REPORT
from the 11th Special Session
of the International Sava River Basin Commission

Held on July 15-16, 2008 and continued on October 14, 2008

Zagreb

I Attendance

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the 11th Special Session in Zagreb, on July 15-16, 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 Savo Gluvić (B&H) – Deputy Member, Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member, Mr. Aleksander Čičerov (Slovenia) – Deputy Member, Mr. Branko Bačić (Croatia) – Member, Ms. Ružica Drmić (Croatia) – Deputy Member.

Mr. Željko Ostojić (Cro) and Ms. Marina Ivica-Matkovac (Cro) attended the Session as experts.

Mr. Miroslav Kukobat (Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo, B&H), Mr. Rade Stefanović (Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Zagreb), Mr. Velizar Vojnović (Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of the Republic of Montenegro) and Mr. Miodrag Radunović (Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of the Republic of Montenegro) attended the Session as guests.

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the continuation of the 11th Special Session in Zagreb, on October 14, 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. Savo Gluvić (BiH) – Deputy Member, Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member, Mr. Branko Bačić (Croatia) – Member, Mr. Miladin Avramov (Serbia) – Deputy Member.

Mr. Željko Ostojić (Cro), Ms. Marina Ivica-Matkovac (Cro), Mr. Igor Lakota (Slo) and Mr. Robert Kojc (Slo) attended the Session as experts, and Ms. Irma Popović (NGO Green Action Croatia) attended the Session as the observer.
II Chairmanship

Mr. Kemal Karkin, the Chairman (Bosnia and Herzegovina), chaired the Session on July 15-16, 2008, and Mr. Branko Bačić (Croatia) took over the presiding over Session on October 14, 2008, when the chairmanship rotation was officially verified.

III Procedural issues

Conclusions (July 15-16, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission members attending the Session established that nor the member neither the deputy member of the Republic of Serbia are present;

2. The Sava Commission members attending the Session agreed to proceed with the XI Special Session in context of processing and discussing the materials of the Session but all conclusions and decisions would be passed on the continuation of the Session, when presence of all delegations is ensured.

IV Adoption of the agenda

AD. 1 – Adoption of the agenda

Conclusion:

1. The agenda (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-1/3-2) is adopted as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Rotation of Chairmanship of the ISRBC

3. Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC

4. Summary Report from the Workshop for Presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB


5.1 Water Management issues

5.1.1 Work of the PEG for River Basin Management

5.1.2 Work of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control

5.1.3 Work of the PEG for Flood Prevention

5.2 Navigation issues

5.2.1 Work of the PEG for Navigation

5.2.2 Amendments and changes of the Marking Plan for 2008

5.2.3 Information on the project “Project documentation for the rehabilitation of the Sava river waterway (section Račinovci – Sisak)“ – IPA 2008

5.2.4 Establishment of the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group

5.3 Protocols to the FASRB
5.4 Promotion activities
5.4.1 Sava Day 2008
5.4.2 Promotion material
5.4.3 Plan of PR activities for 2008/2009

5.5 Templates for collection of data related to implementation of the FASRB

5.6 Nominations of members and deputy members to the expert groups

6 Internal issues (closed session)

7. Other business

7.1 Information on planning of the dam and the hydropower plant on the Sava river at Kupinovo (Serbia)

7.2 Establishment of the Sava Water Partnership

7.3 Organization of the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB

7.4 Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Danube Commission and the ISRBC

7.5 Presentation of the redesigned web-site of the ISRBC

8. Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC

9. Adoption of the Report from the Session

V Conclusions

AD. 2 – Rotation of Chairmanship of the ISRBC

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):

1. In line with Article 2 paragraph 3 of the Annex I to the FASRB (Statute of the ISRBC), the Sava Commission declared rotation of the Chairmanship of the ISRBC, meaning that the new Chairman is Mr. Branko Bačić, member of the Sava Commission from the Republic of Croatia, and the Vice-chairman is Mr. Aleksandar Prodanović, member of the Sava Commission from the Republic of Serbia.

AD. 3 – Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Sessions of the ISRBC

Conclusions:


2. – July 15-16, 2008 – In regard to realization of the conclusion 4.1.2.(3) from the IX Special Session – related to organization of the meetings with the representatives of the ministries of the member countries relevant for preparation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan, the Sava Commission concluded that the Secretariat should prepare a proposal of the meetings to be organized in each country and agreed that the PEG RBM members should participate in the meetings, jointly
with the ISRBC members and representatives of the Secretariat. The ISRBC members shall endeavor to provide the best possible representation from the respective bodies of all countries.

3. – July 15-16, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note that the Decision 33/08 on placing the assets on a time deposit was adopted in written procedure on July 7th 2008.

