the Parties to submit in advance of the second ordinary Meeting of the Parties, harmonized reports containing the legislative, regulatory or other measures that they have taken to implement the provisions of the *FASRB* and their practical implementation.

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 work of the *ad-hoc* Legal Expert Group of the Sava Commission.

A considerable attention was given to legal aspects and preparation of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR*, as well as the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Sava Commission and the Danube Commission*, both signed in the reporting period.

In addition, the list of relevant bilateral agreements between the Parties of interest for the Sava river basin was developed by *Ad-hoc* LEG, in order to analyze them in light of Article 29 paragraph 3 of the *FASRB*, which stipulates an obligation for the Parties to the *FASRB* to avoid any contradiction of their bilateral agreements with basic principles of the *FASRB*. Following that, the *Ad-hoc* LEG analyzed a group of agreements in force which cover mutual cooperation and procedures of assistance on bilateral level between the Parties in case of natural disasters and found no contradictions with the said *FASRB*. Analyzes of remaining group of relevant bilateral agreements (water management and navigation issues) are under preparation.

## 5. Financial issues

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Sava Commission, held in Zagreb on January 9-10, 2008, the decision on adoption of the Budget of the Sava Commission for the financial year 2008 (April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009), in amount of 515,960.00 EUR (i.e. 128,990.00 EUR per country), was passed.

The inflow of annual contributions of the Parties, and the realization of the Budget for the financial year 2008, are described in the tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1. Contributions received in the financial year 2008 (in EUR)

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Contribution received for FY 2008</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	128,990.00 <sup>1</sup>
Croatia	128,990.00 <sup>2</sup>
Serbia	128,990.00 <sup>3</sup>
Slovenia	128,990.00 <sup>4</sup>
Total received amount of contributions	515,960.00
Transfer from Reserve Fund	48,000.00 <sup>5</sup>
Total General Fund Income	563,960.00

Note: <sup>1</sup> The contribution was paid on May 20, 2008. <sup>2</sup> The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on July 7 and July 27, 2008. <sup>3</sup> The contribution was paid on November 17, 2008. <sup>4</sup> The contribution was paid on June 2, 2008. <sup>5</sup> Transferred amount for covering expenses related to engagement of a new official of the Secretariat.

Table 2. Expenditures by basic intention of the financial year 2008 (in EUR)

<i>Budget Chapter</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
Broaden Current Costs	500,368.20
Broaden Operational Costs	40,931.61
Equipment	3,143.47
Total General Fund Expenditures	544,443.28
Reserve Fund Expenditures	152,845.17

The budget items of the General Fund are comparable with the originally stipulated amounts, making a 97% realization of the planned amount. The Reserve Fund expenditures were used for different purposes, in accordance with the *Financial Rules of the Sava Commission*.

The review of management of the Special and Trust Fund in the financial year 2008 is given in table 3. The total received amount in the Special and Trust Fund was 554,763.10 EUR (including 245,032.52 EUR from FY 2007) for covering costs of different projects (contribution of Slovenia for the *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway*,

contribution of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the *Study on RIS implementation in the Sava river basin*, and the UNECE donation for preparation of the *Hydromorphology part of the SRBA Report*). There is a pending contribution of Serbia for the *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway*.

The total expenditures of Special and Trust Fund in the financial year 2008 are 520,745.84 EUR for preparation of the *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway* and the *Hydromorphology part of the SRB Analysis Report*.

Table 3. Inflow and outflow of the Special and Trust Fund in the financial year 2008 (in EUR)

	<i>From FY 2007</i>	<i>Inflow in FY 2008</i>	<i>Outflow in FY 2008</i>	<i>Balance 31 Mar 2009</i>
Special and Trust Fund of B&H	74,015.27	193.04	27,421.70	46,786.61
<i>Feasibility Study – Navigation</i>	171,017.25	150,594.98	470,619.54	-149,007.31
Sava Day 2008	0.00	18,645.44	18,645.44	0.00
<i>Study on RIS implementation in the Sava River Basin</i>	0.00	133,333.33	0.00	133,333.33
<i>Sava RBA Report – Hydromorphology part</i>	0.00	6,963.79	4,059.16	2,904.63
<b>Total Special and Trust Fund</b>	<b>245,032.52</b>	<b>309,730.58</b>	<b>520,745.84</b>	

Finally, the development of internal and external financial management continued during the financial year 2008. Audit of the financial management of the Sava Commission in FY 2007 was performed, and the Report was adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Sava Commission. Proposal on adjustments of the *Financial Rules of the Sava Commission* was prepared and sent to the ISRBC for adoption. Collecting data on resource mobilization possibilities was agreed by the *Ad-hoc* FIN EG.

