



Doc. No: 1S-37-M-15-1/1-3

REPORT
from the 37th Session
of the International Sava River Basin Commission

February 24, 2015
Zagreb

I Attendance

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the 37th Session (as a regular session) in Zagreb, on February 24, 2015. 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. Dražen Kurečić (Croatia) – Deputy Member, Ms. Leposava Sojić (Serbia) – Deputy Member, and Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member.

Mr. Boško Kenjić (B&H), Ms. Elizabeta Kos and Ms. Marina Ivica Matkovic (Croatia), and Ms. Dragana Milovanović (Serbia), attended the Session as experts.

The Session was also attended by Mr. Hans van der Werf (CCNR), Mr. Pjotr Suvorov (Danube Commission), Mr. Raimund Mair (ICPDR), Mr. Goran Gugić (NP Lonjsko Polje), Ms. Petra Remeta (WWF), Ms. Martina Zupan (GWP CEE), and Ms. Nataša Crnković (Center for Environment).

II Chairmanship

Mr. Mitja Bricelj, 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-37-O-15-1/4-3) 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 5th 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**
 - 4.3.1. Information management issues**
 - 4.3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues**
 - 4.3.3. Statistical issues**
 - 4.3.4. Tourism development issues**
 - 4.4. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement**
 - 4.5. Promotion activities**
 - 4.6. Protocols to the FASRB**
- 5. Projects**
- 6. Adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2015**
- 7. Internal issues (closed session)**
- 8. Other business**
- 9. Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC**
- 10. 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-37-O-15-2/1-3).***
- 2. The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall confirm the members of ISRBC expert groups or nominate new members till March 15, 2015.***

AD. 3 – Recapitulation of the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on Information on Recapitulation of the 5th Meeting of the Parties (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-4/1-2).***
- 2. Taking into account the disastrous May 2014 floods in the Sava river basin, the ISRBC stressed the conclusion of the 5th Meeting of the Parties on the importance of further strengthening of regional cooperation in the field of flood protection and the maximum use of mechanisms within the ISRBC framework in coordinating the regional activities in this field.***

AD. 4 - Realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014

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 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-4/1-2) with regard to water management issues.***
- 2. The ISRBC took note on the Report from the 28th PEG RBM Meeting (Doc. No. 3-14-18/2-3).***
- 3. The ISRBC took note on the Report from the 25th PEG FP Meeting (Doc. No. 3-14-19/3-2).***

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 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-5/1-2) with regard to navigation issues.***
- 2. The ISRBC considered and adopted Decision 1/15 on adoption of the Waterway Marking Plan for the Sava River and Navigable Tributaries for the Year 2015.***

3. *The ISRBC representatives from Croatia and Slovenia shall continue activities to commence negotiations on a bilateral agreement on navigation on inland waterways between the two countries.*

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted the following

DECISION – 1/15

- ❖ *On adoption of the Waterway Marking Plan for the Sava River and Navigable Tributaries for the Year 2015.*

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 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-6/1-2) with regard to information management issues.

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 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-7/1-2) with regard to hydrological and meteorological issues, and the Report from the 10th Ad hoc HM EG Meeting (Doc. No. 3-14-20/1-2).

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 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-8/1-2) with regard to statistical issues.

4.3.4. Tourism development issues

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-9/1-2) with regard to tourism development issues.

4.4. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement

Conclusions:

1. *The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-10/1-2) with regard to meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement, and its accompanying annexes:*
 - a. *Annex 1: Reports from the final workshop on the Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin and the Training course on the use of the Sava basin hydrological model;*

- b. Annex 2: Report from the 9th Meeting with captains of port master offices from the Sava river;*
 - c. Annex 3: Report from the 4th Conference on regulation and multipurpose use of the Sava river;*
 - d. Annex 4: Report from the Meeting with national experts from the registers of shipping;*
 - e. Annex 5: List of the ISRBC events in FY 2014.*
- 2. The ISRBC acknowledged the initiative of NP Lonjsko Polje to organize, jointly with the ISRBC, the signing of the SAVAPARKS Declaration on the occasion of the World Wetlands Day.*
 - 3. The ISRBC acknowledged the readiness of the ICPDR to support the ISRBC activities on the development of the Sava Hydrological Information System.*
 - 4. The ISRBC acknowledged the initiative and support of the GWP CEE to organize the Workshop on enhancing stakeholder participation in the Sava river basin, to be held on May 5, 2015, tentatively.*