4. – July 15-16, 2008 – In regard to realization of the conclusion 3.2.(2) from the X Special Session – related to development of draft project proposal for preparation of the Master Plan for Tourism Development in the Sava River Basin, the Sava Commission concluded that the Secretariat should prepare a Development Plan for realization of that project and deliver it to the Sava Commission.

5. – July 15-16, 2008 – In future, the Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Session of the ISRBC should cover all outstanding decisions and conclusions from all previous sessions of the Sava Commission.

6. – October 14, 2008 – 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-11-O-08-2/2-2) presented by Mr. Komatina.

7. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note that the Decision 34/08 on Use of the Reserve Fund for preparation of the Hydrology Report for the Sava River Basin Analysis was adopted in written procedure on September 24th 2008.

AD. 4 – Summary Report from the Workshop for Presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB

Conclusions:

1. – July 15-16, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on Summary Report from the Workshop for Presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-3/1-2) presented by Mr. Komatina. Thereof, the Sava Commission concluded that the Secretariat should prepare the final version of the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB to be adopted by the Sava Commission.

2. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission passed the Decision No. 35/08 on adoption of the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB as set out in Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-18/2-2.


The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 35/08

On
Adoption of the Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB as set out in Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-18/2-2. The Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB is attached to this decision as its integral part.

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 36/08

On

Adoption of the Geographic Information System Strategy for the Sava River Basin as set out in Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-19/1-2. The Geographic Information System Strategy for the Sava River Basin is attached to this decision as its integral part.

AD. 5 – Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for 2008 – Status Report

Conclusions:


3. – July 15-16, 2008 – In regard to possible applications for the SEE Transnational Programme, the Secretariat shall take into account the conclusion 3.1.(2) from the X Special Session and deliver detailed information on determination of the role of the Sava Commission as a partner and its financial liabilities.


5. – July 15-16, 2008 – Translations of all Decisions passed by the Sava Commission in the field of navigation shall be titled as the translations of the Sava Commission.

6. – July 15-16, 2008 – The Sava Commission supports the development of the Study on RIS implementation in the Sava River Basin. The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the competent authorities of the Parties, continue with all necessary activities for the project realization and regularly inform the Sava Commission about the project development.

7. – July 15-16, 2008 – In regard to the Project proposal for sustainable development of tourism in the regions Po, Rovigno, Istria and Sava, the Sava Commission requires all available background documentation. Thereof, the Sava Commission shall make decision on its involvement in the project.

8. – October 14, 2008 – In regard to realization of the Work Plan for FY 2008 in the field of water management, the Secretariat shall specify
all outstanding issues that should be discussed on the meetings with the relevant ministries. The representatives of the Sava Commission shall also invest efforts in collection of the necessary data for realization of these activities. The Secretariat shall, in consultations with the Sava Commission representatives, develop and deliver the draft timetable for official visits to the countries as soon as possible.

9. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on preliminary information received by the European Commission stating that the Project “Technical Assistance for the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan” had been approved for financing.

10. – October 14, 2008 – The Secretariat shall deliver all background information on grant provided by the Swedish Government for financing a specific section of the project “Technical Assistance for the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan”.

11. – October 14, 2008 – The Secretariat shall contact all institutions included in the project “Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin” (WACOSS project), and, thereof, inform the Sava Commission of the financing mechanisms of the project.

12. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on information related to “Technical Assistance in the preparation and implementation of the Economic Elements of the Sava River Basin Analysis” and agreed that the Secretariat should deliver all written information to the Sava Commission.

13. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on information related to organization of the Workshop “Environmentally Sustainable Management and Maintenance of the Inland Waterways” to be held in Belgrade on October 21st 2008, and agreed that, thereof, the Sava Commission would be represented by members of the Sava Commission from the Republic of Serbia.
5.1 Water Management issues

5.1.1 Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management

Conclusions:
1. – July 15-16, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on Summary of activities of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-5/1-2).
2. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 8th Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (Doc. No. 3-08-10/3-2-PEG.1).

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

Conclusions (July 15-16, 2008):
1. The Sava Commission took note on Summary of activities of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control (APC) since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-6/1-2).
2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 7th Meeting of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control (Doc. No. 4-08-6/1-2-PEG.2).

5.1.3 Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention

Conclusions (July 15-16, 2008):
1. The Sava Commission took note on Summary of activities of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-7/1-2).
2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 6th Meeting of the PEG for Flood Prevention (Doc. No. 3-08-1/3-2-PEG.3).

5.2 Navigation issues

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):
1. The Sava Commission took note on information related to Activities and Timeframe for Development of the Master Plan – Nautical Tourism in the Sava River Basin (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-30/1-2), and thereof, concluded that the Secretariat should:
   ☐ Develop the Project fiche for the Master Plan – Nautical Tourism in the Sava River Basin in December 2008,
   ☐ Identify the Competent Authorities in the Parties and distribute the project fiche, and organize the meeting of the representatives of the Competent Authorities and the Sava Commission in period Jan – Mar 2009.

5.2.1 Work of the PEG for Navigation

Conclusions (July 15-16, 2008):
1. The Sava Commission took note on Summary of activities of the PEG for Navigation since the previous session of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 18-11-08-10/1-2).

2. The Sava Commission accepted the Report from the 7th Meeting of the PEG for Navigation (Doc. No. 2-08-2/10-2-PDG.4).

3. In regard to the Terms of Reference for Detailed Design for the Waterway Marking System on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries, the Sava Commission recommends that all countries prepare a project documentation in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

5.2.2 Amendments and changes of the Marking Plan for 2008

**Conclusion (October 14, 2008):**


The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

**DECISION – 37/08**

On Amendments to the Decision 29/07 on Adoption of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and its navigable tributaries for year 2008

- Text of the Amendments to the Decision 29/07 on adoption of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and Its navigable Tributaries for Year 2008 and Consolidated text of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and Its navigable Tributaries for Year 2008 are attached to this Decision as its integral parts.

- Parties shall adopt the measures necessary to implement this Decision and notify the Sava Commission.

- This Decision shall be binding for the Parties unless any of the Sava Commission members withdraws his vote within 30 days after the decision has been adopted, or informs the Sava Commission that the Decision is subject to the approval of the relevant authority of his State.

- If any of the Sava Commission members withdraws his vote within 30 days after the decision has been adopted, or informs the Sava Commission that the Decision is subject to the approval of the relevant authority of his State, the Sava Commission Secretariat shall, thereof, inform all other Sava Commission members.

- If no member withdraws his vote nor informs the Sava Commission that the Decision is subject to the approval of the relevant authority of his State, the Decision shall enter into force on November 14th, 2008.

- Upon entry into force, this Decision shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Parties.

- The Sava Commission Secretariat shall notify the Parties of the entry into force of the Decision.
5.2.3 Information on the project “Project documentation for the rehabilitation of the Sava river waterway (section Račinovci – Sisak)” – IPA 2008

Conclusions (October 14, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission took note on Information on the project “Project documentation for the rehabilitation of the Sava river waterway (section Račinovci – Sisak)” under the IPA Fund 2008, and thereof, supported the activities of the Republic of Croatia on development of the detailed design of the Sava river waterway (section Račinovci-Sisak).

The Sava Commission supports the establishment of the Expert Group for monitoring and coordination of the project “Project documentation for rehabilitation of the Sava river waterway (section Račinovci–Sisak)” under IPA Fund 2008, and, for that purpose, the Secretariat shall nominate a member to the expert group.

2. The Sava Commission recommends to the competent authorities of the Sava countries to take into account results of all relevant studies and documents in further activities relating to rehabilitation and development of the Sava River waterway.

5.2.4 Establishment of the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission reconsidered the Proposal on establishment of the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-21/1-2) and draft Terms of Reference of the expert group (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-22/1-2), which should be amended in section 6. Tasks – item related to Program of Work. Thereof, the Sava Commission agreed to establish the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group and that deadline for nomination of members and deputy members of the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group would be November 15th, 2008.

The Decision on establishment of the Ad-hoc RIS Expert Group shall be passed in written procedure.

5.3 Protocols to the FASRB

Conclusions (October 14, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission passed Decision 38/08 on establishment of the Task Group for further preparation of the draft Protocol on Sustainable Sediment Management composed of the members nominated by the countries and the Secretariat officials.

2. The Sava Commission shall urgently reconsider the delivered draft text of the Protocol on Prevention of the Water Pollution caused by Navigation by November 1st, 2008. Following the confirmation of the draft text of the protocol, the Sava Commission shall, hereof, pass the decision in written procedure, and the latter shall be delivered to the Parties for further reconsideration.
The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted following

DECISION – 38/08

On

❖ Establishment of the Task Group for further preparation of the draft Protocol on Sustainable Sediment Management composed of the members nominated by the countries.

Members of the Task Group for further preparation of the draft Protocol on Sustainable Sediment Management are:

1. From the Secretariat of the Sava Commission:
   – Mr. Samo Grošelj, as the Chairman of the task group
   – Ms. Janja Zlatić-Jugović, as the chairman assistant
   – Mr. Dragan Zeljko
   – Mr. Željko Milković
   – Ms. Melita Žižanović-Dakić
2. From Bosnia and Herzegovina:
   – Mr. Aziz Čomor
   – Mr. Slobodan Marilović
3. From Republic of Croatia:
   – Mr. Ilija Čisić
   – Mr. Dragutin Jelovečki;
4. From Republic of Serbia:
   – Mr. Marina Babić-Mladenović
   – Mr. Darko Janjić
5. From Republic of Slovenia:
   – Ms. Vesna Metelko-Skutnik
   – Ms. Jasna Grbovič
   – Mr. Matjaž Mikoš.

