



Doc. No: 1S-34-M-14-1/1-3

**REPORT**  
**from the 34<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**of the International Sava River Basin Commission**

**February 18-19, 2014**  
**Podgorica**

**I Attendance**

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the 34<sup>th</sup> Session (as a regular session) in Podgorica, on February 18-19, 2014. The following representatives of the Parties to the FASRB – members and deputy members of the ISRBC, attended the Session: Ms. Enisa Babić (B&H) – Member (temporary), Mr. Igor Butorac (Croatia) – Member, Mr. Dražen Kurečić (Croatia) – Deputy Member, Mr. Miodrag Pješčić (Serbia) – Member, Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member.

Ms. Elizabeta Kos and Mr. Zrinko Zvocak (Croatia), Ms. Dragana Milovanović (Serbia) and Ms. Danica Lašič (Slovenia), attended the Session as experts.

The Session was also attended by Mr. Petar Ivanović, Mr. Velizar Vojinović, Ms. Dragana Đukić and Mr. Momčilo Blagojević (Montenegro), Mr. Petar Margić (Danube Commission), Mr. Ivan Zavadsky (ICPDR), Mr. Raffi Balian (US Government), Ms. Anett Zellei (US Embassy Budapest) and Ms. Nikolina Perović Filipović (US Embassy Podgorica).

**II Chairmanship**

Following the welcome address of Mr. Petar Ivanović, Minister of agriculture and rural development of Montenegro, on behalf of the host country, Mr. Miodrag Pješčić (Serbia), the Chairman of the ISRBC, chaired the Session.

**III Adoption of the agenda**

**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. Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013**
  - 3.1. Water Management issues**
    - 3.1.1. Work of the PEG for River Basin Management**
    - 3.1.2. Work of the PEG for Accident Prevention and Control**
    - 3.1.3. Work of the PEG for Flood Prevention**
  - 3.2. Navigation issues**
    - 3.2.1. Work of the PEG for Navigation**
  - 3.3. Cross-cutting issues**
    - 3.3.1. Information management issues**
      - 3.3.1.1. Work of the *Ad hoc* EG for GIS**
    - 3.3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues**
      - 3.3.2.1. Work of the *Ad hoc* EG for HM Issues**
    - 3.3.3. Statistical issues**
    - 3.3.4. Tourism development 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 (closed session)**
  - 5.1. Financial issues**
    - 5.1.1. Status of regular contributions and other funds**
    - 5.1.2. Budget of the ISRBC for FY 2014**
    - 5.1.3. Non-binding outline of the Budget for FY 2015 and FY 2016**
    - 5.1.4. Work of the *Ad hoc* EG for Financial Issues**
  - 5.2. Legal and other issues**
    - 5.2.1. Nomination of the new *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group member**
  - 5.3. Application of the NGO “Slap” for the observer status at the ISRBC**
- 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**

#### **Conclusion:**

*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-34-O-14-2/1-3).*

### **AD. 3 – Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2013**

#### **3.1. 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-34-O-14-3/1-2) with regard to water management issues.**
- 2. Regarding adoption of the Sava RBM Plan, the ISRBC concluded the following:**
  - a) The ISRBC agreed to adopt the Proposal of the Sava RBM Plan by the end of June;**
  - b) Thereafter, the Proposal will be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for endorsement;**
  - c) The ISRBC representatives shall confirm the readiness to undertake the abovementioned steps within 30 days.**
- 3. Upon confirmation of the readiness by the ISRBC:**
  - a) The Secretariat shall start activities on the organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, scheduled for mid November 2014;**
  - b) A draft document for endorsement of the Sava RBM Plan by the Meeting of the Parties shall be developed with assistance of the Ad hoc Legal Expert Group and submitted to the ISRBC for approval;**
  - c) All organizational issues for the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties shall be agreed in written procedures.**

##### **3.1.1. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (PEG RBM)**

##### **Conclusion:**

*The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of PEG RBM in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-4/1-2) and the Report from the 27<sup>th</sup> PEG RBM Meeting (Doc. No. 3-13-8/4-2).*