4.5. Promotion activities

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-11/1-2) with regard to promotion activities.*
- 2. The ISRBC took note on the Report from the 3rd Meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava river basin (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-11/2-2).*

4.6. 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 2014 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-12/1-2) with regard to the protocols to the FASRB.*
- 2. The ISRBC representatives from Serbia and Slovenia shall inform on the status of ratification of the Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation, by March 31, 2015.*
- 3. Taking into account the successful harmonization of the text of Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB, held in Zagreb, on January 23, 2015, the ISRBC representatives agreed to organize the signing of the Protocol on June 1, 2015.*
- 4. Regarding the entering into force of the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB, the ISRBC representative from Slovenia informed of the status of the ratification process and expressed the expectation for finalization of the process by June 30, 2015.*
- 5. The ISRBC representatives shall inform the Secretariat of the bodies responsible for implementation of the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB, by June 30, 2015.*
- 6. The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina shall inform the Secretariat of the readiness of Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in negotiations on final harmonization of the Protocol on Emergency Situations to the FASRB, by the next Session.*

AD. 5 - Projects

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of projects (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-13/1-2), and its accompanying annexes:**
 - a. Annex 1: Overview of the implemented and ongoing FASRB-related projects (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-13/2-2);**
 - b. Annex 2: Overview of the planned FASRB-related projects (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-13/3-2).**
- 2. With regard to realization of Recommendation 2/14 (related to nomination of the national coordinators for projects of common interest relevant for the FASRB implementation):**
 - a. The ISRBC representative from Serbia informed of the ongoing procedure of nomination of the coordinator;**
 - b. The ISRBC representatives from all Parties shall nominate the national coordinators from their respective countries by March 31, 2015.**
- 3. The ISRBC recalled the conclusion from the Ministerial meeting on regional cooperation on flood protection in the Sava river basin (Belgrade, June 16, 2014) on the importance of further strengthening of the exchange of relevant information on the ongoing activities and projects between the ISRBC and the Parties as a prerequisite for their successful implementation.**

AD. 6 – Adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2015

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC considered the Draft Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2015 and passed Decision 2/15 on adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for Financial Year 2015, as set out in Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-14/1-2.**
- 2. The ISRBC accepted the proposal of activities for the Sava Day 2015 celebration (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-14/2-2) and the proposal of the ISRBC publications for FY 2015 (Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-14/3-2).**

The International Sava River Basin Commission has adopted the following

DECISION – 2/15

- ❖ On Adoption of the Work Plan of the ISRBC for Financial Year 2015 as set out in Doc. No. 1S-37-O-15-14/1-2.**

AD. 7 – Internal issues (closed session)

AD. 8 – Other Business

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC considered the request of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the assessment of transboundary impact of heightening the levees on the Sava River in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the positive reply of Croatia in relation to this request, previously submitted through bilateral communication, the ISRBC representatives from Serbia and Slovenia shall deliver their opinions within 7 days, both to the ISRBC representative from B&H and the ISRBC Secretariat.**
- 2. The ISRBC considered the letter of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat related to the potential of natural water retention measures (NWRM) for mitigating the impacts of floods and droughts in the Sava river basin. Although natural retention areas along the Sava river (like Lonjsko polje) are already successfully used in flood risk management, the NWRM will be considered in further activities of the ISRBC in the field of hazard management and climate change adaptation, as well.**

AD. 9 – Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC

Conclusion:

The 38th Session of the ISRBC will be held on July 7, 2015, 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. Current issues of the FASRB implementation**
- 4. Internal issues**
- 5. Other business**
- 6. Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC**
- 7. Adoption of the Report from the Session**

AD. 10 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

The ISRBC adopted the Report from the 37th Session.