5.4 Promotion activities

5.4.1 Sava Day 2008

Conclusion (July 15-16, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission took note on Summary Report on celebration of Sava Day 2008 (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-12/2-2). The Sava Commission stressed that the overall PR activities of the Sava related events should be better organized in future.

5.4.2 Promotion material

Conclusion (July 15-16, 2008):


5.4.3 Plan of PR activities for 2008/2009

Conclusion (July 15-16, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission took note on Proposal of the promotion activities of the Sava Commission (Doc. No. 1S-11-O-08-14/1-2). The
Secretariat shall further develop the Proposal of the promotion activities taking into account the on-the-session discussion and deliver it to the Sava Commission.

5.5 Templates for collection of data related to implementation of the FASRB

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):


If required by the Sava Commission members and deputy members, the Guidelines for preparation of the Country Report on Implementation of the FASRB and associated templates for data collection would also be delivered to the authorities responsible for implementation of the FASRB.

5.6 Nominations of members and deputy members to the expert groups

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission members stated that pending nominations of members and deputy members to the expert groups should be delivered as soon as possible. All necessary decisions shall be passed in written procedure.

AD. 6 – Internal issues (closed session)

AD. 7 – Other Business

Conclusions:


2. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on information presented by Mr. Branko Bačić related to conversation with representatives of the FYR Macedonia in regard to the observer status of the FYR Macedonia at the Sava Commission. The Sava Commission supports such incentives and recommends that the representatives of FYR Macedonia directly contact the Sava Commission for further instructions.

3. – October 14, 2008 – The Sava Commission took note on information presented by Mr. Bitja Bricelj related to Capacity Building Workshop on Sustainable use of Aquifers in Dinaric Arc to be held on December 02-04, 2008 in Postojna (Slovenia) under the Petersberg process.
7.1 Information on planning of the dam and the hydropower plant on the Sava river at Kupinovo (Serbia)

**Conclusion (October 14, 2008):**

1. In regard to Request of the “Wellbury Infrastrukturberatungsgesellschaft mbH” related to the Project on construction of the Hydropower Plant on the Sava River in Kupinovo, the Sava Commission reconsidered and agreed with the response prepared by the Secretariat.

7.2 Establishment of the Sava Water Partnership

**Conclusion (October 14, 2008):**

1. The Sava Commission reconsidered the proposal of the Secretariat related to establishment of the Sava Water Partnership and supported the engagement of Secretariat in realization of first two activities under the proposed Plan of Activities for establishment of Sava Water Partnership. Thereof, the Sava Commission shall decide on next activities in this light, including the need to organize the Workshop specified under the activity two contained under the table of the Plan of Activities.

7.3 Organization of the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB

**Conclusions (October 14, 2008):**

1. The Sava Commission stated that 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB would be tentatively held on June 1st 2009 in Belgrade (Serbia).
2. The Sava Commission concluded to establish the Organizational Board, and agreed that the Republic of Serbia would nominate three members, and all other countries would nominate one member to the Organizational Board by November 15th 2008.
3. The Secretariat shall prepare the draft agenda and program of work for the 2nd Meeting of the Parties, and deliver it to the Sava Commission for the next session.

7.4 Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Danube Commission and the ISRBC

**Conclusions (October 14, 2008):**

1. The Sava Commission accepted the draft Memo of Understanding on Cooperation between the Danube Commission and the ISRBC amended by the Secretariat.
2. The amended draft Memo of Understanding on Cooperation between the Danube Commission and the ISRBC will be delivered to the Secretariat of the Danube Commission for further negotiations.
7.5 Presentation of the redesigned web-site of the ISRBC

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission took note on presentation related to redesigned website of the Sava Commission.

AD. 8 – Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the Sava Commission

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):

1. Next Session of the Sava Commission will be tentatively held on January 27-28, 2009, with following tentative agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Sessions of the ISRBC
   3.1 Water Management issues
   3.2 Navigation issues
   3.3 Protocols to the FASRB
   3.4 Promotion activities
4. Adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for 2009
5. Internal issues
   5.1 Financial issues
      5.1.1 Status of regular contributions and other funds
      5.1.2 Adoption of the Budget for FY 2009
      5.1.3 Proposal on the use of the Reserve Fund
   5.2 Legal issues
      5.2.1 Work of the Ad-hoc Legal Expert Group
   5.3 Other internal issues
6. Other business
7. Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC
8. Adoption of the Report from the Session

AD. 9 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion (October 14, 2008):

1. The Sava Commission adopted the Report from the 11th Special Session.