# ANNEX I

## **List of the Sava Commission members and deputy members**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name and Surname</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Institution</b>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>			
1.	Kemal Karkin	Member to the Sava Commission	Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2.	Savo Gluvić	Deputy Member to the Sava Commission	VP "SAVA" Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Republic of Croatia</b>			
3.	Branko Bačić	Chairman, Member to the Sava Commission	Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
4.	Ružica Drmić	Deputy Member to the Sava Commission	Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia
<b>Republic of Serbia</b>			
5.	Aleksandar Prodanović	Deputy Chairman, Member to the Sava Commission	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate
6.	Miladin Avramov	Deputy Member to the Sava Commission (as of November 19, 2008)	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia
7.	Dušan Pajkić	Deputy Member to the Sava Commission (until November 19, 2008)	-
<b>Republic of Slovenia</b>			
8.	Mitja Bricelj	Member to the Sava Commission	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia
9.	Aleksander Čičerov	Deputy Member to the Sava Commission	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

# ANNEX II

## List of 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);
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation (*Ad-hoc* HIN EG);
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for GIS (*Ad-hoc* GIS EG),

and the two *ad-hoc* expert groups started to work in the financial year 2008:

- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues (*Ad-hoc* HM 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.

# ANNEX III

## Sessions of the Sava Commission

As of April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009, the Sava Commission held the four sessions - 9th Special Session (April 7-8, 2008), 10th Special Session (June 5, 2008), 11th Special Session (15-16 July, 2008 and continued on October 14, 2008), and 5th Regular Session (January 27-28, 2009).

Work under these sessions, involved reconsideration of numerous issues, and adoption of different conclusions and decisions, which are briefly introduced in the section below:

- Meeting of the Parties (MoP) to the *FASRB*
  - o organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> MoP;
  - o development of the documents for the 2<sup>nd</sup> MoP
    - *Draft Report on Implementation of the FASRB and Work of the Sava Commission for the period April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009*, and
    - *Draft Declaration*.
- Finalization and adoption of the *Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB*
- Development of the *Guidelines for preparation of the first country report on implementation of the FASRB*, in accordance with the *Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB*
- Rotation of Chairmanship of the ISRBC
- Water Management issues
  - o Preparation of the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report*
    - Preparation of the *Hydrology Report for the Sava River Basin Analysis*;
    - Preparation of the *Hydromorphology Part of the SRBA Report*;
  - o Testing and improvement of the Accident Emergency Warning System;
  - o Assessment of current flood management practices in the Parties;
  - o Drafting the *Action Programme for preparation of the Sava River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan*;
  - o Preparation of projects (and seeking funding opportunities)
    - *Technical assistance in the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan*;
    - *Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Joint Sava Survey*;
    - *Development and Upgrading of Hydrological and Meteorological Information & Flood Warning/Forecasting System in the Sava River Basin* (in cooperation with the NHMSs of the Sava countries);
    - *Joint flood mapping study for the Sava river*;
  - o Other related issues (e.g. hydropower use of the Sava River in the boundary area between Croatia and Slovenia).
- Navigation issues
  - o Activities on the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river waterway
    - Preparation of the *Sava River Inland Waterway Transport Demand and Institutional, Policy and Legal Framework Study*, developed by the Booz-Allen-Hamilton;

