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REPORT
from the 49th Session of the
International Sava River Basin
Commission

Karlovac, 3-4 July 2018

Venue: AQUATIKA – FRESHWATER AQUARIUM, Branka Čavlovića Čavleka 1a, Karlovac

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I. ATTENDANCE

The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC, Sava Commission) held the 49th Session in Karlovac, on July 3-4, 2018. The following representatives of the Parties to FASRB – members and deputy members of the Sava Commission, attended the Session: Mr. Igor Pejić – Member and Mr. Boško Kenjić – Deputy Member (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Ms. Elizabeta Kos – Deputy Member (Croatia); Ms. Nataša Milić - Member (Serbia); Mr. Mitja Bricelj – Member and Mr. Marko Sotlar – Deputy Member (Slovenia).

Ms. Duška Kunštek and Ms. Sanja Genzić attended the Session as experts.

The Session was also attended by Mr. Petar Margić, (Danube Commission), Ms. Martina Zupan (GWP CEE) and Mr. Tibor Mikuška (on behalf of EuroNatur) as observers. Mr. Igor Palandžić (World Bank) participated as the guest.

Mr. Dragan Zeljko – Secretary of the Sava Commission and officials of the Secretariat - Mr. Samo Grošelj, Ms. Dragana Milovanović, Mr. Željko Milković, Ms. Melita Žižanović Dakić, and Mr. Mirza Sarač, attended the Session.

Ms. Margarita Markušić Kulaš, director of Aquatica, welcomed all participants on behalf of the host.

II. CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr. Igor Pejić, the Chairman of the Sava Commission, chaired the Session.

III. ADOPTED AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
 - 1.1. Welcome and opening address
 - 1.2. Adoption of the agenda
2. Recapitulation of the 7th Meeting of the Parties
 - 2.1. 7th Meeting of the Parties – overview and the way forward
 - 2.2. 7th Youth Parliament and other Sava Day events
3. Current issues of the FASRB implementation
 - 3.1. Annual Report on work and activities of the Sava Commission for FY 2017
 - 3.2. Tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from the previous sessions of the Sava Commission
 - 3.3. Ongoing activities and related projects/project proposals
4. Cooperation with partners and observers

- 4.1. World Bank – presentation of the Sava – Drina corridor integrated development project
- 4.2. EuroNatur - presentation of “Sava White Book – The River Sava: Threats and Restoration Potential”
- 4.3. ICPDR – Common climate change adaptation activities
- 4.4. WWF – presentation of the GEF DYNA project
5. Internal issues (closed session)
 - 5.1. Legal issues
 - 5.2. Financial issues
6. Other business (closed session)
 - 6.1. Status of ongoing procedures related to actualization of disposal of radioactive waste on the location Trgovska gora (HR)
 - 6.2. Development of Protocol on transboundary impacts
 - 6.3. Cooperation in the frame of the EU Adriatic-Ionian strategy
 - 6.4. Cooperation with the European Commission
7. Date and preliminary agenda of the next Session of Sava Commission
8. Adoption of the Report from the Session

IV. CONCLUSIONS

AD. 1 – Opening of the meeting

The Sava Commission adopted the agenda of the 49th meeting (Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-1/3-3), with the agenda items presented in Part III of this Report.

AD. 2 – Recapitulation of the 7th Meeting of the Parties

2.1. 7th Meeting of the Parties – overview and the way forward

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note on recapitulation of the 7th Meeting of the Parties (Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-2/1-2), and expressed their satisfaction regarding the organization and the outcomes of the Meeting.

2.2. 7th Youth Parliament and other Sava Day events

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note of the overview of the activities on 7th Youth Parliament and other Sava Day events (Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-2/2-2);*
- 2. Following the results and recommendation from the 7th Youth Parliament, the Sava Commission's members shall make consultations and inform about their views and proposals regarding future additional steps in involving young population in the activities related to implementation of FASRB.*

AD. 3 – Current issues of the FASRB implementation

3.1. Annual Report on work and activities of the Sava Commission for FY 2017

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission considered the Draft Annual Report on work and activities of the Sava Commission for the period April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018 (Doc No:1R-49-O-18-3/1-2), and thereof, passed the respective Decision 9/18 on its adoption (Doc No:1R-49-D-18-1/2-3).*
- 2. The Sava Commission took note that the Decision 8/18 on Adoption of the Report on Realization of the Budget for FY 2017, was adopted in written procedure on June 21, 2018 (Doc No: WD-18-1/1-3).*

3.2. Tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from the previous sessions of the Sava Commission

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note of the information on tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from the previous sessions of the Sava Commission (Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-3/2-2);*
- 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina nominated Ms. Meliha Lepara and Slovenia nominated Ms. Barbara Potočnik for the members of the Editing Board of the SavaNewsFlash.*

3.3. Ongoing activities and related projects/project proposals

Conclusions:

