REPORT
on IMPLEMENTATION of the FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
on the SAVA RIVER BASIN
and WORK of the SAVA COMMISSION for the Period
April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011
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FOREWORD

The forthcoming 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin represents an opportunity for another review of the International Sava River Basin Commission work results, accomplished during the two-year period since the last meeting held in Belgrade on the 1st of June 2009.

The Sava Commission is proactively approaching to both decision making and passing recommendations in the field of its jurisdiction and thus it implements the goals of the FASRB, that are enabling exploitation of all comparative advantages of the Sava River Basin.

It is the well-known fact that the Sava River represents a significant potential for the economic development of all riparian countries, which is reflected in the potential for improvement of navigation, hydro-technical systems, the flood protection system, irrigation, development of eco-agriculture, tourism, sport, recreation, and cultural ties amongst population in the region.

The Sava River Basin is considered the area of great traffic importance due to its connection to the Danube Basin, hence with all other European traffic networks. All these potentials represent the incentive for successful realization of the basic endeavor of the FASRB: cross-boundary cooperation aiming to accomplish necessary conditions for the sustainable development of the Sava River Basin.

The Sava Commission, as an international organization, is successful in the implementation of its objectives through cooperation mechanisms set up by the FASRB, hence it is my pleasure to conclude that significant steps are made in the direction of the development of strategic plans and setting up the integral systems for the overall Sava River Basin. Great progress has been made in the revitalization of navigation, marking of the waterway of the Sava River and its navigable tributaries, most of the documentation necessary for the reconstruction and development of the waterway have been developed, and the high degree in harmonization of national legislation with the EU regulations has also been accomplished. The Sava Commission played an important role in the process of development of the Danube Strategy, as well as in both the coordination and implementation of numerous projects significant for the Sava River Basin and contributing to achievement of the objectives set up in the FASRB.

The report we are to present will detail all of these items and will show that achievements are accomplished thanks to the work of all Parties and dedicated work of the Sava Commission Secretariat. However, we should not seize our work here and hitherto the accomplished results represent good basis for further achievements, goals and progress in all areas of the FASRB which I, the Chairman of the Commission, will strongly promote. The period ahead of us should be used for the activities which will by the fourth Meeting of the Parties lead to further significant progress in development of plans and integral systems for the Sava River Basin, signing of the new protocols to the FASRB, as well as the initiation of works on the reconstruction of the Sava River waterway. In the implementation of these activities everyone should strive towards the balanced approach in satisfying both, the needs for development and requests for the environment protection.

Believing in the joint contribution when accomplishing the aims, I do not doubt the success and I hope that we shall accomplish even better results in the overall work of the Sava Commission and in the implementation of the FASRB.

Mario Babić, the Chairman
I Introduction

According to Article 14 of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), the International Sava River Basin Commission (hereinafter: Sava Commission, or ISRBC) is supposed to submit a report on implementation of the FASRB and its work to the Meeting of the Parties.

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

This Report outlines the main achievements in the FASRB implementation made so far, focusing on the activities and results of the ISRBC in the period as of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011.

The reporting two-year period witnessed a considerable progress in the implementation of the FASRB, providing further remarkable results towards the achievement of its principal goals, 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.

The two Meetings of the Parties, held so far (Zagreb, June 1, 2007; Belgrade, June 1, 2009), as well as the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB, certainly represent the benchmarks for the progress accomplished.

At the Meetings of the Parties, not only the process of implementation of the FASRB and the work of the ISRBC were reviewed and discussed, but directions for the future work were determined, as well. Additionally, the 1st MoP proclaimed the 1st of June as the official Sava Day, which is celebrated every year since 2008 accordingly.

In order to ensure an effective implementation of the FASRB, the ISRBC started developing a strategy on implementation of the FASRB as early as in fall 2005, soon after the establishment of the Commission. The process resulted in the first Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB, which was finalized and formally adopted by the ISRBC in 2008, as a result of the process involving a number of experts and stakeholders from the Sava River Basin.

In order to respond to a steady progress in the FASRB implementation during the last years, as well as to recent processes and initiatives on the Sava, Danube and European level, relevant for the FASRB implementation, an updated Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan for the Period 2011-2015, have been developed. The documents will be considered for adoption by the ISRBC in April 2011.

To ensure transparency in the FASRB implementation, the Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB has been developed and adopted. The Methodology introduces a set of principles, as well as a reporting mechanism harmonized with the reporting obligations of the Parties arising from other international agreements.
An important element of the reporting mechanism is the preparation of the Country Reports on Implementation of the FASRB and their submission to the ISRBC by the Parties. According to the Methodology, the integral versions of the Country Reports are made available to wide public on the web-site of the ISRBC (www.savacommission.org).

The Second Country Reports have been prepared recently. The information provided in the Second Country Reports was a valuable additional input to the ISRBC in the preparation of this Report. To make the best use of this input, this Report is structured, to a great extent, in line with the Country Reports, addressing the main issues relevant for the implementation of the FASRB and the work of the ISRBC. For completeness, annexes are attached to the Report, providing a brief review of the Sessions, as well as the list of representatives of the ISRBC (Annex I and Annex II, respectively), an overview of the public participation and stakeholders involvement activities (Annex III and Annex IV), and an additional information, extracted from the Country Reports (Annex V and Annex VI).
II  **FASRB and the ISRBC**

The *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)*, which was signed on December 3, 2002, at Kranjska Gora (Slovenia), and entered into force on December 29, 2004, represents an unique international agreement that integrates all aspects of the water resources management and establishes the ISRBC for the implementation of the *Agreement*.

The key objective of the *FASRB* is the transboundary cooperation for sustainable development of the region. In particular, the *Agreement* aims at:

- establishment of an international regime of navigation on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries;
- establishment of a sustainable water management, and
- prevention/limitation of hazards (i.e. floods, droughts, ice, accidents) and elimination/reduction of related consequences.

The basic principles stipulated by the *FASRB* include:

- cooperation based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit and good faith in order to achieve the goals of the *FASRB*, as well as based on regular exchange of information within the basin, cooperation with international organizations, and being in accordance with the EU *WFD*, and
- reasonable and equitable use of the water resources, applying measures aimed at securing the integrity of the water regime in the basin and reduction of transboundary impacts caused by economic and other activities of the Parties, and respecting the “no harm rule”.

There are two peculiarities associated with the *FASRB*:

- it is the first multilateral agreement in this region, signed after the agreement on succession,
- by involving the whole of water resources management and addressing both sustainability and development issues, and thus linking navigation development and environmental protection, the *FASRB* provides to the ISRBC the broadest scope of work within the family of European basin organizations.

The implementation of the *FASRB* is coordinated by the ISRBC, which is the joint institution established as an international organization, with the international legal capacity necessary for exercising its functions, and with the permanent Secretariat as its executive body. It is consisted of two representatives of each Party, one member and one deputy member having just one vote in the ISRBC. It is mandated with a number of tasks and responsibilities specified in Annex I to the *FASRB – Statute of the ISRBC*, and is given capacity for making decisions in the field of navigation and providing recommendations on all other issues. A valuable support to the ISRBC is provided by 4 permanent and 5 ad-hoc expert groups established by the ISRBC, which are active at the moment.

The ISRBC held 25 sessions since its establishment in Zagreb, on June 27-29, 2005. Within the reporting period (April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2011), 9 sessions of the ISRBC were held, as briefly summarized in Annex I to this *Report*, with participation of the representatives of the Parties as outlined in Annex II.
In the year 2008, the Chairmanship of the ISRBC was handed over by Bosnia & Herzegovina (Mr. Kemal Karkin) to the Republic of Croatia (Mr. Branko Bačić), after the first 3-year term of office of the Chairman ended. In 2011, the ISRBC member from Croatia was changed, so that the new member (Mr. Mario Babić) has taken over the Chairmanship of the Commission.

When the Republic of Montenegro attained the independence, the Republic of Serbia continued being a Party to the FASRB and, since a part of the Sava River Basin is located in Montenegro as well, the ISRBC and Montenegro expressed their mutual interest to enhance further cooperation. With that aim, several official contacts have been made so far, related to possibilities for Montenegro to become a Party to the FASRB in due time, and with regard to previous correspondence and discussions, the ISRBC has addressed a proposal to Montenegro on transitional possibilities of cooperation till the expected full membership.

A basis for harmonized and efficient implementation of the FASRB is provided by the Strategy on implementation of the FASRB and the accompanying Action Plan for the Period 2011-2015. The Strategy illustrates specific objectives of the FASRB implementation and measures for their achievement, while the Action Plan outlines the activities and the corresponding deadlines related to development of strategic plans (such as the RBM Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan) and integrated systems (GIS, RIS, flood forecasting and warning system, and accident emergency warning system) for the Sava River Basin, as well as the improvement of infrastructure and safety of navigation, and the development of nautical tourism on the Sava River. The documents also provide a basis for development of annual work plans of the ISRBC and the corresponding programmes of work of the expert groups.

Progress in the implementation of the FASRB is illustrated in the following chapters of the Report.
III Implementation of the FASRB

III.1 Water Management

1. River basin management

Development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (Sava RBM Plan), introduced by Article 12 of the FASRB, is the most important task in reaching one of the ultimate goals of the FASRB, as given in Article 2(b) – the establishment of sustainable water management.

As the first step in the development of the Sava RBM Plan, the Sava River Basin Analysis has been undertaken. This effort finally resulted in the Sava River Basin Analysis Report.

In accordance with commonly agreed principles, the Sava River Basin Analysis Report, as well as the Sava RBM Plan itself, deals with the surface water and groundwater bodies of the following characteristics:
- the Sava River and its tributaries with catchments areas of more than 1,000 km\(^2\);
- lakes and reservoirs with surface area of more than 50 km\(^2\) and volume more then \(5 \times 10^6\) m\(^3\), and
- groundwater bodies above the surface area of 1,000 km\(^2\).

The Report is a comprehensive document. In addition to the characterization and assessment of water resources in the Sava River Basin, provided in accordance with Article 5 of the EU WFD, the water quantity and integration issues are addressed, as well, through an additional consideration of the important issues, such as flood management and navigation development in the Basin. Two separate reports, dealing with hydrology and hydromorphology of the Basin, have also been prepared to provide an input for the Sava River Basin Analysis Report. The first GIS maps of the Basin are provided in the Report, as well. The data gaps and uncertainties, identified during the Sava River Basin Analysis, are planned to be resolved for the subsequent RBM cycles.