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

##### **Conclusion:**

*The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of PEG APC in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-5/1-2), and the Report from the 17<sup>th</sup> PEG APC Meeting (Doc. No. 4-13-1/2-2-PEG APC).*

### **3.1.3. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention (PEG FP)**

#### **Conclusion:**

*The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of PEG FP in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-6/1-2), and the Report from the 22<sup>nd</sup> PEG FP Meeting (Doc. No. 3-13-7/3-2).*

### **3.2. 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-34-O-14-7/1-2) with regard to navigation issues.*
- 2. The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia shall inform the Secretariat on the outcome of internal consultations and procedures related to the draft decision submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Conclusion 4.2.3 from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session (related to securing funding for the civil works under the project “Rehabilitation and development of navigation and transport on the Sava River”), within 20 days.*

#### **3.2.1. Decisions related to navigation**

##### **Conclusion:**

*The ISRBC considered and adopted Decision 1/14 on adoption of the Marking Plan on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2014.*

**The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted the following**

#### **DECISION – 1/14**

- ❖ On adoption of the Marking Plan on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2014.**

#### **3.2.2. Work of the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV)**

##### **Conclusion:**

*The ISRBC took note on the Summary of activities of PEG NAV in FY 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-8/1-2).*

### **3.3. Cross-cutting issues**

#### **3.3.1. 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-34-O-14-9/1-2) with regard to Information Management.*

### **3.3.1.1. 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-34-O-14-10/1-2) and the Report from the 9<sup>th</sup> Ad hoc GIS EG Meeting (Doc. No. 3-14-2/3-2).*

### **3.3.2. Hydrological and meteorological 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-34-O-14-11/1-2) with regard to Hydrological and meteorological issues.*
- 2. The ISRBC took note of the activities on drafting the “Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin”, developed with assistance of the World Meteorological Organization. Upon finalization, the draft Policy will be submitted to all permanent expert groups of the ISRBC for consideration, and subsequently to the ISRBC, for approval, before the Workshop on the HM data exchange to be held in April 2014.*

#### **3.3.2.1. 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-34-O-14-12/1-2) and the Report from the 9<sup>th</sup> Ad-hoc HM EG Meeting (Doc. No. 3-13-9/3-2).*

### **3.3.3. 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-34-O-14-13/1-2) with regard to Statistical issues.*

### **3.3.4. Tourism development 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-34-O-14-14/1-2) with regard to Tourism development issues.*

## **3.4. Projects**

#### **Conclusions:**

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of projects (Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-15/1-2), and its accompanying annexes:
  - a. Annex 1: Overview of the implemented and ongoing FASRB-related projects;*
  - b. Annex 2: Overview of the planned FASRB-related projects;*
  - c. Annex 3: Public Participation Plan for the Sava River Basin – Information and proposal (accompanied with the Draft Public Participation Plan);**

