



Doc. No: 1S-33-M-13-1/1-3

REPORT
from the 33rd Session
of the International Sava River Basin Commission

October 9-10, 2013
Zagreb

I Attendance

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the 33rd Session (as a special session) in Zagreb, on October 9-10, 2013. The following representatives of the Parties to the FASRB – members and deputy members of the ISRBC, attended the Session: Mr. Savo Gluvić (B&H) – Deputy Member, Miodrag Pješčić (Serbia) – Member and Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member. Ms. Marina Ivica Matkovic attended the Session as the representative of the Republic of Croatia.

Mr. Boško Kenjić (B&H), Ms. Marija Pinter and Ms. Sanja Genzić Jurišević (Croatia), and Ms. Dragana Milovanović (Serbia), attended the Session as experts, and Ms. Irma Popović-Dujmović (WWF) and Mr. Goran Gugić (Lonjsko polje), as observers.

II Chairmanship

Mr. Miodrag Pješčić (Serbia) chaired the Session.

III Adoption of the agenda

At the beginning of the Session, the ISRBC took note on the credentials received from the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia regarding the nomination of Ms. Marina Ivica Matkovic as the representative of the Republic of Croatia at the 33rd Session.

AD. 1 – Adoption of the agenda

Conclusion:

The agenda is adopted (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-1/1-3) as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda

- 2. Report on tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from the previous sessions of the ISRBC**
- 3. Recapitulation of the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB**
- 4. Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013**
 - 4.1. Water Management issues**
 - 4.1.1. Work of the PEG for River Basin Management**
 - 4.1.2. Work of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control**
 - 4.1.3. Work of the PEG for Flood Prevention**
 - 4.2. Navigation issues**
 - 4.2.1. Work of the PEG for Navigation**
 - 4.3. Cross-cutting issues**
 - 4.3.1. Information management issues**
 - 4.3.1.1. Work of the Ad-hoc EG for GIS**
 - 4.3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues**
 - 4.3.2.1. Work of the Ad-hoc EG for HM Issues**
 - 4.3.3. Statistical issues**
 - 4.3.4. Tourism development issues**
 - 4.4. Projects**
 - 4.5. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement**
 - 4.6. Promotion activities**
 - 4.6.1. Sava Day 2013**
 - 4.7. Protocols to the FASRB**
- 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 Sessions of the ISRBC

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Sessions of the ISRBC (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-2/1-3).**
- 2. The ISRBC took note that Decision 13/13 on announcement of the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime in the Secretariat of the ISRBC, was adopted in written procedure on July 24, 2013.**
- 3. The ISRBC took note on Decision 14/13 on selection of qualified candidates for the interview for the position of Advisor for protection against detrimental effects from waters and extraordinary impacts on the water regime in the Secretariat of the ISRBC, adopted in written procedure on October 7, 2013, along with previously delivered Report from the Meeting of the Screening Committee (Doc. No. 5-13-5/2-3).**

AD. 3 – Recapitulation of the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on Information on Recapitulation of the 4th Meeting of the Parties (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-3/1-2).

AD. 4 – Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013

4.1. Water Management issues

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-4/1-2) with regard to water management issues.**
- 2. The ISRBC representatives from Croatia are expected to inform the Secretariat on the status of national procedures regarding the Sava RBM Plan by the end of November 2013. If necessary, the Secretariat shall prepare a recommendation to the Parties to speed up the procedures, in order to adopt the Plan at the next Meeting of the Parties to be organized by the end of 2014.**
- 3. With regard to the Sava RBM Plan maps – geodatabase distribution, positive responses to the recommendation have been received from Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia, so far. The ISRBC members from Bosnia and Herzegovina are asked to inform the Secretariat on the standpoint of their country regarding the issue, by the end of October 2013.**
- 4. The ISRBC acknowledged the support of USACE and endorsed the 2nd phase of the project aiming to support flood management related activities of the Parties to the FASRB.**

4.1.1. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (PEG RBM)

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of the PEG RBM in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-5/1-2) and the Report from the 26th PEG RBM Meeting (Doc. No. 3-13-5/3-2).

4.1.2. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC)

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of the PEG APC in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-6/1-2).

4.1.3. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention (PEG FP)

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of the PEG FP in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-7/1-2).