The Sava River Basin Analysis Report was accepted by the ISRBC in September 2009, “as a good basis for further activities on the development of the Sava RBM Plan”. The Report has been published and also made available in the electronic form, on the official web site of the ISRBC.

The commitment of the Parties to respecting the EU WFD, although not all of them are legally bound to do so, as well as a good cooperation of the Parties in development of the Sava River Basin Analysis, have granted a positive perception of the European Commission, which resulted in a decision of the EC to provide support for remaining steps in developing the first Sava RBM Plan by the end of 2011.

Accordingly, the amount of 1.3 mil Euro has been approved by the EC for the technical assistance project and for a direct grant to the ISRBC, to support the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan. The 2-year support was activated in December 2009. The technical assistance is being executed by a consortium, led by VVMZ from the Slovak Republic.

The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the approximation to the EU environmental
*acquis*, especially in the field of water, through the identification of priority objectives common to the Parties as a whole, and by encouraging a more strategic focus to the use of available financing and ensuring coordinated action between all planning and financial instruments operating in the region, in particular as regards integrated river basin management (navigation, flood prevention, environmental protection).

The main purpose of the project is to:

- provide support and assistance to the ISRBC and the beneficiaries (BA, HR, ME and RS) in preparing and starting to implement an integrated RBM plan;
- develop the necessary capacities and information base to prepare an integrated RBM plan for the Sava River Basin, in close coordination with other international donors and the authorities of Slovenia;
- facilitate coordination of the water-related support projects in the Sava River Basin, in order to ensure consistency and synergies of planning and financing of other policy developments (e.g. navigation, hydropower, agriculture, flood protection).

In particular, the project activities are focused to:

- gap analysis, data collection and knowledge improvement on water management issues;
- establishment of elements of the river basin management in accordance with the EU *WFD* (e.g. definition of significant water management issues, assessment of pressures and impacts, inventory of protected areas, monitoring networks proposal, assessment of ecological and chemical status, determination of environmental objectives and exemptions, economic analysis, water quantity issues and climate change);
- integrating water protection with other development issues (e.g. flood protection, navigation, hydropower, agriculture) in the Sava River Basin;
- involving stakeholders and the wider public in preparation and implementation of the *Sava RBM Plan* based on the stakeholder analysis and the public participation plan, to be prepared in accordance with the stakeholder analysis.

The *Draft Sava RBM Plan* is planned to be finalized by the end of 2011. Following the public consultation process, the draft will be considered for acceptance by the ISRBC, and then proposed to the Parties for adoption.

In addition to the preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, several other RBM-related issues have been dealt with.

The issues of sediment management and transboundary impacts, referring to Articles 8, 10 and 11 of the *FASRB*, are considered in the two respective protocols to the *FASRB*. A more detailed information on the purpose and status of development of these documents is given in the part III.4.2 of the *Report*.

According to the *Protocol on sediment management*, which aims at achieving a sustainable sediment management in the Sava River Basin, respecting natural processes and water regime, comprising quality and quantity conditions, the Parties to the *FASRB* will develop a *Sava River Basin Sediment Management Plan*, which will be harmonized with the *Sava RBM Plan*.
The climate change issues are considered in the ongoing project *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin*, financed and implemented by the World Bank, which aims to assess the impact of climate change on the water sector and suggest options for adaptive management actions in the water management sub-sectors, including navigation, hydropower generation, agricultural water use, flood protection, as well as to undertake an economic analysis of the projects that the water management sub-sector studies are based on.

2. Accident prevention and control

Among the three principal goals of the *FASRB*, the accident prevention and control covers the prevention and limitation of hazards and reduction or elimination of adverse consequences of accidents (Article 2c and Article 13). In the field of accidental pollution management, the Parties to the *FASRB* are connected through the Alarm Emergency Warning System (AEWS), which has been developed by the International Commission for the Protection of the River Danube (ICPDR) and implemented by the Parties through the establishment and functioning of the Principal International Alert Centers (PIAC). The AEWS is activated whenever there is a risk of transboundary water pollution and it sends out international messages to countries downstream and upstream in such cases. This helps the national authorities to put relevant environmental protection and public safety measures into action.

During the reporting period, two spills of dangerous substances have been detected – a chemical substance in the Drina River (Ljubovija, July 2010), and a mineral oil in the Sava River (Ljubljana, February 2011).

The ISRBC initiated three announced tests in the same period - Sava-Test 2009 (June 2009), Mokrice 2009 (December 2009), and Čatež 2010 (September 2010). The main objectives of the tests were to provide information about the preparation of the PIAC centres in the Sava River Basin to the early and prompt response in case of accident pollution.

In more detail, the preparedness of the PIACs, Decision Units (DU) and Expert Units (ExU), was checked by simulation of a real emergency situation in:

- a prompt receiving, processing and transmission of information on accident pollution between PIACs centres in the Sava River Basin;
- a prompt receiving, processing and transmission of information between the PIACs and Decision Unit and Expert Units in the countries (only DU and ExU from SI and HR were included in the tests).

The results of the tests showed that the AEWS system is working according to expectations. All PIACs in the Sava River Basin responded to the test warning message within an expected timeframe. As difficulties have been noticed in handling of the system by the staff, due to a lack of their practical experience, two training courses for the staff of the national PIACs were organized in the last two years by the ISRBC, in cooperation with the ICPDR.

The testing has pointed out that PIACs (Information unit, ExU and DU) are operational 24/7 only in SI and HR. The other two Parties are in the process of developing a legal background for establishment and incorporation of the PIACs into relevant national structures dealing with accident prevention, preparedness and response.
In October 2010, a roundtable on accident prevention and control in the Sava River Basin was organized by the ISRBC, with the aim:

- to enhance the cooperation of the Parties to the FASRB in the emergency situations, which have and could have impact to water and aquatic eco-system, and
- to discuss the Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations to the FASRB with the experts from the Parties, prior to its final harmonization.

The ISRBC has also initiated development of a proposal of the project Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin, which is considered especially relevant from the viewpoint of the accident prevention and control. The main objectives of the project are:

- to develop a common decision support system, implemented at all involved institutions, enabling the integration of large amount of the data into a common decisional framework;
- to develop an efficient transnational early accident response and accident prevention system within different organizations and institutions to prevent and minimize consequences to the water and aquatic eco-system;
- to increase the knowledge on the common Sava River Basin, with the integration of the system within a common pollution propagation model;
- to increase level of protection of the population regarding the water use and protection of other water uses in the transnational context;
- to increase cooperation among the institutions involved in water management and institutions involved in civil protection issues (cross-sectorial integration).

The project has been recognized in the process of development of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region as one of good examples within the pillar “To Manage Environmental Risks”. In future, primarily EU funds (e.g. SEE TCP, IPA) will be targeted as possible financial sources.

Among external projects, relevant from the viewpoint of the FASRB implementation, the ongoing project Enhancing cross-border cooperation in the Drina River Basin to fight poverty and improve water management through the support to Drina River Committee, should be mentioned. The main objectives of the project, focused to the geographical area of the Drina River Basin (BA, ME and RS), are:

- to develop an inventory of significant pressures and impacts in the Basin, and
- to build capacities and support for networking to the existing Danube/Sava Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS), among others.

The 2-year project, which started in October 2009, is granted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by REC. The ISRBC has played an active role in the project, particularly in building capacities to implement the AEWS in the Drina River Basin.

3. Flood protection

From the perspective of the FASRB implementation, the field of flood management is mainly based on Articles 2(c) and 13(1) of the FASRB. During the reporting period, the cooperation of the Sava countries in this field was characterized by the following main activities:
- finalization of the Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB;
- continuation of activities leading to preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRM Plan) for the Sava River Basin;
- finalization of Annex II of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report, summarising the status of flood management on the basin-wide level;
- preparation of the Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin (Sava FAP);
- development of the preliminary Sava River Basin hydrologic model and the Sava River hydraulic model.

The information on the objectives and scope of the Protocol on Flood Protection is given in the part III.4.2 of the Report.

Since the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB encouraged continuation of already started joint actions in the field of flood management before formal ratification of the Protocol, the ISRBC, through a project financed through the UNECE framework, started with preparation of the Program for Development of the Sava FRM Plan, along with an initial assessment of flood vulnerability and potential climate change impact on flood management in the Basin.

**Flood action plans (FAP)** for major sub-basins of the Danube River, were developed in accordance with the Flood Action Programme for the Danube River Basin, prepared by the ICPDR. The ISRB accepted a role of the coordinating body for preparation of a common FAP for the Sava River Basin. The FAP was derived from the action plans prepared by the individual Sava countries. The Permanent Expert Group for Flood Protection of the ISRBC coordinated compiling the common Sava FAP. That document provided information similar to the one given in the Annex II of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report, with an important addition: the first program of measures for each country to achieve the defined targets for the flood management in its part of the Sava River Basin until 2015. The Sava FAP represents an example of good cooperative practice between the two commissions, in line with the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The cooperative effort between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the ISRBC and national institutions of the Parties has been continued and resulted in development of a hydrologic model for the whole Sava River Basin and the single shared hydraulic model of the entire Sava River. These products are the first georeferenced models ever produced for the whole area and, as such, represent a good basis for various needs of the Parties to the FASRB.

The models will be shared among the member countries, with intention to update information as it becomes available, and have potential to be used for the flood mapping, to support the flood forecasting system, and for alternatives analyses of future flood protection projects. Successful development of the joint models will have a direct impact on international efforts to develop integrated flood hazard and risk maps, integrated data collection, flood forecasting, and flood warning systems, which will reduce vulnerability to natural, technological, and willful hazards. Since these models can be regarded as preliminary, an additional effort is required to accomplish their functional use for the above mentioned purposes. Additional hydrologic and better geometry data are required from the Parties for calibration and verification of the models. Steps toward ensuring the continuation of cooperation with the USACE have already been taken.
In the course of this activity, beside those products, a comprehensive database has been compiled by the Secretariat of the ISRBC, based on the raw data submitted by the Parties. The database consists of more than 3000 georeferenced cross-sections of the Sava River and its several major tributaries. Additionally, various collected data (on levees, storage areas, bridges, etc.) have been compiled into a GIS form. Those sets of data represent a strong basis, not only for the planned flood-related activities, but also for other activities of the ISRBC and the Parties in RBM, navigation, water quality modelling, etc.

4. Establishment of the information system

The Sava GIS Strategy, adopted by the ISRBC in 2008, represents the basis for establishment of an effective and efficient (geo)information system and spatial data infrastructure, which intends to support a wide range of the water management planning functions and supporting activities in the framework of the ISRBC, as well as to ensure that core geospatial information is available for use in multiple ways for the benefit of the ISRBC.

Based on the Sava GIS Strategy, the Implementing documents for establishment of the Sava GIS were developed in 2009. The main outcomes of this activity include the standards to be used for the Sava GIS, list of the Sava GIS themes, data sets and objects, Sava GIS geodata model and architecture and the Action Plan for the Sava GIS establishment.

Based on the Action Plan, the Sava GIS should be set up in the following three phases:

- Phase 1 – setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities (Sava GeoPortal, tools, services and products) by the end of 2012;
- Phase 2 – development and implementation of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services, in the period 2013 – 2015;
- Phase 3 – development and implementation of the dynamic tools and services, from 2015.

Deadlines for finalization of each of the proposed phases should be confirmed by ISRBC. The Phase 1 of the Sava GIS establishment is currently being implemented within the EC grant Support to the ISRBC in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan, and will be finished by the end of 2011. The next phases of the system establishment strongly depend on the commitment of the Parties to provide needed financial and human resources support.

5. Hydrological and meteorological issues

Exchange of the hydrological and meteorological information is needed for implementation of an effective water resources management and flood management. The obligation to establish an effective information exchange on the water regime of the Sava River Basin is introduced by Article 4 of the FASRB.

So far, several activities have been undertaken by the ISRBC, in cooperation with relevant national institutions of the Parties (Ministries for environment and/or water management, Water Agencies and National Hydro-Meteorological Services), to establish a platform for the exchange and use of hydrological and meteorological information.
These activities were focused mainly to:

- Preparatory steps in development of the data exchange system, which is planned to establish permanent links with the databases of the NHMSs, automatically collect data on the agreed parameters from hydrological and meteorological measurement stations in BA, HR, RS and SI, and display the data on the ISRBC web-page continuously;

- Revival of the Hydrological Yearbook of the Sava River Basin, providing the annual summary of the water regime at relevant measurement stations. In this regard, the issue of the Yearbook for 2006, which is the first hydrological yearbook of the Basin since 1986, has been prepared. The issues for the years 2007 and 2008 are under preparation and will be completed soon after delivery of all data from the NHMSs. It is planned that, starting with the 2007 issue, data from ME will be included, as well;

- Initial activities on development of the Hydrological Study for the Sava River Basin, including the development of the Terms of Reference for preparation of the Detailed Programme for development of the Hydrological Study. The Hydrological Study will be the first study dealing with the whole Sava River Basin since 1976.

- Development of a proposal for the project Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the Sava River Basin, which aims to build and reinforce capacity of the authorities and organizations dealing with sustainable water and flood management, strengthen hydrological and meteorological real-time observation network, improve hydrological forecasting system, as well as to limit and reduce flood risk in the Basin.

6. Summary and conclusions

The results, achieved in the field of water management during the reporting period, largely correspond to the plans specified by the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB. The main achievements include:

- finalization and adoption of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report, further preparation of the Sava RBM Plan in accordance with the EU WFD, supported by the EC, as well as the activities related to involvement of stakeholders and wider public in the preparation of the Plan;

- improvement of the existing Accident Emergency Warning System by permanent training, testing and capacity building of the existing structures responsible for the accident prevention and control in the Parties;

- continuation of activities on the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin;

- preparation of the Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin and development of a preliminary hydrologic model of the Sava River Basin and the hydraulic model of the Sava River;

- launch of the setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities;

- advances toward a platform for the exchange and use of hydrological and meteorological information within the Sava River Basin;

- finalization of the Draft Protocol on sediment management to the FASRB, which has been recognized on a wider level (e.g. by the ICPR and SedNet initiative) as an advanced document and a good basis toward sustainable sediment management, and
- active involvement in the process of development of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*, which resulted in inclusion of five *FASRB*-related projects in the *Action Plan of the Danube Strategy* as examples of projects.

Additionally, the joint work of experts from the Parties in the framework of the expert groups provided a good platform for the exchange of experiences and an additional training of the involved representatives (e.g. in the preparation of the characterization report for the Sava River Basin). The same stands for the trainings on specific issues, organized by the ISRBC, such as the trainings of the national PIACs staff.

Based on the *Second Country Reports*, submitted by the Parties, it is obvious that the achievements are strongly correlated with the circumstances in the Parties.

Generally, the main targets related to the establishment of sustainable water management have already been incorporated in national or sectoral strategies in most cases. Although a notable progress in the *FASRB* implementation by the Parties has been made, several obstacles have still been noted, including:

- lack of human, financial and technical resources in most of the Parties;
- lack of synergies at national and international level;
- limited public participation and stakeholders involvement;
- lack of capacities of local communities, and
- lack of appropriate policies and laws, as well as weak law enforcement capacity.

The additional challenges include:

- limited access to basic data (topographic, hydrologic, etc.), needed for preparation of specific studies of common interest under the umbrella of the ISRBC, especially when the data are owned by national institutions not officially nominated as responsible for implementation of the *FASRB*;
- lack of institutional arrangements to incorporate PIACs into the civil/environmental protection system (in BA and RS), and
- securing funds for the priority projects.

Accordingly, the Parties should, in further implementation of the *FASRB*, focus on:

- securing adequate human and financial resources to follow the process of the *Sava RBM Plan* preparation, especially by a stronger support to the members of the ISRBC expert groups in performing their obligations, as well as by an active cooperation with the EC project *Technical assistance in the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan*;
- further development of the legal background and institutional arrangements to incorporate PIACs into the civil/environmental protection system (in BA and RS);
- supporting the ISRBC activities related to accident prevention and control, such as:
  - development of a contingency system to increase the effectiveness of prevention, preparedness and responses in cases of accidental pollution;
  - development of inventory of accident risk spots in the Sava River Basin;
- supporting the ongoing activities of the ISRBC related to flood management, in order to ensure further development until the *Protocol on flood protection* is ratified;
- supporting the ongoing activities of the ISRBC related to sustainable sediment management, by signing and ratification of the Protocol on sediment management, and
- facilitate a free access to basic data needed for preparation of the studies coordinated by the ISRBC, with the special focus on the data owned by national institutions not officially nominated as responsible for implementation of the FASRB.
III.2 Navigation

1. Unification of rules

According to Articles 10(1) and 10(3) of the FASRB, as well as the Articles 2, 3 and 8 of the Protocol on the navigation regime to the FASRB, the unification of rules in the field of navigation is one of the main activities stipulated in the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB, with the aim to establish an unified regulatory system in the Sava River Basin, which will be harmonized with the rules on European level.

Using the legal capacity given by Article 16(1a) of the FASRB, a number of decisions related to navigation safety have been adopted by the ISRBC so far, based on the proposals of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation. In the reporting period, the ISRBC passed the following decisions:

- Decision 13/09 on amendments to the Decision 26/06 on adoption of the Detailed Parameters for Waterway Classification on the Sava River;
- Decision 12/10 on adoption of the Rules for the Transport of the Dangerous Goods in the Sava River Basin;
- Decision 13/10 on adoption of the Rules for Definition of Winter Ports and Winter Shelters on the Sava River Basin, and
- Decision 19/10 on adoption of the amendments to the Decision 30/07 on adoption of the Navigation Rules on the Sava River Basin.

In order to facilitate the implementation, the new rules are presented to representatives of the competent authorities of the Parties on regular meetings with captains from the Sava Port Master Offices. At the same time, the ISRBC follows implementation of all decisions in the Parties, with the aim to improve the content of the documents based on inputs of the direct users. As a result of a good cooperation with the competent ministries and the Port Master Offices from the Parties, the specific local rules for navigation on the sectors Belgrade and Upper Sava have been developed and included in the above mentioned Decision 19/10.

The rules, put forward by the ISRBC, became a part of the internal law in Croatia and Serbia (new law on inland navigation), and B&H and Slovenia (up to Brežice) directly applied it in practice.

The process of improvement and harmonization of the navigation rules in different river basins has been finalized as a result of cooperation of the river commissions (CCNR, DC, Mosel Commission, ISRBC), UNECE and Austria. The final outcome of the process is an improved and harmonized European Code for Inland Navigation (CEVNI). The newly harmonized rules have been adopted by the ISRBC as well, by the Decision 19/10.

In order to establish criteria for mutual recognition of boatmaster certificates, in the UNECE framework, the development of harmonized minimum requirements for the issuance of boatmaster certificates in Europe has been proposed by the Danube Commission and the ISRBC. The proposal has been adopted, and the DC and the ISRBC are expected to jointly propose a first draft of the regulations.
As for the technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, the Rules for the Transport of Dangerous Goods in the Sava River Basin have been developed and adopted by the ISRBC (Decision No.12/10), introducing a direct application of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN). In addition, the Draft Technical Rules for the Vessels on the Sava River Basin have been developed by the ISRBC, in accordance with the Directive 2006/87/EC.

All above mentioned rules represent a basic set of regulations for the establishment of an unique system of navigation in the Sava River Basin, and are in line with the corresponding regulations in Europe. However, further harmonization and improvement of the regulation on European level is necessary, in order to minimize administrative obstacles for development of inland navigation.

Finally, it should be mentioned that, based on the data from the Parties, the Album of Bridges for the Sava River (the first ever for the Sava River) and the Indicator of River Kilometers for the Sava River (renewed after 50 years) have been prepared and accepted by the ISRBC. Both documents are expected to be of a great help to all users of the waterway, especially to river captains.

2. Establishment of the waterway marking system

In accordance with Article 10(4) of the FASRB and Article 9 of the Protocol on the navigation regime to the FASRB, the ISRBC coordinated and supported activities of the Parties on the waterway marking during the reporting period, and, in this respect, adopted the following decisions:

- Decision 05/10 on adoption of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2010;
- Decision 21/10 on adoption of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2011.

The Sava waterway marking system was re-established on the whole navigable part of the Sava and Kupa Rivers during the year 2009, and a regular maintenance and upgrade of the system was established. A proper and complete marking system significantly contributed to the improvement of the navigation safety and it is an important step toward full rehabilitation of navigation on the Sava River.

In order to further upgrade the maintenance and planning of the marking system, the ISRBC has undertaken development of a web application for preparation of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and Its Navigable Tributaries and for regular updating of the marking system. This application will enable the competent authorities from the Parties to develop and regularly update marking plans in a uniform and centralised way, and will also enable the waterway users to get information on the status of the marking system in a real time.
3. Rehabilitation and development of the Sava River waterway

Rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River, pursuant to Article 10(4) of the FASRB, is the highest priority of the ISRBC in the field of navigation, and a special attention has been paid to this project in the reporting period.

After finalization of the Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of the Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway, the ISRBC adopted two decisions regarding the future activities on the rehabilitation and development of navigation:

- Decision 21/09, defining the classification of the future waterway as a basis for development of the detailed design, and specifying that Croatia and Slovenia agreed to continue preparatory activities on the development of navigation upstream from Sisak;
- Decision 01/10, which defines a timeframe for future activities on the rehabilitation and development of navigation.

Based on the results of the Study and the above mentioned decisions, activities on the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River have been continued by the Parties and the ISRBC:

- Croatia and Slovenia agreed to carry on with the preparatory activities for the establishment of navigation upstream from Sisak, and, in this respect, to develop an action plan for extension of the Sava River waterway from Sisak to Brežice, by the end of 2011, at latest;
- Croatia has finished the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for rehabilitation of the waterway from rkm 207 (Račinovci) to rkm 594 (Sisak), and issued necessary permit (i.e. location permit) for continuation of the activities. The Study was delivered to B&H in order to facilitate the process of the permit issuance in B&H;
- Agreement on the procedure for permits issuance for the border part of the waterway was signed between B&H and Croatia and the procedure is ongoing in B&H;
- In the framework of the Croatian IPA project on development of the detailed design for the waterway from Brčko up to Sisak, a review of the existing documentation, as well as the ToR for the detailed design, were finished and the ToR was delivered to the EU. The procedure for the development of the detailed design is expected to start in the 2nd quarter of 2011;
- The EC adopted Decision C(2010)5308 on adoption of the National Programme for B&H under the IPA 2010, a part of which is financing of the project of demining and development of the detailed design and other documentation for the waterway Brčko-Belgrade. The development of the ToR for the project started in B&H;
- Serbia and B&H are in the process of conclusion of a bilateral agreement on the inland waterways and navigation, which will be an additional basis for cooperation on the project of rehabilitation of navigation on the Sava River;
- Regarding the financing of the works on rehabilitation of the waterway, B&H is negotiating with the World Bank and negotiations are in the final phase, Croatia applied for financing from the EU structural funds, and Serbia established contacts with the international financial institutions;
- The project has been presented, by the ISRBC, on the recent meetings of the IFI Coordination Group and the Western Balkan Investment Framework, where it was recognized as the regional priority.

Taking into account results of the Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for the Rehabilitation and Development of the transport and navigation on the Sava River Waterway, the ISRBC recognized an importance and potentials for development of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin and, accordingly, developed a project proposal for development of the Master Plan for the Development of the Nautical Tourism in the Sava River Basin. Additionally, the Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce from the Sava River Basin and the ISRBC have developed the Nautical and Tourist Guide for the Sava River, which is expected to significantly contribute to promotion of possibilities for development of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin.

Keeping in mind the principal goals of cooperation of the Parties in the framework of the FASRB (as specified in Article 2), a considerable attention in rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway is paid to environmental requirements. With the aim to promote highest environmental standards in the navigation development, the ISRBC, jointly with the Danube Commission and the ICPDR, is continuing activities within 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. As a result of this process, in the framework of the EU FP7 PLATINA project, the Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning was developed as a useful practical guidance supporting the implementation of the Joint Statement.

As an additional achievement in this regard, the Protocol on prevention of the water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB was signed by the Parties at the 2nd MoP (June 1, 2009). A detailed information on the purpose and status of ratification of the Protocol is given in the part III.4.2 of the Report.

The ISRBC is participating in an external project entitled Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube (WANDA), which aims to develop proposal for the establishment of a harmonized waste management system for the Danube River. So far, the current situation of ship waste management activities in the countries has been assessed and further steps, necessary in order to ensure a common approach to this specific field, have been identified. However, harmonization of the national concepts will be a challenging task. Participation in the project provides the ISRBC with the opportunities to receive the most recent information on this issue, contribute to the project with its expertise, provide feedback on a strategic level and make use of the project results for further activities in this regard.

4. Development of RIS

In the framework of the RIS implementation activities, the project Detailed Design and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River, has been implemented by the ISRBC. The main outputs of the project are:

- Detailed design of the RIS system. After identification of the field conditions, a possible system configuration for the network of AIS base stations was proposed by
the service provider, respecting the present availability of the infrastructure. The requested AIS network coverage was proven through the field survey;
- Assessment of conformity of the proposed RIS system with the EU RIS Directive and the RIS systems in the Danube riparian countries, as well as the Rhine countries;
- Detailed design and technical specifications, cost estimates and tender documentation for the system;
- Installation of an operational prototype of the services according to EU RIS Directive, including the AIS based tracking and tracing, including interconnection with existing RIS systems on the Serbian and Croatian Danube (3 base stations in Sremska Mitrovica, Brčko and Slavonski Brod).

Based on the project results, the activities of the Parties and the ISRBC on implementation of RIS on the Sava River are continued. In the framework of the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group, the ongoing activities include elaboration of the agreement on the ENC production and updating, agreement on the RIS data exchange and production of the paper ENC.

5. Summary and conclusions

The progress, achieved in the field of navigation during the reporting period, meets, to a great extent, the expectations posed by the Strategy. The main accomplishments include:
- Further development and upgrade of a set of rules related to navigation, especially further upgrading of the Navigation Rules with the aim of full harmonization on the European level as a result of the joint work of the river commissions and UNECE;
- Preparation of the Album of Bridges and Indicator of the River Kilometers;
- Full re-establishment and regular maintenance and upgrade of the marking system on the Sava River waterway from Belgrade to Sisak, based on the decisions and coordinating activities of the ISRBC;
- Continuation of activities on rehabilitation and development of transport and navigation on the Sava River waterway (deatailed design, financing of the works);
- Finalization of the project Detailed Design and Prototype Instalation for the RIS on the Sava River;
- Finalization of the Nautical and Tourist Guide for the Sava River.

Additionally, the active involvement of experts from the Parties in the implementation and follow up of regulations of the ISRBC has improved the inputs necessary for further upgrade of the regulations and resulted in more harmonized and user friendly regulations.

Major obstacles and difficulties in the FASRB implementation are still associated with limited human and financial capacities of the Parties. Additionally, it can be seen that, on national level, the inland navigation, although the most efficient and environmentally friendly mode of transport, does not grant the same level of attention as the sea, road and rail transport. Therefore, the ISRBC is planning an intensification of activities on the creation of a positive image of inland navigation as a reliable, safe and environmentally friendly way of transport and promotion of the transport possibilities on the Sava River, as an important part of the updated Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB.

Rehabilitation and development of navigation is perceived as the main goal in this field, and
the future activities should therefore focus on an efficient completion of the detailed designs and other necessary documentation in accordance with appropriate environmental standards, and securing of the financial means for the execution of works on the waterway rehabilitation.
III.3 Cooperation and public participation

1. Cooperation with international organizations

Cooperation of the ISRBC 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 formally based on the memoranda of understanding, signed with each of the two commissions, which provide opportunities for a close cooperation and coordination of activities of the commissions. In practice, the cooperation 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 ISRBC activities, related not only to development of the RBM Plan, as foreseen by Article 12(3) of the FASRB, but also to the GIS establishment and the AEWS implementation, are coordinated with those of the ICPDR. Additionally, the cooperation with the ICPDR in 2009 resulted in a very important product, namely the Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin, prepared by the ISRBC within the action performed on the Danube level under coordination 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.

An important factor in cooperation with the ICPDR and Danube Commission 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, coordinated jointly by the ICPDR, DC and ISRBC, together with European Commission. Within the process, the 2nd Meeting on implementation of the Joint Statement was hosted by the ISRBC (Zagreb, 9-10 March 2010). As an outcome of the process, the Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning has been developed within the EU FP7 PLATINA project. Within the PLATINA project, a workshop on integrated planning of inland waterway transport projects was organized jointly with the ICPDR, and hosted by the ISRBC (Zagreb, 9-10 June 2009).

The process of implementation of the Joint Statement has been very well recognized on European level. It is worth of noticing that the process, as well as the three river commissions, was mentioned in the preamble of the European Parliament resolution of January 21, 2010, on a EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The cooperation with the UNECE has been further intensified. In addition to participation of the ISRBC in the framework of the UNECE working groups (i.e. Integrated Water Resources Management, Monitoring and Assessment, Inland Water Transport, Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation), the ISRBC had an active role at the major event, the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (November 2009), participating also in the panels of the two, out of the four, side events (“Managing transboundary rivers” and “Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process”).

A major contribution of the ISRBC to the UNECE activities was made within preparation of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region.
Additionally, the cooperation with the UNECE in the reporting period resulted in an approved Sava pilot project *Building the link between Flood Risk Management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava River Basin*, which is being implemented within the UNECE framework.

Cooperation of the ISRBC with the European Commission was, in addition to participation of the ISRBC representatives in the working groups of DG MOVE and DG ENV, further strengthened through an intensive communication during the preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, which is financially supported by the EC.

Additionally, the ISRBC got involved into the process of elaboration of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*, finalized in 2010, in order to ensure implementation of the future *FASRB*-related projects in the framework of the *EU Danube Strategy*.

Cooperation is being maintained with other navigation commissions (i.e. the Mosel Commission and, especially, the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine), and other river and lake protection commissions (e.g. commissions for the protection of the Rivers Rhine, Elbe, and Oder). The annual informal meeting of the heads of secretariats of European river commissions, in 2009, was hosted by the ISRBC. There has also been a continued cooperation with the UNESCO, regional organizations (OSCE, RCC, SEETO, GWP-Med), international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD, EIB), specialized organizations, associations and groups (WMO, GIS Forum, PIANC), and business sector (Coca-Cola).

Finally, contacts have been continued with the EC Delegation to Croatia and the Diplomatic Corps in the Republic of Croatia.

### 2. Cooperation with national institutions

A continuous cooperation of the ISRBC with the national institutions competent for implementation of the *FASRB*, has taken place in the reporting period (the institutions are listed in Annex VI).

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 ISRBC 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),
- operation of PIACs in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia (ministries of the Parties responsible for water management and environment);
- rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River (ministries of the Parties responsible for inland waterway transport);
- development of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin (nominated representatives of the Parties);
- preparation of the projects relevant for the Sava River Basin (all involved ministries),
- preparatory activities in the organization of the Sava Day 2009 and other PR activities in the framework of the *FASRB* implementation (ministries, nominated representatives of the Parties).
The cooperation with the national contact points for the development of the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** was also established, in order to coordinate actions of the national representatives and the ISRBC within the process of development of the **EU Danube Strategy**.

In addition to the national institutions responsible for implementation 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, regional chambers of commerce, 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 4th meeting (Ljubljana, October 1-2, 2009) and the 5th meeting (Belgrade, October 21-22, 2010). A successful cooperation of the ISRBC with the regional chambers of commerce/economy of the Parties has resulted in the preparation of the **Nautical and Tourism Guide for the Sava River**.

### 3. Public participation and stakeholders involvement

Taking account of significance of public participation and stakeholders’ involvement within framework of activities of the ISRBC and implementation of the **FASRB**, the cooperation with relevant institutions, NGOs and local actors from the Sava River Basin has been continued throughout the reporting period.

The existing **Criteria and Procedures for granting Observer status in the International Sava River Basin Commission** enable different actors and stakeholders to get actively involved into the work of the ISRBC by being granted the observer status in accordance with the specific requirements. Accordingly, the international NGO World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Republic of Macedonia were granted the observer status at the ISRBC. The ISRBC continuously encourages governmental and/or non-governmental organizations, as well as other institutions, to become observers at the ISRBC with aim to further strengthen public participation.

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**, led jointly by the ISRBC, ICPDR and Danube Commission, where the issue is continuously discussed by a variety of stakeholders from navigation and environmental sector.

In order to reflect the transparency of the **FASRB** implementation, stakeholders involvement has especially been fostered through the following:

- monitoring of the **FASRB** implementation with special emphasis on the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the **FASRB**;
- sessions of the ISRBC;
- development of the updated **Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB** and the **Action Plan for the Period 2011-2015**;
- development of protocols to the **FASRB**;
- Sava Day celebrations;
realization of projects.

In order to extend the platform for cooperation of stakeholders in the Sava River Basin, the ISRBC is fostering a more active involvement of the academic and business sectors within the FASRB implementation.

The information on the FASRB implementation was continuously communicated to stakeholders and wider public via:

- the official website of the ISRBC, where information on the activities, as well as projects and documents are made available to wider public and continuously upgraded with the most recent facts and news. There were roughly 26,000 visits to the website during the reporting period, the top visiting countries being the Parties to the FASRB, USA, Austria, Germany, Hungary, United Kingdom, Belgium, Switzerland, Netherlands, Italy, France, Macedonia, etc.;
- the official bulletin of the ISRBC, the Sava NewsFlash (Figure 1), issued twice per year as a bilingual publication (in English and one of the official languages of the ISRBC);
- reports and specialized publications, such as the Sava River Basin Analysis Report, Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin (Figure 2) and Sava River Basin Analysis Summary (Figure 3);
- posters, leaflets and flyers, issued by the ISRBC and disseminated on workshops and meetings;
- contributions to bulletins and web-sites of other organizations/institutions, etc.

Figure 1. SAVANewsFlash No.3 (May 2009) and No.6 (November 2010).
Figure 2. Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin (2009).

Figure 3. Sava River Basin Analysis Summary (2010).
In addition, in order to ensure the most efficient public outreach, the information and key messages relating to the work and activities of the ISRBC and the Parties to the *FASRB* were also communicated by means of public relations’ activities – press releases, press conferences and media briefings; hence informing the national and regional media, as well as wider public, on significant topics originating from implementation of the *FASRB* and developments in the Sava River Basin.

The ISRBC organized or co-organized a number of consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders, as listed in Annex III.

Very important activities in terms of promotion of the *FASRB* and the ISRBC itself are the Sava Day celebrations organized on annual basis.

The central event within the Sava Day 2009 celebration was the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Belgrade, June 1, 2009). The central celebration in 2010 (Gradiška, June 1, 2010), included the signing of the *Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB*, and other activities, such as opening of the exhibition of the best photos from the Sava River Basin, depicting the abundance of nature, waters, biodiversity, peoples’ lives, and different cultures in the Sava River Basin, which were selected based on the photo contest “SAVA RIVER – Nature, People and Cultures”, as well as the presentation of works of scholars from Gradiška, made within the creative educational workshops organized prior to the celebration.

In addition to the central events, a wide range of specific (country-priorities-dependant) activities and events were held, with the following main goals:

- to raise awareness on importance of preservation of the Sava River water resources;
- to raise awareness on potential for different water uses of the Sava River (such as recreation, leisure and tourism, navigation, etc.);
- to actuate the civil liabilities in terms of water use and protection;
- to promote the cooperation of the Sava countries in the framework of the *FASRB*, as well as the achievements, made through the cooperation so far.

These activities, performed in cooperation with the national institutions responsible for implementation of the *FASRB*, and partners from the business sector, i.e. Coca-Cola, included sportive-recreational events (e.g. a canoe marathon on the Sava River), thematic mini fairs/events (for presentation of the traditional customs, handicrafts and gastronomy relating to the Sava River, as well as for demonstration of various skills and products presented by artisans and associations promoting the traditional values), promotion of the Sava River tie, or implementation of river protection projects involving young population.

The project *Our Beautiful Sava*, realized by joint efforts of the ISRBC, *Coca-Cola HBC* Croatia, Croatian Ministry of regional development, forestry and water management, Croatian Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure and with the support of the *Coca-Cola Adria* for the Alps and Adriatic region, won the European Excellence Award for the best campaign in the field of communications in South-East Europe in competition of over 1,250 applications received for year 2009.

A detailed overview of the activities performed within the Sava Day 2009 and 2010 celebrations, is given in Annex IV.
Another milestone in terms of promotion and outreach activities of the ISRBC is the fact that the ISRBC’s website was voted into the top 10 websites in year 2009 under the category “Governmental organizations and state institutions”, within the “VIDI WEB TOP 100” Awards in the Republic of Croatia. Such election implies that the ISRBC’s website meets all technical standards with regard to performance, design, as well as to the content quality and availability, meaning that the website users are enabled to retrieve all relevant information in a visually very attractive manner.

The ISRBC will keep fostering the public participation and stakeholders’ involvement through diverse outreach activities with aim to ensure the integrated water resources management of the Sava River Basin and successful implementation of the FASRB.
III.4 Legal issues

1. Review of legislation and institutional framework

From legal point of view, the FASRB establishes good grounds of cooperation in the region in regard to waters in very ambitious and comprehensive manner. The Parties can largely benefit from the FASRB and its institutional framework also with regard to the domestic dimension of water management and navigation issues. As cooperation promoted under the FASRB involves different sectors of the central administrations of the Parties, their relevant local authorities, other public and private stakeholders and NGOs. This improves collaboration, awareness, knowledge and capacity at cross-sectoral and multilayered levels in each Party and regional contexts.

The Parties to the FASRB still have different status in regard to the EU membership: one country is a member to EU, one has official status of the candidate, and other two are intensively working on their way towards the EU. The Parties to the FASRB deemed to cooperate on the basis and in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive although that document is not part of the legal status of all four countries in equal manner and equal portion. Regardless, the Parties increasingly align its legislation with that of EU standards in many fields including those covered by the FASRB.

Furthermore, certain parties to the FASRB have previously mutually concluded specific bilateral agreements regulating water management and navigation relations, so in implementation of the FASRB in the practice, it is necessary to take special care of activities that the states, by themselves, can and need to agree upon on bilateral basis, and which part of their mutual relations is under authority of the joint body – the ISRBC.

Besides these political and international legal elements constituting a frame in which the sustainable water management in the Sava River Basin should be developed, the implementation of the FASRB also depends on institutional mechanisms within the states and real readiness to accept and implement in practice the decisions, conclusions and recommendations being passed by the ISRBC established for that purpose.

Legal regime of water resources including transboundary issues are in each Party covered by several groups of laws and regulations – navigation and protection and use of waters.

International agreements

A comprehensive review of international agreements relevant for the Sava River Basin is given in Annex V, including a review of signatories and parties of the relevant multilateral treaties and a list of bilateral agreements, being of importance in the light of Article 29 paragraph 3 of the FASRB.

It should emphasize a significant progress which has been made with regard to ratification of the relevant international conventions, which are, or could be, related to the Sava River Basin. Two years ago, Parties to the FASRB did not have the same status in regard to important international conventions, of interest for the Sava River Basin (e.g. UNECE Water Convention, Espoo Convention, Helsinki Convention, Aarhus Convention, ...). Some were Parties to the relevant conventions, some were signatories, and some were neither. In the
meantime, the remaining Sava countries became parties to the majority of these important conventions, which also can contribute to an efficient implementation of the FASRB.

There are several bilateral agreements between the riparian states.

In the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement on financing and development of the Detailed Design and conducting administrative procedures for environmental impact assessment and obtaining location permits, approval and construction permits for the project “Rehabilitation and modernization of the Sava River waterway from Račinovci to Sisak”.

Besides, the negotiations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia regarding the Agreement on navigation on the inland waterways and their maintenance were successfully finalized in the reporting period, as well.

Between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, the Agreement on navigation on the inland waterways and their technical maintenance was also signed in the reporting period. Besides, preliminary contacts have been realized in order to develop the agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia on water management relations and still are waiting to be continued.

Examples of bilateral relations in the Sava River Basin demonstrate benefit of long-term institutional cooperation between the Parties realized through conclusion of bilateral agreements, which can be divided in three main groups - on relations in water management, navigation issues and cooperation on protection against natural and civic disasters.

Joint goal of these agreements is commitment to resolve certain water management issues by mutual agreement including activities and actions having impact to status of the water regime (and, hereby, the environment as well), water quantity and quality, which is in interest of the countries in question and their stakeholders. The agreements require harmonized measures regarding the water management issues with the other state. Besides this, the EU policy in the field of integrated water management frequently encourages the implementation through international agreements on cooperation in water management, as well.

From legal point of view, the FASRB presents a very good basis for that cooperation. This stands especially for the protocols to the FASRB, comprising the interest of all four riparian States, that are awaiting to be signed and expected to have significant role in comprehensive regulation of both issues - resolved or pending to be resolved by bilateral agreements on the basin wide level.

Since the FASRB sets up consent of the Parties to adapt existing bilateral agreements, if necessary to avoid contradictions with basic principles of the FASRB, the ISRBC analyzed all relevant agreements and no contradictions were found.

National legislation

Due to the fact that the water resources legislation is generally very comprehensive and, at the same time, part of other fields of national legislation, data on relevant laws and regulations of importance for implementation of the FASRB from the Second Country Reports demonstrate
significance which the Parties to the FASRB assign to water management and navigation issues.

According to the submitted Country Reports, the Parties generally perceive no serious legislation obstacles to implementation of the FASRB, however a lack of appropriate policies and laws, as well as a weak law enforcement capacity were noted in some cases. On the other hand, all Parties are undergoing the procedure of harmonisation of their national legislation with the European regulations and progressively transpose the applicable standards in the water sector. Such approach is of significance for practical implementation of the FASRB, which defines basic and general obligations of the Parties to cooperate on the basis of and in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive.

Detailed list of the respective national laws and regulations of the Parties, being directly or indirectly relevant for the implementation of the FASRB, collected by the ISRBC through the Second Country Reports will be available to the public concerned through the web site of the ISRBC, and thus contribute to further improvement of cooperation of the Parties and different stakeholders.

Organizations competent for realization of the FASRB

In order to enable efficient implementation of the FASRB and in accordance with Article 6 of the FASRB, the Parties have nominated organizations (authorities or bodies) competent for realization of the FASRB on the part of the Sava River Basin within its territories, as listed in Annex VI.

In addition to the nominated authorities, an intersectoral working group was established in the Republic of Slovenia, in order to deal with all issues related to implementation of the FASRB on the part of the Sava River Basin on the Slovenian territory.

2. Protocols

The FASRB stipulates several areas which should be covered and further developed by additional protocols, especially those regulating the following issues:
- transboundary impacts;
- protection against floods, excessive groundwater, erosion, ice hazards, drought and water shortages;
- water use/utilization;
- exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay;
- protection and improvement of water quality and quantity;
- protection of aquatic eco-systems;
- prevention of the water pollution caused by navigation, and
- emergency situations.

In the reporting period, activities related to development of protocols to the FASRB were focussed on the following documents.
The Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB was signed at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties, on June 1, 2009. The Protocol is aimed at prevention, control and reduction of pollution originating from vessels, establishment of technical requirements for the equipment of port facilities, and other reception stations, development of the best available techniques, informing, development of spill response measures and monitoring of water quality. Transboundary cooperation should include actions to prevent pollution from vessels by developing a joint action programme, since water quality monitoring requires a network of national institutions for monitoring and inspection. The Protocol underlines the importance of set-up of the institutional framework, establishment of joint body for determination of reasons and facts relating to the accident, and impact to the environment.

So far, the Protocol has been ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina (on November 11, 2009) and by the Republic of Croatia (on February 5, 2010).

Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB, aimed at regulation of the issues related to sustainable flood protection by means of prevention and/or reduction of flood hazard, by undertaking appropriate measures and activities, along with adequate measures for the environment protection, was signed on June 1, 2010. According to a provision of the Protocol, the Parties should develop a Flood Risk Management Plan, which defines the goals of the flood risk management of common interest on the basin level, measures to achieve these goals, mechanisms of coordination on the basin-wide level and a mode of joint cooperation of the Parties in flood defence emergency situations. Mutual assistance, institutional arrangements and public information, should also have an important role in implementation of the Protocol.

Protocol on emergency situations to the FASRB comprises several goals aimed at identification of hazardous activities, their character and possible consequences, prevention, emergency planning and preparedness, adequate alarm and warning system compatible with already existing systems on the wider basin level, assessment of extraordinary impacts, emergency response and mutual assistance between the Parties. Settlement of adequate institutional arrangements should also contribute to efficiency of the transboundary cooperation.

The Draft Protocol on emergency situations to the FASRB was finalized on a high expert level and, in 2009, delivered to the Parties for launching the official negotiations on its final harmonization. Since the internal national procedures for launching the official negotiations have not been accomplished in due time, the ISRBC organized the Roundtable on Accident Prevention and Control in the Sava River Basin (2010), with the aim to further present the purpose of the Protocol and potential benefits for the Parties. It is expected that official negotiations will be organized in 2011.

Additionally, in the reporting period, the Draft Protocol on sediment management to the FASRB was prepared by the ISRBC and its expert groups, and delivered to the Parties for final harmonization. The main objective of the Protocol is to facilitate the establishment of sustainable sediment management, by addressing:
- quality issues related to sediment contamination, including risk-assessment, control of source and deposition of contaminated sediment, and
- quantity issues, such as dredging, erosion and torrent control, sedimentation, effects of
damming, and morphological changes.

The first meeting on harmonization of the text of Draft Protocol was held on October 25, 2010. After the presentation of the Draft, its scope, challenges addressed and purpose, the participants concluded that the text of the Draft needs to be reconsidered according to the discussion. The final harmonization meeting is planned to be organized as soon as possible, once the required national procedures for finalization of negotiations are completed.

In the reporting period, activities on further development of the protocol regulating transboundary impacts have also been performed in the framework of the ISRBC. This protocol should regulate the issues concerning measures for securing the integrity of the water regime in the Sava River Basin and elimination or reduction of transboundary impacts on waters of other parties caused by economic and/or other activities and when the transboundary impacts need to be proved. Given the fact that all Parties have already ratified the Espoo Convention on which the protocol mostly leans, the actual benefit of the protocol is under reconsideration.
IV Financial issues

This chapter outlines basic facts on inflows and outflows of the budgetary funds of the ISRBC during the two financial years, 2009 and 2010.

The external audit of the financial management, including the accounting records of the ISRBC for FY 2009, has been performed. The audit team submitted the Report on Audit to the ISRBC members, stating that the statement of account, related notes and other disclosures are correct and in accordance with ISRBC rules and regulations and the general accounting principles. The audit of the financial management for FY 2010 will be performed, in accordance with the Financial Rules of the Sava Commission, not later than three months after the end of the financial year.

The ISRBC derives the most of the income for the General Fund from the regular annual contributions of its Contracting Parties. The other inflows come from other sources: transfers from the Reserve Fund, grant funds of different institutions/organizations for implementation of special projects, interests, etc. The total inflow into the General Fund in the financial years 2009 and 2010 was equal to 604,486.14 Eur and to 543,184.63 Eur, respectively. The annual contribution of the Parties in FY 2009 was 128,990.00 Eur per country, while it was reduced to 121,990.00 Eur in FY 2010, due to the economic situation in the Parties. For both financial years, the annual contributions of the Parties were paid timely.

Generally, realization of the budget in both financial years did not differ significantly from the planned amounts. The budget items of the General Fund are comparable with the originally stipulated amounts, making a 95% (FY 2009) and 98% (estimate for FY 2010) of the realization of the planned amount. Realization of the Budget of the ISRBC by main budget items, for FY 2009 and FY 2010, is illustrated in the following table (in Eur):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Chapters</th>
<th>FY 2009</th>
<th>FY 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff salaries and allowances</td>
<td>431,444.69</td>
<td>418,179.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current costs</td>
<td>39,721.30</td>
<td>40,132.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>25,171.07</td>
<td>26,435.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational costs</td>
<td>57,255.43</td>
<td>43,596.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>20,592.10</td>
<td>3,974.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures</td>
<td>574,184.59</td>
<td>532,317.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In accordance with the Financial Rules of the Sava Commission, the rest of the General Fund is allocated to the Reserve Fund. The transfers from the Reserve Fund into the General Fund or the Special and Trust Fund were used for covering unexpected expenditures, necessary for an effective functioning of the ISRBC, and expenditures not envisaged in the budget for the respective year.

The inflows into the Special and Trust Fund come from several sources: additional contributions of the Parties, grant funds of different institutions/organizations for implementation of special projects, and transfers from the Reserve Fund. In FY 2009 and FY 2010, the total received amounts in the Special and Trust Fund were 424,859.49 Eur and 196,689.02 Eur, while the total expenditures were 278,802.62 Eur and 270,796.84 Eur, respectively.
V Conclusions and recommendations

Generally, the FASRB is proven to be a good platform for intensified contacts and an improved cooperation among the Parties, providing opportunities for exchange of experiences and an additional training, not only of the representatives involved in the work of the expert groups of the ISRBC, but also other experts from the Parties. It also provides for an improved intersectoral cooperation, especially among the competent authorities, within the Parties.

In the field of water management, the accomplishments in the FASRB implementation include a progress toward the first Sava RBM Plan, the initial steps in the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plan, the first phase of the Sava GIS establishment, as well as the improvement of the accident emergency warning system in the Basin.

In the field of navigation, the progress was made in the re-establishment of the marking system on the Sava River waterway, reaching the final phase of the planning process for rehabilitation and development of navigation, level of harmonization of the respective national regulation with the EU regulation, and thus harmonization and upgrading of the regulation within the Parties.

Additionally, two protocols to the FASRB have been signed, and the drafts of another two protocols are undergoing final harmonization by the Parties.

More results have been achieved so far in the field of navigation, and one of the main reasons is a different legal capacity of the ISRBC in the fields of navigation and water management (making decisions and providing recommendations/conclusions, respectively). Progress in the field of water management, where requirements towards the Parties are based on recommendations and conclusions of the ISRBC, is partly affected by a different perception of the requirements by the competent authorities of the Parties.

Major obstacles and difficulties in the FASRB implementation in the Parties are associated with a lack of human and financial resources. In some Parties, additional obstacles include lack of:

- appropriate institutional arrangements, including the coordination of the national institutions responsible for the FASRB implementation;
- harmonization of legislation with the EU acquis;
- capacities, needed for a proper implementation of legislation, or for an adequate scientific research to support achievement of the FASRB-related goals.

There is also a space for improvement of bilateral cooperation, where the ISRBC is perceived as a possible mediator.

Keeping in mind the present status of the FASRB implementation, the future efforts should be oriented to:

- support to further development of strategic plans (RBM Plan, Flood Risk Management Plan) and integrated systems (GIS, RIS, flood forecasting and warning system, accident emergency warning system) for the Sava River Basin;
- efficient completion of the studies and the detailed design, and subsequently launching the works on the Sava River waterway rehabilitation, and
consideration of other development activities in the basin (e.g. hydropower generation, water supply, agriculture, recreation, tourism), accompanied with careful analysis of their environmental sustainability, taking also possible impacts of climate change into account.