- d. Annex 4: Information on status of the project Towards practical guidance for sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase – Estimation of sediment balance for the Sava river.*
- 2. The ISRBC acknowledged the abovementioned „Public Participation Plan for the Sava River Basin“ as a good basis for further activities on strengthening the public participation and stakeholder involvement in the process of implementation of the FASRB. The planned activities should be realized on an ad hoc basis, depending on the ISRBC needs for realization of particular activities and availability of financial and human resources.*
  - 3. Following the Conclusion 4.1.4 from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the USACE support to the ISRBC shall be delivered by the Secretariat to the ISRBC for approval. The ISRBC representatives shall inform the Secretariat on their opinion regarding the ToR by February 28, 2014. Upon approval, signing of the ToR, requested by US authorities, will be done by the Secretary on behalf of the ISRBC.*
  - 4. The ISRBC supported implementation of the project „Improving flood risk management in the Sava River Basin by enhancing the hydrologic model for better forecasting and planning“, administered by UNECE and financed through an ENVSEC grant.*
  - 5. Regarding the preparation of the application for the project „Improvement of joint Flood Management actions in the Sava River Basin“, planned to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> round of Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) by March 11, 2014, the following shall be done:*
    - a. The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia (beneficiaries of WBIF) shall provide the letter of support of their respective countries (national IPA coordinators) necessary for completing the application, by March 6, 2014;*
    - b. The competent authorities of Montenegro (beneficiary of WBIF) are asked to provide the letter of support of their national IPA coordinator, necessary for completing the application, by March 6, 2014;*
    - c. Bosnia and Herzegovina shall contact World Bank to explore their interest to support the application;*
    - d. The Secretariat shall explore possibilities for EIB to support the application.*
    - e. National authorities of the Parties shall assist the Secretariat in finalizing the application in accordance with needs.*
  - 6. Upon proposal of the Ad hoc GIS EG, the ISRBC established a core working group for implementation of the project „Support to the ISRBC in the development of the Sava GIS“, consisting of Ms. Tijana Turudić, Mr. Aleš Veršič and Mr. Aleksandar Miličević, to assist the Secretariat in expert issues related to the establishment of GIS.*
  - 7. The ISRBC acknowledged the potential support of the US Government for the implementation of the project „Strengthening the public participation and stakeholder involvement in the Sava River Basin“.*

### **3.5. 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-13-16/1-2) with regard to meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement, and its accompanying annexes:**

- a. Annex 1: Report from „Ljubljana Forum 2013“ (Ljubljana, 17-18 Oct. 2013);**
- b. Annex 2: Report from the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee for monitoring and coordination of the project Rehabilitation and development of transport and navigation on the Sava river waterway (Belgrade, 3 Dec. 2013);**
- c. Annex 3: Report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Regulation and Multipurpose Use of the Sava river (Zagreb, 4 Dec. 2013);**
- d. Annex 4: List of the ISRBC events in FY 2013.**

### **3.6. 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-34-O-14-17/1-2) with regard to promotion activities.**
- 2. According to Conclusion 4.6.2 from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, the ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall inform the Secretariat on member of the Editorial Board of the Sava NewsFlash bulletin, within 10 days.**

### **3.7. 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 2013 (Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-18/1-2) 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 informed the ISRBC that they would confirm the readiness of Croatia for final negotiation on the draft Protocol (version of October 25, 2010) within 15 days.**
  - b) Following the delivery of the confirmation of Croatia to the ISRBC representatives from the other countries by the Secretariat, the ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia 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.**
- 4. The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall inform the Secretariat of their representative (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, that are necessary to be regulated by a protocol, as soon as possible.*

#### **AD. 4 – Adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014**

##### **Conclusions:**

- 1. The ISRBC considered the Draft Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014, amended the document in accordance with discussion, and, thereof, passed Decision 2/14 on adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for Financial Year 2014, as set out in Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-19/4-2.**
- 2. The ISRBC took note on the proposal of activities for Sava Day 2014 (Doc No. 1S-34-O-14-19/2-2) and proposal of publications for FY 2014 (1S-34-O-14-19/3-2).**

**The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted the following**

##### **DECISION – 2/14**

- ❖ On Adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for Financial Year 2014 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-34-O-14-19/4-2.**

#### **AD. 5 – Internal issues (closed session)**

#### **AD. 6 – Other Business**

##### **Conclusion:**

*The ISRBC stressed a great importance of using the languages of the Parties ('Sava languages') and their further promotion as working languages in the framework of the ISRBC.*

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

##### **Conclusion:**

*The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ISRBC will be held on July 1-2, 2014, in Ljubljana, 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. The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB**
- 4. Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014**
  - 4.1. Water Management issues**



- 4.2. Navigation issues
- 4.3. Cross-cutting issues
- 4.4. Projects
- 4.5. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement
- 4.6. Promotion activities
- 4.7. Protocols to the FASRB
- 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 34<sup>th</sup> Session.***