4.2. Navigation issues

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-30-O-12-8/1-2) with regard to navigation issues.***
- 2. According to Conclusion 3.2.c from the 32nd Session, the ISRBC representatives from Serbia informed the Secretariat on the approval of Decision 2/13 on adoption of the Amendments to the Decision 31/07 on the Rules for Waterway Marking in the Sava River Basin. Accordingly, Decision 2/13 entered into force on October 10, 2013.***
- 3. In order to facilitate and accelerate the process of securing funding for the civil works under the project “Rehabilitation and development of navigation and transport on the Sava River”, the ISRBC agreed to consider a proposal of a decision on the method of contracting regarding the works on rehabilitation and development of the Sava river waterway. The Secretariat shall prepare a draft decision in accordance with the discussion and submit it to the ISRBC representatives within 3 days. The ISRBC representatives shall inform the Secretariat on the outcome of internal consultations and procedures within 20 days. Depending on the latter, the Secretariat shall propose next steps for the issue above.***

4.2.1. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV)

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of the PEG NAV in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-9/1-2) and the Report from the 16th PEG NAV Meeting (Doc. No. 2-13-2/13-2-PEG NAV).

4.3. Cross-cutting issues

4.3.1. Information management issues

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-10/1-2) with regard to Information Management.

4.3.1.1. Work of the Ad-hoc EG for GIS

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of the Ad-hoc GIS EG in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-11/1-2).

4.3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-12/1-2) with regard to Hydrological and meteorological issues.

4.3.2.1. Work of the Ad-hoc EG for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of the Ad-hoc HM EG in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-13/1-2) and the Report from the 8th Ad-hoc HM EG Meeting (Doc. No. 3-13-3/2-2).

4.3.3. Statistical issues

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-14/1-2) with regard to Statistical issues.

4.3.4. Tourism development issues

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-15/1-2) with regard to Tourism development issues.***
- 2. The ISRBC considered and adopted Recommendation related to Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines for the Sava river basin.***

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted the following

RECOMMENDATION – 2/13

related to

Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines for the Sava river basin

- ❖ The Sava Commission recommends the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia, to take into account the Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin in their further**

activities in the field of sustainable river tourism, particularly in the development of strategic documents and the implementation of related projects. The text of the Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin is attached to this Recommendation as its integral part.

3. *The Secretariat shall deliver to the ISRBC representatives the list of institutions/organizations involved in the implementation of the project “Promoting eco-tourism development in the Sava river basin”, as a basis to define a list of addressees for distribution of the Recommendation.*
4. *The upcoming event “Ljubljana Forum 2013” is recognized as a good opportunity for promotion of the Transboundary Guidelines.*

4.4. Projects

Conclusions:

1. *The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of projects (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-16/1-2), and its accompanying annexes:*
 - a. *Status Report*
 - b. *Draft Recommendation related to projects of high importance for sustainable development of the Sava river basin in the context of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region*
 - c. *Annex 1: Overview of the implemented and ongoing FASRB-related projects*
 - d. *Annex 2: Overview of the planned FASRB-related projects*
 - e. *Annex 3: Information on status of the project „Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava river basin“*
 - f. *Annex 4: Information on status of the project „Towards practical guidance for sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase.*
2. *The ISRBC considered and adopted Recommendation related to Projects of high importance for sustainable development of the Sava river basin in the context of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.*

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted the following

RECOMMENDATION – 3/13

related to

Projects of high importance for sustainable development of the Sava river basin in the context of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

- ❖ **The Sava Commission recommends the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia (hereinafter: Parties), to provide a continued support to development and implementation of the projects of high**

importance for sustainable development of the Sava river basin, which were agreed upon by the Parties on regional level as the priority projects of the Sava Commission (hereinafter: Priority projects).

- ❖ The Sava Commission recommends the Parties to include the Priority projects in their national programs, in order to strengthen possibilities of coordinated actions towards potential financial sources, especially the EU funds, taking into account the upcoming EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.
 - ❖ With the aim to provide conditions for implementation of as many regional projects as possible through the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the Sava Commission recommends the Parties to include the Priority projects in the ongoing activities of the national coordinators for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, as well as the representatives of the Parties in the respective priority areas of the Strategy.
 - ❖ The list of the Priority projects and an additional explanation of this Recommendation are given in the Annex I to this Recommendation – “Realization of regional projects within the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 as a basis for sustainable development in the Sava river basin”, forming its integral part.
3. *The Recommendation shall be sent to all national bodies responsible for the implementation of the FASRB, as well as the national coordinators for the EU Danube Strategy.*
 4. *The Secretariat shall propose to the competent ministry to invite a representative of the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park to future meetings to be organized in the framework of the Sava river waterway rehabilitation project (sector Brčko – Sisak). The Secretariat will provide the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park with the Inception Report on the abovementioned project, along with accompanying documents.*
 5. *In order to prepare an application for the next call within the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) based on the existing proposals of the projects No. 9, 10 and 13 from the „A list“ of the ISRBC priority projects, namely:*
 - a. *Development of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin;*
 - b. *Sustainable Operational Flood Forecasting in Real-Time and Water Resources Management, and*
 - c. *Hydrological Study for the Sava River Basin,**the Secretariat shall prepare a concept of the project proposal to be discussed at the meeting of representatives of all Parties on the preparation of the application, planned to be held in the week of 11 November 2013.*
 6. *The ISRBC recognized the forthcoming event „Ljubljana Forum 2013“ as a good opportunity to further present and promote the priority regional projects for the Sava river basin in the context of the EU Danube Strategy implementation. Therefore, an active participation of the ISRBC representatives at the event is expected.*
 7. *The ISRBC took note on the Drina Flood Protection Project planned to be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the World Bank,*