Sava River Basin Management Plan

1. *The Sava Commission took note of information on the status of activities related to development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan and the related project proposal (as described in Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-3/3-2).*

Sava Flood Risk Management Plan

1. *The Sava Commission took note of information on the status of the activities related to development of the first Sava Flood Risk Management Plan (Sava FRMP) and the information on the status of the supporting project (as described in Doc No. 1R-49- O-18-3/4-2);*
2. *Having in mind support to all activities leading to successful finalization and adoption of the Sava FRMP expressed at the 7th Meeting of the Parties, the current status of the ongoing project which represents a crucial support in the process of the Sava FRMP development as well as deadline for the project finalization, the Sava Commission urges responsible institutions in countries to support successful finalization of the remaining activities within the project;*
3. *The Sava Commission tasks the Secretariat and PEG FP to continue coordination of activities in accordance with the Program for development of Sava FRMP.*

Sava Flood Forecasting and Warning System

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the status on the Sava Flood Forecasting and Warning System (Sava FFWS) development and related project proposal (as described in Doc No. 1R-49-O-18-3/5-2);*
2. *The Sava Commission appreciates ongoing activities within consultation process regarding the rights and obligations after the Sava FFWS establishment and took note of already reached agreements;*
3. *The Sava Commission stressed importance of finalization of the consultation process with an overall goal of development of an agreement on the duties, responsibilities, mutual rights and obligations of the Parties after taking over the Sava FFWS, in accordance with Article 20, and having regard to Article 9 paragraph 4 of the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB;*
4. *The Sava Commission has decided to set up a task group with the task of drafting an agreement between the Parties on the duties, responsibilities, mutual rights and obligations related to the functioning of Sava FFWS in the post-project period. Each Party shall nominate members in the Task Group by the end of July 2018 and inform the Secretariat accordingly.*

Navigation

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the status of ongoing activities and related projects in the field of navigation (as described in Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-3/6-2);*
2. *The Sava Commission appreciated ongoing activities within rehabilitation and development of the Sava River Waterway and stressed importance of*

urgent demining of the Sava river bank in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a priority activity.

Hydrologic & Hydraulic modelling

- 1. The Sava Commission took note of the status of ongoing activities related to hydrologic & hydraulic modelling (as described in Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-3/7-2);*
- 2. The Sava Commission took note of the fact that the Sava hydraulic model will be available to all national forecasting institution through Sava FFWS;*
- 3. The Sava Commission members shall nominate institutions for delivery of the final hydraulic model of the Sava River and its main tributaries and tasks the Secretariat to distribute the model as soon as it is delivered by the USACE.*

EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation call for proposals

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission appreciates efforts of all institutions-project partners invested in the development and successful submittal of the following project proposals to EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation:*
 - Development of technical basis for international river basin management planning in the Sava River Basin: An innovative filling gaps in transboundary water management;*
 - Efficient, innovative and regionally harmonized national flood Warning procedures in the Sava River Basin - SAVA WAPROC;*
 - Danube Ecotour Innovation.*
- 2. The Secretariat shall prepare an information on the above mentioned project proposals and deliver it to the Sava Commission members to be used in further communication towards Embassies of Norway in the Parties. In addition, the Secretary shall send the respective letter through diplomatic channels;*
- 3. In the case that project proposals pass the first stage of evaluation, the Sava Commission encourages project partners coordinated by the Secretariat to continue activities on the development of the full project proposals.*

AD. 4 - Cooperation with partners and observers

4.1. World Bank – presentation of the Sava – Drina corridor integrated development project

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note of the information on the status of the Sava-Drina corridor integrated development project, presented by Mr. Igor Palandžić from the World Bank (Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-4/1-2).

4.2. EuroNatur - presentation of “Sava White Book – The River Sava: Threats and Restoration Potential”

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the presentation of “Sava White Book – The River Sava: Threats and Restoration Potential” delivered by Mr. Tibor Mikuška on behalf of Euronatur (Doc.No.1R-49-O-18-4/2-2);*
2. *The Sava Commission appreciates the efforts invested in the preparation of the publication but regretfully concludes that it is prepared without proper consultation with other interested parties and with some questionable data and information presented. The Sava Commission advises the authors of “Sava White Book” to make additional consultations with all related official institutions on the data and information presented as well as on the related conclusions in the book.*

4.3. ICPDR – Common climate change adaptation activities

Conclusion:

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the presentation delivered by the Secretariat with regard to common climate change adaptation activities (as described in Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-4/3-2);*
2. *The Sava Commission supports further activities towards the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Sava River Basin in cooperation with national authorities, ICPDR and UNECE.*

4.4. WWF – presentation of the GEF DYNA project

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note of the presentation, providing a brief overview over GEF DYNA project objectives and state of affairs of project preparation, along with the information about inputs needed from the Sava countries. (as described in Doc. No. 1R-49-O-18-4/4-2).