- Development of the *Pre-feasibility Study*, as well as the *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway*;
    - Development of the Terms of Reference for *Detailed Design for the Waterway Marking System on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries*;
    - Preparatory activities for the study on RIS implementation in the Sava river basin;
  - Preparatory activities for the project *Master Plan for Tourism Development in the Sava River Basin*;
  - Adoption and publication of documents
    - *Navigation Rules on the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Rules for Waterway Marking on the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Rules on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster' Licenses on the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Rules on Minimum Manning Requirements for the Vessels on the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Classification of the Sava River Waterway*;
  - Adoption of documents
    - *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2008*;
    - *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2009*;
    - *Vessel Tracking and Tracing Standard*;
    - *Inland ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System) Standard*.
- Follow-up of work of the expert groups of the ISRBC
    - Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management;
    - Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control;
    - Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention;
    - *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Legal Issues;
    - *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for GIS,
    - *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation.
  - Establishment of the *ad-hoc* expert groups of the ISRBC
    - *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues,
    - *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Financial Issues.
  - Annual work plans and programs
    - preparation and follow-up of realization of the work plan of the ISRBC for 2008;
    - approval of the annual programs of work of the PEGs for 2008,
    - adoption of the annual report on work and activities of the ISRBC for 2007.
  - Work on draft protocols to the *FASRB*
    - *Draft Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation* (and harmonization of the final text to be adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> MoP to the *FASRB*);
    - *Draft Protocol on flood protection*;
    - *Draft Protocol on emergency situations*;
    - draft protocol on sediment management,
    - draft protocol on transboundary impacts.

- Information Management Issues
  - Finalization and adoption of the *Geographic Information System (GIS) Strategy for the Sava River Basin*,
  - Preparatory activities on establishment of the Sava GIS.
  
- Cooperation and public participation
  - Signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR*;
  - Development and signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Sava Commission and the Danube Commission*;
  - Follow-up of the implementation of the *Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin*, guided jointly with the ICPDR and the Danube Commission;
  - Possibilities for stakeholders involvement in the *FASRB* implementation;
  - Cooperation with different national institutions, regional and int. organizations;
  - Organizations of meetings and workshops;
  - Organization of the Sava Day 2008;
  - Publication of the official bulletin of the Sava Commission, *Sava NewsFlash*, as well as other promotion publications;
  - Redesign of the Sava Commission's website.
  
- Legal issues
  - Review of signatories and parties of the relevant multilateral treaties;
  - Analysis of relevant bilateral agreements between the Parties,
  - Development of internal regulations of the Sava Commission.
  
- Financial issues
  - Adoption of the budget for FY2008;
  - Adoption of the reports on realization of the budget for FY 2007;
  - Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC, and adoption of the auditors' reports for FY 2007,
  - Development of internal financial regulations of the Sava Commission.

# ANNEX IV

## List of acronyms

ADN	<i>European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways</i>
AEWS	Accident Emergency Warning System
Ah FIN EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Financial Issues
Ah GIS EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for GIS
Ah HIN EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Hydrological Issues in Navigation
Ah HM EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorolog. Issues
Ah L EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Legal Issues
APC	Accident Prevention and Control
B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
CEVNI	<i>European Code for Inland Navigation</i>
DC	Danube Commission
DG ENV	Directorate General of the EC for Environment
DG TREN	Directorate General of the EC for Transport
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU	European Union
EU WFD	<i>EU Water Framework Directive</i>
FASRB	<i>Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin</i>
FP	Flood Prevention
FY	Financial Year of the Sava Commission
GIS	Geographical Information System
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-Med	Mediterranean Regional Partnership of the GWP
IAC	International Agriculture Center
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IPA	EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPF	EU Infrastructure Project Facilities Fund
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
MED EU WI/ WFD JP	Mediterranean EU Water Initiative/WFD Joint Process

MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMS	National Hydro-Meteorological Service
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PEG APC	Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control
PEG FP	Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention
PEG NAV	Permanent Expert Group for Navigation
PEG RBM	Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management
PIAC	Principal International Alert Center
PIANC	Permanent Congress of the International Navigation Association
RBM	River Basin Management
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RIS	River Information Service
SCC	Waterway Classification of the Sava Commission
SEE TCP	South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory
SRB	Sava River Basin
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WACOSS	<i>Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin</i>
WANDA	<i>Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube</i>
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization