



Doc. No: 1S-9-M-08-1/1-2

REPORT
from the IX Special Session
of the International Sava River Basin Commission

April 07-08, 2008
Zagreb

I Attendance

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the IX Special Session in Zagreb, on April 07-08, 2008. Representatives of the State Parties to the FASRB - members and deputy members of the Sava Commission attended the Session: Mr. Kemal Karkin (B&H) – Chairman, Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member, Mr. Aleksander Čičerov (Slovenia) – Deputy Member, Mr. Branko Bačić (Croatia) – Member, Ms. Ružica Drmić (Croatia) – Deputy Member, Mr. Dušan Pajkić (Serbia) – Deputy Member.

Mr. Janko Brnardić (Cro), Mr. Željko Ostojić (Cro), Mr. Nenad Mikulić (Cro) and Mr. Igor Lakota (Slo) attended the Session as experts.

Ms. Irma Popović (NGO “Green Action” Croatia) and Mr. Milan Vogrin (Danube Environmental Forum-DEF) attended the Session as observers, Mr. Phillip Weller, Mr. Milan Dacić (Republic Hydrometeorological Service, Serbia), Mr. Tioslav Petković (Republic Hydrometeorological Service, Serbia), Mr. Ivan Čačić (Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Croatia), Mr. Dušan Trninić (Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Croatia), Mr. Krešo Pandžić (Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Croatia) and Mr. Silvo Žlebir (Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia) attended the Session as guests.

II Chairmanship

Mr. Kemal Karkin, the Chairman (Bosnia and Herzegovina), chaired the Session.

III Adoption of the agenda

AD. 1 – Adoption of the agenda

Conclusion:

1. The agenda (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-1/2-3) is adopted as follows:

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC**
- 3. Annual Report on Work and Activities of the ISRBC for the Period April 01, 2007 – March 31, 2008**
- 4. Implementation of the FASRB**
 - 4.1. Water Management issues**
 - 4.1.1. Report on realization of the Work Plan for 2007
 - 4.1.2. Report on the activities performed within the period between the two Sessions of the ISRBC and other issues
 - 4.1.3. Work of the PEG for River Basin Management
 - 4.1.4. Work of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control
 - 4.1.5. Work of the PEG for Flood Prevention
 - 4.2. Navigation issues**
 - 4.2.1. Report on realization of the Work Plan for 2007
 - 4.2.2. Report on the activities performed within the period between the two Sessions of the ISRBC and other issues
 - 4.2.3. Work of the PEG for Navigation
 - 4.2.4. Work of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation
 - 4.2.5. Documents related to Navigation
 - 4.3. Establishment of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues**
 - 4.4. Information Management issues**
 - 4.4.1. Work of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for GIS
 - 4.5. Proposal of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for 2008**
 - 4.6. Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin**
 - 4.7. Organization of the Workshop for presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB and the Draft GIS Strategy for the Sava River Basin**
 - 4.8. Organization of the Sava Day 2008**
- 5. Internal issues (closed session)**

6. Other business
7. Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC
8. Adoption of the Report from the Session

IV Conclusions

AD. 2 – Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC

Conclusions:

1. *The Report of the IV Regular Session of the Sava Commission is adopted in written procedure.*
2. *In regard to the conclusions 3.6.3.(1) – related to outstanding nominations of the members/deputy members to certain Permanent Expert Groups and 3.6.4.(1) – related to nomination of the member to the Ad hoc Legal Expert Group from Bosnia and Herzegovina from the IV Regular Session, the Sava Commission urged their realization.*
3. *The Sava Commission took note that the Decision – 9/08 on establishment of the Ad-hoc Financial Expert Group was adopted in written procedure on March 28th 2008.*
4. *The Sava Commission took note that the Decision – 10/08 on nomination of the Screening Committee, which shall, on behalf of the Sava Commission, examine applications of the candidates for the position of the Advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission and, thereof, inform the Sava Commission about the results, was adopted in written procedure on March 18th 2008.*
5. *The Sava Commission took note that the Decision – 11/08 on use of the Reserve fund assets for covering the costs related to organization of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin was adopted in written procedure on March 31st 2008.*
6. *The Sava Commission took note that the Decision – 12/08 on use of the Reserve fund assets for covering the costs of translation of the documents related to navigation passed on the VIII Special Session was adopted in written procedure on March 31st 2008.*
7. *The Sava Commission took note that the Decision – 13/08 on adoption of the Rules on Procurement Procedures was adopted in written procedure on March 27th 2008.*
8. *The Sava Commission took note that the Decision – 14/08 on Procedure related to engagement of the Advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission, was adopted in written procedure on March 27th 2008.*

9. *The Sava Commission took note on Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-2/1-3) presented by Mr. Komatina.*

AD. 3 – Annual Report on Work and Activities of the ISRBC for the Period April 01, 2007 – March 31, 2008

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on Draft Annual Report on Work and Activities of the ISRBC for the period April 01, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-3/1-3). The Secretariat shall revise the Annual Report in terms of summarizing its content and take care of its timely distribution.*

AD. 4 – Implementation of the FASRB

4.1 Water Management issues

4.1.1 Report on realization of the Work Plan for 2007

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on Report on realization of the Work Plan in the field of Water Management for 2007 (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-4/1-3).*
2. *The members of the Sava Commission and the Secretariat shall contact the relevant authorities in B&H and Serbia to present the importance of the establishment of PIAC centers, which should be operational 24 hours a day.*

4.1.2 Report on the activities performed within the period between the two Sessions of the ISRBC and other issues

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities performed within the period between the two Sessions of the ISRBC and other issues (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-5/1-3).*
2. *All documents and proposals of the Secretariat related to realization of the grant in amount of 300,000.00 EUR within the EC Technical assistance in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan shall be timely delivered to the representatives of the Sava Commission.*
3. *The Sava Commission shall organize the meeting with the representatives of the ministries of the member countries relevant for preparation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan to be held as soon as possible.*

4. *In regard to the Project “Development and Upgrade of the Hydro-meteorological Information and Forecasting System for the Sava River Basin”, following was concluded:*
- *The representatives of the national Hydro-Meteorological Services (NHMSs) should be involved in work of the future Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues;*
 - *The Sava Commission supported the idea of publication of a Hydrological Almanac for the Sava River Basin, starting with next year. The concept of the Hydrological Almanac will be prepared by the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues and proposed to the Sava Commission for adoption;*
 - *The Sava Commission supported the idea of the Sava Project, as the Project goals correspond to the objectives related to monitoring and forecasting under the “Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB”, which should also involve the climate change adaptation issues;*
 - *The issue of cooperation between the Sava Commission and the NHMSs within the Sava Project implementation phase should be discussed in due course.*
5. *The Sava Commission accepted the Terms of Reference for Preparation of the Sava River Basin Hydrology Report as set out in Doc No. 1S-9-O-08-28/1-3.*

4.1.3 Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities of the PEG for River Basin Management since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-6/1-3).*
2. *The Sava Commission accepted the Reports from the 6th Meeting of the PEG RBM (Doc. No. 3-07-27/3-2-PEG.1) and the 7th Meeting of the PEG RBM (Doc. No. 3-08-3/5-2-PEG.1).*
3. *The Sava Commission took note on draft Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for financial year 2008. Thereof, the Sava Commission passed Decision 15/08 on approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-29/1-3.*

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 15/08

- ❖ **On approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-29/1-3. The Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group**

for River Basin Management for financial year 2008 is attached to this decision as its integral part.

4.1.4 Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control (APC) since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-7/1-3).**
- 2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 6th Meeting of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control (Doc. No. 4-08-3/1-2-PEG.2).**
- 3. The Sava Commission took note on draft Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control for financial year 2008 and suggested its improvement in line with the form of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for financial year 2008. Thereof, the Sava Commission passed Decision 16/08 on approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control for financial year 2008 as amended and set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-30/1-3.**

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 16/08

- ❖ On approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-30/1-3. The Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control for financial year 2008 is attached to this decision as its integral part.**

4.1.5 Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities of the PEG for Flood Prevention since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-8/1-3).**
- 2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 4th Meeting of the PEG for Flood Prevention (Doc. No. 3-07-21/6-2-PEG.3).**
- 3. The Sava Commission took note on draft Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention for financial year 2008. Thereof, the Sava Commission passed Decision 17/08 on approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-31/1-3.**

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 17/08

- ❖ **On approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-31/1-3. The Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention for financial year 2008 is attached to this decision as its integral part.**

4.2 Navigation issues

4.2.1 Report on realization of the Work Plan for 2007

Conclusion:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Report on realization of the Work Plan in the field of Navigation for 2007 (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-9/1-3).**

4.2.2 Report on the activities performed within the period between the two Sessions of the ISRBC and other issues

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities performed within the period between the two Sessions of the ISRBC and other issues (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-10/1-3).**
- 2. The Sava Commission shall organize the meeting with the representatives of the competent ministries of transport of the member countries to be held as soon as possible, at latest by end of June 2008.**
- 3. In terms of continuation of the activities on Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation on the Sava River, the Secretariat shall prepare the application required under the Infrastructure Projects Facility Program of the European Commission in order to apply for financial assets for development of the detailed design.**

4.2.3 Work of the PEG for Navigation

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities of the PEG for Navigation since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-11/1-3).**
- 2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 6th Meeting of the PEG for Flood Prevention (Doc. No. 2-08-2/01-2-PEG.4).**
- 3. The Sava Commission took note on draft Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation for financial year 2008 and suggested its improvement in line with the form of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management for financial year 2008. Thereof, the Sava Commission passed Decision 18/08 on approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation for financial year 2008 as amended and set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-32/1-3.**

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 18/08

- ❖ On approval of the Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-32/1-3. The Programme of Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation for financial year 2008 is attached to this decision as its integral part.

4.2.4 Work of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on Report on the activities of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-12/1-3).*
2. *The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 1st Meeting of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation (Doc. No. 2-08-1/3-2-ACEG.1).*

4.2.5 Documents related to Navigation

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on draft Classification of the Sava River Waterway. Thereof, the Sava Commission passed Decision 19/08 on adoption of the Classification of the Sava River Waterway as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-13/1-3.*
2. *The Secretariat shall prepare the amendment of the Marking Plan on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2008 in accordance with the inputs from the competent authorities of the member countries and the agreement related to new river kilometers positioning.*

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 19/08

- ❖ On adoption of the Classification of the Sava River Waterway as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-13/1-3. The Classification of the Sava River Waterway is attached to this decision as its integral part.

4.3 Establishment of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues

Conclusion:

1. *The Sava Commission took note on Proposal related to establishment of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-17/1-3. Thereof, the Sava Commission*

supported the establishment of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues and nomination of the members to the expert group by May 1st 2008.

4.4 Information Management issues

4.4.1 Work of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission passed Decision 20/08 on adoption of the amended Terms of Reference of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS as set out in Doc. No. 1S-8-O-07-32/2-3.**
- 2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 1st Meeting of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS (Doc. No. 3-07-27/6-2-GIS_EG).**

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 20/08

- ❖ On adoption of the amended Terms of Reference of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS as set out in Doc. No. 1S-8-O-07-32/2-3. The Terms of Reference of the Ad-hoc Expert Group for GIS is attached to this decision as its integral part.**

4.5 Proposal of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for 2008

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on draft Work Plan of the Sava Commission for financial year 2008. Thereof, the Sava Commission passed the Decision 21/08 on adoption of the Work Plan of the Sava Commission for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-14/1-3. The Sava Commission stressed that the Secretariat should, within the realization of the Work Plan for financial year 2008, take care of the priority issues in its implementation.**
- 2. The Ad-hoc Expert Groups of the Sava Commission having long-term tasks shall develop their annual Programmes of Work and submit them for adoption to the Sava Commission.**
- 3. In regard to the draft Protocol on transboundary impacts, the Sava Commission concluded that the Ad-hoc Legal Expert Group should reconsider the text of the draft protocol after the Meeting related to signing of the Multilateral Agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to be held in Bucharest on May 20-21, 2008.**

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 21/08

- ❖ **On adoption of the Work Plan of the Sava Commission for financial year 2008 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-14/1-3. The Work Plan of the Sava Commission for financial year 2008 is attached to this decision as its integral part.**

4.6 Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Summary of follow-up on Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-14/1-3).**
- 2. The Sava Commission supported the participation of Mr. Karkin, in function of the Chairman of the Sava Commission and for purpose of official representation of the Sava Commission, on the Working meeting of the representatives of the Danube Commission, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the International Sava River Basin Commission to be held on April 14, 2008 in Budapest (Hungary). Thereof, the Sava Commission passed Decision 22/08 on covering the costs to the Chairman of the Sava Commission, Mr. Kemal Karkin, for representing the Sava Commission on the Working meeting of the representatives of the Danube Commission, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the International Sava River Basin Commission to be held on April 14, 2008 in Budapest (Hungary) exclusively in function of official representative of the Sava Commission.**

These costs are approved since the participation on the said Working meeting is of benefit for the functioning of the Sava Commission and such costs are not covered by the state of origin or the host of the event.

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 22/08

- ❖ **On covering the costs to the Chairman of the Sava Commission, Mr. Kemal Karkin, for representing the Sava Commission on the Working meeting of the representatives of the Danube Commission, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the International Sava River Basin Commission to be held on April 14, 2008 in Budapest (Hungary) exclusively in function of official representative of the Sava Commission.**

These costs are approved since the participation on the said Working meeting is of benefit for the functioning of the Sava Commission and such costs are not covered by the state of origin or the host of the event.

4.7 Organization of the Workshop for presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB and the Draft GIS Strategy for the Sava River Basin

Conclusion:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on Proposal related to Organization of the Workshop for presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-15/1-3). Thereof, the Sava Commission accepted the Proposal related to Organization of the Workshop for presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB as amended and set out in Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-15/2-3.**

4.8 Organization of the Sava Day 2008

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on and accepted the Proposal of activities under the organization of the Sava Day 2008 (Doc. No. 1S-9-O-08-16/1-3). The possible costs related to the proposed activities shall be timely delivered to and considered by the Sava Commission and, thereof, approved in written procedure.**
- 2. The Secretariat shall contact the institutions responsible for implementation of the FASRB in order to investigate their possible engagement in distribution of the promotion material of the Sava Commission, which will directly impact to organization of this activity.**
- 3. The Sava Commission concluded that the Sava Commission's bulletin should be titled as "SAVA NewsFlash" and that the first issue will be published in English/Bosnian version.**

AD. 5 – Internal issues (closed session)

AD. 6 – Other Business

Conclusion:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note on information presented by Mr. Bricelj related to future representation of the Sava Commission on closely related events especially in regard to presentation of the Conclusions passed on the International Roundtable "Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in South-Eastern Europe", which was held within the "Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process" in Brdo (Slovenia), with aim to enhance the cooperation in sustainable management of transboundary karst aquifers on the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on biodiversity to be held on May 17-30 2008 in Bonn (Germany).**

AD. 7 – Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the Sava Commission

Conclusion:

- 1. The term of the next Session of the Sava Commission will lean on celebration of the Sava Day 2008.***

AD. 8 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

- 1. The Sava Commission adopted the Report from the IX Special Session of the Sava Commission.***