and the notification letter on the project to be sent by B&H to Croatia and Serbia shortly. The ISRBC representative from B&H requested a response of Croatia and Serbia to the notification letter.

4.5. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-17/1-2) with regard to meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement, and its accompanying annexes:

- a. **Annex 1: Report from the 4th Meeting of the Committee for monitoring and coordination of the project Rehabilitation and development of transport and navigation on the Sava river waterway (Zagreb, 22 Feb. 2013);**
- b. **Annex 2: Report from the International Conference „Sava river – A transport corridor and tourist destination“ (Belgrade, 6 March 2013);**
- c. **Annex 3: Report from the Meeting with representatives of B&H and Croatia on marking of the Sava river waterway (section from rkm 211 to Oprisavci) (Sarajevo, 21 March 2013);**
- d. **Annex 4: Report from the 3rd Stakeholder Workshop within the UNECE Sava pilot project (Zagreb, 5-6 June 2013);**
- e. **Annex 5: Report from the Workshop on the hydrological and meteorological data exchange in the Sava river basin (Zagreb, 6-7 June 2013);**
- f. **Annex 6: List of the ISRBC events in FY 2013.**

4.6. Promotion activities

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013 (1S-33-O-13-18/1-2) with regard to promotion activities.**
- 2. According to Conclusion 3.2e from the 32nd Session, the ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall inform the Secretariat on member of the Editorial Board of the Sava NewsFlash bulletin as soon as possible.**

4.6.1. Sava Day 2013

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Report on activities within the Sava Day 2013 celebration (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-19/1-2).**
- 2. The ISRBC acknowledged the International Cycling Tour “Sava 2013” as a very successful way of promoting the transboundary cooperation through the ISRBC and encouraged the organization of similar events in future as traditional ones.**

4.7. Protocols to the FASRB

Conclusions:

1. *The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2012 (Doc. No. 1S-33-O-13-20/1-2) with regard to the protocols to the FASRB.*
2. *In order to organize negotiations on final harmonization of the Protocol on Sediment Management as soon as possible:*
 - a) *The ISRBC representatives from Croatia shall inform the Secretariat on their position regarding the draft Protocol (version of October 25, 2010) as soon as possible.*
 - b) *Following the delivery of the position of Croatia to the ISRBC representatives of the other countries by the Secretariat, the ISRBC representatives of the other countries shall deliver a written confirmation of the readiness of their respective countries to participate in the negotiations.*
3. *The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall inform the Secretariat of the readiness of B&H to participate in negotiations on final harmonization of the Protocol on Emergency Situations to the FASRB, by the next session of the ISRBC.*
4. *The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall inform the Secretariat of their two representatives (one from water sector and one from environmental sector) in the task group for considering the open issues and the measures aimed at securing integrity of the water regime and the elimination or reduction of transboundary impact by the end of October 2013.*

AD. 5 – Internal issues (closed session)

AD. 6 – Other Business

Conclusions:

1. *The ISRBC took note on the information on the Third Conference on Regulation and Multipurpose Use of the Sava River, to be held in Zagreb on December 4, 2013. The ISRBC representatives shall inform the Secretariat of the possibility for the representatives of their respective countries to attend the conference and deliver a short presentation, by October 21, 2013.*
2. *For preparation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region, the ISRBC proposed to use the experience and results of the ISRBC as a possible comparative model of its functioning.*

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

Conclusion:

The 34th Session of the ISRBC will be held on February 18-19, 2014, with the 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. Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013**
 - 3.1. Water Management issues**
 - 3.2. Navigation issues**
 - 3.3. Cross-cutting issues**
 - 3.4. Projects**
 - 3.5. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement**
 - 3.6. Promotion activities**
 - 3.7. Protocols to the FASRB**
- 4. Adoption of the Work plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014**
- 5. Internal issues**
 - 5.1. Financial issues**
 - 5.2. Legal issues**
 - 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. 8 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

The ISRBC adopted the Report from the 33rd Session.