To this end, further progress should primarily be made in relation to:

- providing adequate financial instruments for realization of the respective activities and projects, especially those to be performed under the umbrella of the ISRBC;
- exchange of information within the basin (e.g. hydrological and meteorological data);
- harmonization of national methodologies (e.g. related to collection of hydro-meteorological data, hydrological and hydraulic analyses, flood risk assessment, etc.);
- availability of basic data (topographic, hydrologic, etc.), needed for preparation of specific studies of common interest under the coordination of the ISRBC, especially the data owned by national institutions not officially nominated as responsible for implementation of the FASRB,
- capacity building in the fields of work, related to the FASRB;
- involvement of stakeholders in the FASRB implementation and, especially, broadening the multi-stakeholder platform to include the academic and business sectors, as well.
ANNEX I

Sessions of the ISRBC
As of April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2011, the ISRBC held nine sessions in total:

- 12th Special Session (May 6-7, 2009),
- 13th Special Session (September 22-23, 2009),
- 19th (regular) Session (January 26-27, 2010),
- 20th (special) Session (April 6, 2010),
- 21st (special) Session (June 8, 2010),
- 22nd (special) Session (June 8, 2010),
- 23rd (special) Session (June 21st and July 20th 2010),
- 24th (special) Session (October 26-27, 2010), and

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

- Meetings of the Parties (MoP) to the FASRB
  o organization of the 2nd MoP;
  o development of the documents for the 2nd MoP
    ▪ Draft Report on Implementation of the FASRB and Work of the ISRBC for the period April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009,
    ▪ Draft Declaration,
  o signing of the Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB;
  o development of post-meeting documents (reports and adopted documents);
  o organization of the 3rd MoP and development of the documents for the meeting.


- Water Management issues
  o Finalization, adoption and publishing of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report;
  o Development and launch of the project Support to the ISRBC in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan;
  o Drafting the Table of Contents for Program for Development of the Sava River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan;
  o Preparation of the Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin (as a support to the ICPDR activity on the Danube River Basin level);
  o Testing and improvement of the Accident Emergency Warning System;
  o Preparation of projects (and seeking funding opportunities)
    ▪ Water pollution contingency management system for the Sava River Basin;
    ▪ Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava River Basin;
    ▪ Flood mapping study for the Sava River;
    ▪ Sediment balance for the Sava River;
    ▪ Stakeholder analysis and involvement plan for the Sava River Basin;
  o Recommendation related to Projects of high importance for sustainable development of the Sava River Basin within the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region;
- Other related issues.

- Navigation issues
  - Continuation of activities on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway
    - Follow-up of the activities of the Parties on preparation of the detailed design of the Sava River waterway;
    - Development and implementation of the project *Detailed Design and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River*;
  - Preparatory activities for development and implementation of the project *Master plan for development of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin*;
  - Adoption/acceptance of documents
    - *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2010*;
    - *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2011*;
    - *Amendments to the Decision 26/06 on adoption of the Detailed Parameters for Waterway Classification on the Sava River*;
    - *Rules for the Transport of Dangerous Goods in the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Rules for definition of winter ports and winter shelters on the Sava River Basin*;
  - Acceptance of documents
    - *Indicator of River Kilometres for the Sava River*;
    - *Album of Bridges for the Sava River*.

- Information Management & Cross-cutting issues
  - Implementation of the project *Preparation of implementing documents for the Sava GIS*;
  - Development and launch of the project *Establishment of the Sava Geoportal Core Functionalities*;
  - Preparation of projects (and seeking funding opportunities):
    - *Hydrological study for the Sava River Basin*;
    - *Development and upgrading of hydrological and meteorological information & flood forecasting/warning system in the Sava River Basin* (in cooperation with the NHMSs of the Sava countries).

- 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;
  - Permanent Expert Group for Navigation;
  - Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS;
  - Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation;
  - Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues,
  - Ad-hoc Expert Group for Legal Issues;

- Establishment of the ad-hoc expert groups of the ISRBC
- Annual work plans and programs
  o preparation and follow-up of realization of the work plans of the ISRBC (for FY 2009 and for FY 2010);
  o approval of the annual programs of work of the PEGs and ad-hoc EGs (for 2009 and 2010),
  o adoption of the annual reports on work and activities of the ISRBC (for 2009 and 2010).
- Protocols to the FASRB
  o Signing of the
    ▪ Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB;
    ▪ Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB;
  o Development of
    ▪ Draft Protocol on emergency situations;
    ▪ Draft Protocol on sediment management,
    ▪ Draft Protocol on transboundary impacts.
- Cooperation and public participation
  o Follow-up of the implementation of the Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin, jointly with the ICPDR and the Danube Commission, as well as the follow-up of its implementation;
  o Possibilities for stakeholders involvement in the FASRB implementation;
  o Granting the ad-hoc observer status to the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) and the permanent observer status to the Republic of Macedonia;
  o Extension of the ad-hoc observer status to the NGO “Green Action” (Croatia);
  o Cooperation with different national institutions, regional and int. organizations;
  o Organizations of meetings and workshops;
  o Organization of the Sava Day 2009 and development and implementation of the Plan of activities for the Sava Day 2010;
  o Publication of the official bulletin of the ISRBC, Sava NewsFlash, Sava River Basin Analysis Report, Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin, Sava River Basin Analysis Summary, as well as other promotion publications and materials;
  o Continuous up-date of the ISRBC’s website;
  o Activities of public relations.
- Legal issues
  o Amendments of the Criteria for the Performance Evaluation of the Secretariat Staff Members;
  o Amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the Sava Commission;
  o Review and analysis of all legal documents of the ISRBC in terms of functionality of work of the ISRBC and improvement of its regulations;
  o Analysis of relevant bilateral agreements between the Parties,
  o Development of internal regulations of the ISRBC.
- Financial issues
  o Adoption of the budget for FY 2009 and FY 2010;
  o Adoption of the reports on realization of the budget for FY 2008 and FY 2009;
  o Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC, and adoption of the auditors’ reports for FY 2008 and FY 2009,
  o Amendments of the *Financial Rules of the Sava Commission*;
  o Amendments of the *Rules of Procurement Procedure of the Sava Commission*;
  o Development of internal financial regulations of the ISRBC.
ANNEX II

List of the ISRBC members and deputy members
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name and Surname</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bosnia and Herzegovina</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Kemal Karkin</td>
<td>Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Savo Gluvić</td>
<td>Deputy Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>VP “SAVA” Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Republic of Croatia</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mario Babić</td>
<td>Chairman, Member to the ISRBC, as of January 20, 2011</td>
<td>Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ružica Drmić</td>
<td>Deputy Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Republic of Serbia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Aleksandar Prodanović</td>
<td>Deputy Chairman, Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Miladin Avramov</td>
<td>Deputy Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Republic of Slovenia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mitja Bricelj</td>
<td>Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Aleksander Čičerov</td>
<td>Deputy Member to the ISRBC</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX III

List of the meetings with stakeholders organized or co-organized by the ISRBC
In the reporting period, the ISRBC organized or co-organized a number of consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders, including:

- Workshop on Integrated transboundary water resources management (Sarajevo, May 18-20, 2009; organized by UNECE and RCC, in cooperation with GWP-Med and the ISRBC);
- Workshop on Integrated planning of inland waterway transport projects (Zagreb, June 9-10, 2009; organized within the PLATINA project, jointly with the ICPDR; hosted by the ISRBC);
- Meetings with local communities within the Sava Day 2009 celebration (June 1-29, 2009; organized by the cities along the Sava River);
- Annual informal meeting of the heads of secretariats of European river commissions (Zagreb, August 24-25, 2009; hosted by the ISRBC);
- Annual meetings with captains of port master offices from the Sava River Basin (Ljubljana, October 1-2, 2009 & Belgrade, October 21-22, 2010);
- 2nd Meeting on implementation of the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin (Zagreb, March 9-10, 2010; organized jointly with the ICPDR, hosted by the ISRBC);
- Roundtable on the Sava GIS (Zagreb, March 24, 2010);
- Meeting with representatives of the Parties on development of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin (Zagreb, March 31, 2010);
- Meeting on “Fostering the FASRB implementation in the fields of water management and environment” (Belgrade, May 5, 2010);
- Workshop on Sava RIS aimed at presentation of results of the Project “Detailed Design and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services (RIS) on the Sava River” (Zagreb, September 15, 2010);
- Workshop on Sava River Flood Mapping, co-organized by the ISRBC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Zagreb, September 6-8, 2010);
- Roundtable on Accident Prevention and Control in the Sava River Basin (Zagreb, October 21, 2010);
- Meeting regarding the Priority projects of the ISRBC under framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (Zagreb, November 15, 2010);
- Meeting on investigating possibilities for contribution of the SME (small and medium enterprises) sector to the FASRB implementation (Zagreb, December 22, 2010);
- Meeting with the Directors of the National Hydro-Meteorological Services from the Sava River Basin (Zagreb, January 18, 2011);
ANNEX IV

Review of the activities performed within the Sava Day 2009 and 2010 celebrations
The Sava Day celebrations in 2009 and 2010 included a wide range of activities, as specified below.

**Sava Day 2009**

Specific activities and events (country-priorities-dependant) were held under the Sava Day 2009 in order to raise awareness on importance of preservation of the Sava River water resources and different water uses of the Sava River (such as recreation, leisure and tourism, navigation, etc.) and to actuate the civil liabilities in terms of water use and protection. The Sava Day 2009 activities in Croatia included: (i) the Canoe Marathon on the Sava River section Zagreb-Sisak-Slavonski Brod; (ii) thematic mini fairs/events in Zagreb – Belle époque, Sisak – old Croatian crafts, Slavonski Brod – national customs of Posavina region, and Županja – Sava mini fair. For illustration, the fairs, among else, included the presentation of the traditional customs, handicrafts and gastronomy relating to the Sava River, as well as the demonstration of various skills and products presented by artisans and associations promoting the traditional values, which in overall emanated the spirit of the cities along the Sava River.

The project *Our Beautiful Sava*, realized by joint efforts of the ISRBC, Coca-Cola HBC Croatia, Croatian Ministry of regional development, forestry and water management, Croatian Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure and with the support of the Coca-Cola Adria for the Alps and Adriatic region, won the European Excellence Award for the best campaign in the field of communications in South-East Europe in competition of over 1,250 applications received for year 2009.

