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REPORT
from the 52nd Session of the
International Sava River Basin
Commission

Zagreb, 17-18 September 2019

Venue: Premises of the International Sava River Basin Commission, Kneza Branimira 29, Zagreb

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I. ATTENDANCE

The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC, Sava Commission) held the 52nd Session in Zagreb, on September 17-18, 2019. 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. Duška Kunštek – member and Ms. Elizabeta Kos – deputy member (Croatia); Ms. Nataša Milić – member (Serbia); Mr. Marko Sotlar – deputy member (Slovenia).

Mr. Miro Macan and Mr. Miroslav Ištuk (Croatia) and Ms. Olivera Janković (Serbia) attended the Session as experts.

The Session was also attended by Ms. Martina Zupan (GWP CEE) as an observer.

Mr. Igor Palandžić (World Bank) attended the Session under Agenda item 7.1.

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

II. CHAIRMANSHIP

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

III. ADOPTED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019
 - 2.1. Water Management issues
 - 2.2. Navigation issues
 - 2.3. Cross-cutting and development issues
 - 2.3.1. Information management
 - 2.3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues
 - 2.3.3. Sustainable development issues
 - 2.4. Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement
 - 2.5. Promotion activities
 - 2.6. Overview of tasks and duties from previous sessions
3. Projects
4. 8th Meeting of the Parties
5. Secretariat's staff issues

6. Legal and financial issues
 - 6.1. Legal issues
 - 6.2. Financial issues
7. Other business
 - 7.1. Sava and Drina River Corridors Integrated Program (SDIP) – status and next steps
 - 7.2. Informal Meeting of EU Water and Marine Directors
8. Date and preliminary agenda of the next Session of the Sava Commission
9. Adoption of the Report from the Session.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Open session

AD. 1 – Adoption of the agenda

The Sava Commission adopted the agenda of the 52nd meeting (Doc. No. 1R-52-O-19-1/3-2), with the agenda items presented in Part III of this Report.

AD. 2 – Realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019

2.1. Water Management issues

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note of the Status report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019 with regard to Water Management issues (Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-2/1-2).*
- 2. The Sava Commission took note on the status of the development of the 2nd Sava RBM Plan. Taking into account that few data have been delivered by the agreed deadline for the first cycle of the data gathering (September 6, 2019), the Sava Commission asks responsible institutions in the countries to deliver agreed data urgently.*
- 3. The Sava Commission took note that the Sava FRM Plan has been delivered to the Parties and Montenegro in all official languages of the Parties, Montenegrin and English, aiming to be approved on the 8th Meeting of the Parties.*
- 4. The Sava Commission took note that activities on the second cycle of flood risk management planning and update of the joint Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) report will start immediately after approval of Sava FRM Plan at the 8th Meeting of the Parties.*
- 5. The Sava Commission took note that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation on regular functioning and maintenance of the Sava Flood Forecasting and Warning System (Sava FFWS) in the post project period was delivered to the Signatories from the countries to their internal procedures that precede the signing, planned during the 8th Meeting of the Parties. Representatives in the Sava Commission informed that internal procedures are in progress in all countries; it is expected that internal procedures will be finalized on time. Representatives of the Sava Commission will inform the Secretariat about finalization of the respective procedures. The Secretariat shall contact representatives of Montenegro regarding readiness for signing of the Memorandum during the 8th Meeting of the Parties.*
- 6. Having in mind the time of expected signing of the Memorandum, as well as a need for the continuous functioning of the Sava FFWS, the Sava Commission suggests the Hosting Organizations to carry out the Sava FFWS maintenance at no cost basis until the Memorandum comes into*

effect.

7. The Sava Commission took note of the status of work of expert groups in the field of water management (as described in Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-2/2-2) and the following reports:
 - a. Report from the 38th PEG RBM Meeting;
 - b. Report from the 39th PEG RBM Meeting;

2.2. Navigation

Conclusions:

1. The Sava Commission took note of the Status Report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019 with regard to navigation (as described in Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-3/1-2).
2. The Sava Commission took note that the Decision 7/19 on establishment of the Stakeholders Forum for development of Environmental Impact Assessment Study and Design for the Action: Improvement of the navigation conditions on the Sava River from rkm 300 to rkm 329 was adopted in written procedure on April 26, 2019 (Doc. No: WD-19-2/1-3).
3. The Sava Commission considered and adopted Decision 13/19 on adoption of Standard for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation in the Sava River Basin (Doc. No: 1R-52-D-19-1/1-2).

2.3. Cross-cutting and development issues

Conclusions:

1. The Sava Commission took note of the Status Report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019 with regard to cross-cutting issues (as described in Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-4/1-2).
2. The Sava Commission adopted Sava GIS Data Policy (Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-4/2-2), developed and proposed by PEG GIS, as a living document which shall be updated on an ad hoc basis, as necessary.
3. The Sava Commission took note of the revision and update of Annexes B and C of the Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin. After the required procedure of acceptance they will be included as the integral parts of the Policy.

2.4. Cooperation and stakeholder involvement

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note of the Status report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019 with regard to cooperation and stakeholder involvement (as described in Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-5/1-2).

2.5. Promotional activities

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note of the Status Report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019 with regard to promotional activities (as described in Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-6/1-2).

2.6. Overview of tasks and duties from previous sessions

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. IR-52-O-19-7/ 1-2).*
2. *Internal procedures necessary for launching the official negotiations on the Draft Amendments to the FASRB and the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia are in procedure and are expected to be finalized in near future. Therefore, new respective information will be presented at the next Session.*
3. *With regard to the remaining obligation regarding protocols to the FASRB:*
 - a. *Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia shall notify the Sava Commission of nomination of competent authorities and contact persons/focal points for implementation of:*
 - i. *Protocol on Flood Protection, in accordance with its Article 13;*
 - ii. *Protocol on sediment management, in accordance with its Article 10;*
 - iii. *Protocol on prevention of pollution caused by navigation, in accordance with its Article 10.*
 - b. *Croatia shall notify the Sava Commission of nomination of competent authority and designated contact person for the Protocol on prevention of pollution caused by navigation in accordance with its Article 10.*
 - c. *All notifications on designated authorities and contact persons should be delivered to the Sava Commission's Secretariat through diplomatic channels.*
4. *The Sava Commission took note that the Template for the Information on Planned Dredging prepared in accordance with the Article 9 of the Protocol on Sediment Management was sent to nominated competent authority/authorities responsible for implementation of the Protocol on Sediment Management on March 28, 2019 with the May 30, 2019, as a set deadline for submitting information. So far, the Information on Planned Dredging was submitted by Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. The Sava Commission asks Bosnia and Herzegovina to deliver missing information as soon as possible.*
5. *The Sava Commission took note that the representatives of Serbia have delivered the proposal of draft protocol on transboundary impacts as the basis for consideration of the need of regulating the issue of transboundary impacts as added value to the international agreements in force for the Parties, following the conclusion from the respective Roundtable held on September 6, 2018. The Secretariat shall organize a new roundtable for reconsideration of the issue in due time, preferably by the end of 2019.*

AD. 3 – Projects

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the Status Report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019 with regard to realization of projects (as described in Doc. No. IR-52-O-19-8/1-2).*
2. *The Sava Commission took note on the status of the submitted project proposals as follows:*
 - a. *The full project proposal titled Development of technical basis for international river basin management planning in the Sava River Basin: An innovative filling of gaps in transboundary water management, aimed to provide support for the development of the 2nd Sava RBMP, was submitted to the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation on 4 July 2019 for the second and final stage of assessment. The notification to applicants on results of the selection is expected by December 3, 2019;*
 - b. *The project proposals Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin (WACOM), Inter-sectoral approach with hydropower and navigation sectors for operative flood prevention measures in Sava River Basin (INAS) and Danube EcoTOURism as a tool for promoting environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage in riverine landscapes of the Danube region (DETOUR) were successfully submitted to the 3rd call of Danube Transnational Programme and the Sava Commission will support further development of project proposals if they enter to the 2nd stage of evaluation.*
3. *The Sava Commission took note that the project “SHELTER - Sustainable Historic Environments holistic reconstruction through Technological Enhancement and community based Resilience”, financed by EC (Programme HORIZONT 2020), has officially started on June 1, 2019. The Sava Commission will undertake all necessary efforts to ensure timely delivery of required inputs from the respective national institutions.*

AD. 4 – 8th Meeting of the Parties

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note on updated Status on preparation and organization of the 8th Meeting of the Parties (Doc. No: 1R-52-O-19-9/1-2).

Closed session

AD. 5 – Secretariat’s staff issues

AD. 6 – Legal and financial issues

Open session

AD. 7 – Other business

7.1. Sava and Drina River Corridors Integrated Program (SDIP) – status and next steps

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the presentation on the Sava - Drina River Corridor Integrated Development Program (SDIP), delivered by Mr. Igor Palandžić from the World Bank.*
2. *The Sava Commission agreed to give consent to the World Bank to send a notification letter to all Danube riparian countries about the preparation of the SDIP, as required by the World Bank's Operational Policy 7.50 related to projects on international waterways.*

7.2 Informal Meeting of EU Water and Marine directors

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note the information given by Ms. Elizabeta Kos related to the Informal Meeting of EU Water and Marine Directors, scheduled for 14-16 June 2020 in Zagreb within Croatian EU Presidency, and accepted the proposal to present its work and activities at the meeting.

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

Conclusion:

The 53rd Session of the Sava Commission will be held on 18-19 February 2020, with the following provisional agenda:

1. *Adoption of the agenda*
2. *Realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2019*
3. *Projects*
4. *Work Plan of Sava Commission for Financial Year 2020*
5. *Overview of tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from previous sessions of the Sava Commission*
6. *Legal and Financial issues*
7. *Internal issues*
8. *Other business*
9. *Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the Sava Commission*
10. *Adoption of the Report from the Session*

AD. 9 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission adopted the Report from the 52nd Session.

Dragan Zeljko, Secretary

Igor Pejić, Chairman