AD. 5 – Internal issues (closed session)

AD. 6 – Other business (closed session)

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

Conclusion:

The 50th Session of the Sava Commission will be held on 23-24.10, 2018, in Zagreb, with the following provisional agenda:

1. *Adoption of the agenda*
2. *Report on tasks and duties regarding Decisions and Conclusions from the previous Sessions of the Sava Commission*
3. *Realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2018*

- 3.1. *Water Management issues*
- 3.2. *Navigation issues*
- 3.3. *Cross-cutting issues*
 - 3.3.1. *Information management issues*
 - 3.3.2. *Hydrological and meteorological issues*
 - 3.3.3. *Statistical issues*
 - 3.3.4. *Tourism development issues*
- 3.4. *Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement*
- 3.5. *Promotion activities*
- 3.6. *Protocols to FASRB*
- 4. *Projects*
- 5. *Internal issues (closed session)*
 - 5.1. *Financial issues*
 - 5.1.1. *Status of regular contributions and other funds*
 - 5.1.2. *Audit of the financial management of the Sava Commission in FY 2017*
 - 5.2. *Legal and other issues*
 - 5.3. *Other internal issues*
- 6. *Other business*
- 7. *Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the Sava Commission*
- 8. *Adoption of the Report from the Session*

AD. 8 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission adopted the Report from the 49th Session.

Dragan Zeljko, Secretary

Igor Pejić, Chairman

ANNEXES:**Annex 1 – List of the meeting documents and presentations**

Agenda Item	Document number	Document title
Open session		
AD.1.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-1/1-3</i>	Draft Agenda of the 49th ISRBC Session_21June2018
AD.1.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-1/2-3</i>	Draft Agenda of the 49th ISRBC Session_21June2018_annotated
AD.1.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-1/3-3</i>	Adopted Agenda
AD.2.1	<i>1R-49-O-18-2/1-2</i>	Seventh Meeting of the Parties-overview and way forward
AD.2.1	-	Seventh Meeting of the Parties / <i>presentation</i>
AD.2.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-2/2-2</i>	Seventh Youth Parliament and other Sava Day events
AD.2.2	-	Youth Parliament/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.1	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/1-2</i>	Annual Report on work and activities of the ISRBC for the period April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
AD.3.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/2-2</i>	Tasks and Duties
AD.3.3	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/3-2</i>	Ongoing activities_Sava RBMP_Information
AD.3.3	-	Ongoing activities_Sava RBMP/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.3	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/4-2</i>	Ongoing activities_SavaFRMP_Information
AD.3.3	-	Ongoing activities_SavaFRMP/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.3	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/5-2</i>	Ongoing activities_SavaFFWS_Information
AD.3.3	-	Ongoing activities_SavaFFWS/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.3	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/6-2</i>	Ongoing activities_Navigation issues_Information
AD.3.3	-	Ongoing activities_Navigation issues/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.3	<i>1R-49-O-18-3/7-2</i>	Ongoing activities_H&H modeling_Information
AD.3.3	-	Ongoing activities_H&H modeling/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.3	-	EEA grant/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.3.3	-	EEA grant_Danube Ecotour/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.4.1	<i>1R-49-O-18-4/1-2</i>	Cooperation with partners_WorldBank_Sava-Drina Corridor
AD.4.1	-	WB Sava Drina Initiative_12 June 2018_Brussels_v4/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.4.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-4/2-2</i>	Cooperation with partners_Euronatur_Sava WhiteBook
AD.4.2	-	Gabriel Schwaderer Sava White Book_ISRBC_2018_Final/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.4.3	<i>1R-49-O-18-4/3-2</i>	Cooperation with partners_ICPDR_Climate change

Agenda Item	Document number	Document title
AD.4.3	-	ISRBC_ICPDR_CCA workshop_short/ <i>presentation</i>
AD.4.4	<i>1R-48-O-18-4/4-2</i>	Cooperation with partners_WWF_GEF Dyna
Ad.4.4	-	WWF_GEF DYNA/ <i>presentation</i>
Internal issues (closed session)		
AD.5.1	<i>1R-49-O-18-5/1-3</i>	Legal issues
AD.5.1	<i>1R-49-O-18-5/2-3</i>	Proposal of Amendment of decision on re-establishment of EGs
AD.5.2	<i>1R-49-O-18-5/3-3</i>	Financial issues_Status of regular contributions and Other Funds

Annex 2 – List of decisions

DECISION – 9/18 on adoption of the Annual Report on work and activities of the ISRBC for the period April 1, 2017–March 31 (Doc No:1R-49-D-18-1/1-3)

DECISION – 10/18 on amendments of Decision on re-establishment of Sava Commission's expert groups (2/16, 14/17, 17/17 and 5/18) (Doc. No: 1R-49-D-18-2/1-3)