Within the Sava Day celebration in Slovenia, an event was held at the Sava River banks in Tacen to celebrate the official finalization of the project „Water is Life – the youths from the eco-schools research the Sava River Basin in Slovenia“. On that occasion, the youth from the eco-schools delivered a final report of the project to the Slovenian Minister for Environment and Spatial Planning and a representative of the ISRBC. The report presented the major findings of their research and suggestions for improvement of environmental quality in the Sava River Basin in Slovenia. During the 1.5-month project implementation, the youth descended along the Sava River and its tributaries with rafts and canoes and researched the river banks and water. They focused mainly to the river fauna and flora, riverbed and the influence of pollution. The report represented the youths' view and their attitude to the problem of environmental pollution including water, and it can serve as a valuable input for planning the activities in other parts of the Sava River Basin.

**Sava Day 2010**

The Sava Day 2010 celebration included diverse activities and central event on June 1st hosted by Municipality of Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The ISRBC organized the Photo Contest “SAVA RIVER – Nature, People and Cultures” in order to depict the abundance of nature, waters, biodiversity, peoples' lives, and different cultures in the Sava River Basin as picturesque as it is. Over 600 photos were submitted by the authors from the Sava River Basin presenting the imagery of the Sava River Basin diversities, different visions of the reality, natural and cultural heritage, as well as advantages and deficiencies of the life along the river. The evaluation jury selected the 60 photos constituting the collection of exhibition “SAVA RIVER – NATURE, PEOPLE and CULTURES”, which was inaugurated on June 1st at the central event at “Cultural Centre” Gradiška. Also, the creative educational workshops titled “Sava River and its Friends” were organized for pupils of elementary schools in Gradiška. The goal was to educate the children in interesting, pervious and creative manner about socially responsible behaviour toward water resources and different possibilities of their
protection, as well as how they also can contribute to conservation of the water resources in everyday life. Works of the participating pupils were, likewise, displayed at the central celebration, which hosted another milestone of the ISRBC’s activities – the signing of the Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB. Considering the fact that large floods have taken place in all Parties to the FASRB during exactly that period, the Protocol has acquired even greater acknowledgement of its significance in the region.

Along with the previously stated, additional activities financed through projects of social responsibility were organized in cooperation with representatives of Coca Cola companies and the respective ministries responsible for implementation of the FASRB under the Sava Day 2010.

➢ The project „Our Beautiful Sava“, launched in 2008 in Croatia, has continued. The project included following activities held during period May 29 – July 2, 2010:
  • Sava Fair held in Zagreb on May 29, at lake Bundek where the visitors were given the opportunity to enjoy the typical food and beverages, the tours on Sava coaches, kayaks, riding, cultural societies’ performance, preparation of fish pottage and carp on forks, photo exhibition “Life on the Sava River through centuries”;
  • Promotion of the Sava River tie held in Davor on May 31, where the tie specially designed in three different patterns and distinguishing style based on the motif of flow of the Sava River at Lonjsko polje was presented; the visitors could also enjoy in projection of the film “The life meaning Sava River” and presentation of the book about boatmen;
  • Sava Fair held in Sisak on June 5, where the unique souvenir of the Sava continental tourism – Celtic boat, traditional crafts and handcrafts from the Sava region were presented, as well as tasting of the traditional food and beverages;
  • Sava Fair held in Županja on June 11, where the beginning of the fair was promoted by launch of another souvenir of the Sava continental tourism – the acorn-shape key-ring;
  • Sava Fair held in Slavonski Brod on July 2, with the central event being the Open Championship of Slavonski Brod in preparation of fish pottage – the popular Fishijada, with participation of 163 competition teams from whole county.

➢ The river protection project launched in Slovenia in 2009, also continued, and for year 2010 the Competition titled “Advert for My River” was opened for the Slovenian youth. The young Slovenians and schools’ representatives were invited to submit their TV, radio and newspaper adverts during one-month period. The adverts had to aim at significance of water protection, as well as to foster and raise the public awareness on water protection and quality issues. The competition was opened till May 21 2010, whereof the best adverts were selected in three categories:
  • Best TV advert: prize Sony DCRSX34 camera (donation to school)
  • Best radio advert: prize Philips HES 2800/12 home cinema (donation to school)
  • Best newspaper advert: prize Canon IXUS100 photo camera (donation to school).
The central event took place on May 31 2010 in Ljubljana, where the winners were awarded the prizes as follows:
  • Elementary School “Polzela” for the best TV advert titled ”Our Savinja River”;
  • Elementary School “Polzela” for the best radio advert titled ”Singing fish”;
  • Elementary School “Simona Gregorčiča Kobarid – Branch School Breginj” for the best newspaper advert titled “We Know What We Have”.
ANNEX V

Review of international agreements relevant for the Sava River Basin
**Multilateral agreements** – review of Signatories & Parties of the multilateral treaties relevant for the Sava River Basin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Treaty</th>
<th>In force</th>
<th>Slovenia</th>
<th>Croatia</th>
<th>B&amp;H</th>
<th>Serbia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLUSION on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat <em>(Ramsar Convention, 1971)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CLUSION on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context <em>(Espoo Convention, 1991)</em></td>
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<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents <em>(Helsinki Convention, 1992)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Protocol on Civil Liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters <em>(Kiev, 2003, in the framework of the UN/ECE Water Conv. &amp; Helsinki Conv. – Ind. Acc.)</em></td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register <em>(Kiev, 2003)</em></td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Danube River Protection Convention <em>(Sofia, 1994)</em></td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance <em>(AGN, 1996)</em></td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways <em>(ADN, 2000)</em></td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Framework Agreement on the Sava River</td>
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<td>S</td>
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<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Protocol on the navigation regime to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Kranjska Gora, 2002)</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Protocol on prevention of the water pollution caused by navigation to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Beograd, 2009)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Protocol on flood protection to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Gradiška, 2010)</strong></td>
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</table>

Notes: S – signed; R – ratified.
Bilateral agreements of importance for the Sava River Basin in the light of the Article 29 paragraph 3 of the FASRB:

- Bilateral agreements between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Signed</th>
<th>Provisional enforcement</th>
<th>Entered into force</th>
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</table>

- Bilateral agreements between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on cooperation on protection against natural and civil disasters</td>
<td>June 1, 2001</td>
<td>June 1, 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on navigation on the navigable waterways and its marking and maintenance</td>
<td>Feb. 20, 2004</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the financing and development of the Detailed Design and conducting administrative procedures for environmental impact assessment and obtaining location permits, approval and construction permits for the project “Rehabilitation and modernization of the Sava River waterway from Račinovci to Sisak”</td>
<td>December 1, 2010</td>
<td>December 1, 2010</td>
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- Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia

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- Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro

<table>
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</table>

- Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro

<table>
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<th>Provisional enforcement</th>
<th>Entered into force</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Montenegro on cooperation on protection against natural and civil disasters</td>
<td>Oct. 4, 2010</td>
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ANNEX VI

Organizations (authorities and bodies) competent for realization of the *FASRB*
## List of the national authorities of the Parties officially notified for implementation of the FASRB under the Article 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Competent national authorities</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Ministry of communications and transport of B&amp;H</td>
<td>Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1, 71000 Sarajevo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of foreign trade and economic relations of B&amp;H</td>
<td>Musala 9, 71000 Sarajevo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banjaluka</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management</td>
<td>Maršala Tita 15, 71000 Sarajevo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry of traffic and communications of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banjaluka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal ministry of traffic and communications</td>
<td>Braće Fejića, 88000 Mostar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of spatial planning, civil engineering and ecology of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banjaluka</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal ministry of environment and tourism</td>
<td>Alipašina 41, 71000 Sarajevo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government of the District Brčko B&amp;H</td>
<td>Bulevar mira 1, 76100 Brčko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Croatia</td>
<td>Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure</td>
<td>Prisavlje 14, 10000 Zagreb</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of regional development, forestry and water management</td>
<td>Baboničeva 121, 10000 Zagreb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Serbia</td>
<td>Ministry of agriculture, trade, forestry and water management</td>
<td>Bulevar umetnosti 2a, 11070 Novi Beograd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of environment, mining and spatial planning</td>
<td>Omladinskih brigada 1, 11070 Novi Beograd</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry for infrastructure and energy</td>
<td>Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Beograd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry of foreign affairs</td>
<td>Kneza Miloša 24-26, 11000 Beograd</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of foreign affairs</td>
<td>Prešernova cesta 25, 1001 Ljubljana, P.P. 481</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry of environment and spatial planning</td>
<td>Dunajska cesta 48, 1000 Ljubljana</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry of economy</td>
<td>Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of transport</td>
<td>Langošova ulica 4, 1535 Ljubljana</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Government office for local self-government and regional policy</td>
<td>Kotnikova 28, 1000 Ljubljana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government office</td>
<td>Gregorčičeva 25,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
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<td><strong>ADN</strong></td>
<td>European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AEWS</strong></td>
<td>Accident Emergency Warning System</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AIS</strong></td>
<td>Automatic Identification System</td>
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<td><strong>BA or B&amp;H</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CCNR</strong></td>
<td>Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CEVNI</strong></td>
<td>European Code for Inland Navigation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DC</strong></td>
<td>Danube Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DG ENV</strong></td>
<td>Directorate General of the EC for Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DG MOVE</strong></td>
<td>Directorate General of the EC for Mobility and Transport</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DU</strong></td>
<td>Decision Unit</td>
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<td><strong>EBRD</strong></td>
<td>European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</td>
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<td><strong>EC</strong></td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<td><strong>EIB</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EU FP7</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EU WFD</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FAP</strong></td>
<td>Flood Action Plan</td>
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<td><strong>GWP</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GWP-Med</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HBC</strong></td>
<td>Hellenic Bottling Company</td>
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<td><strong>HR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ICPDR</strong></td>
<td>International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River</td>
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<td><strong>ICPR</strong></td>
<td>International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine</td>
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<td><strong>IFI</strong></td>
<td>International Financial Institution</td>
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<td><strong>IPA</strong></td>
<td>Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance</td>
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<td><strong>ME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PIAC</strong></td>
<td>Principal International Alert Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>REC</td>
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<td>Republic of Serbia</td>
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<td>Sediment Network</td>
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