



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN
Belgrade (Republic of Serbia), June 1st, 2016**

Palace of Serbia

Doc. No. 5-16-4/5-2

**REPORT
FROM THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN**

Introduction

The Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), convened pursuant to the Article 14 of the FASRB and a conclusion from the Fifth Meeting of the Parties, was held in Belgrade (Republic of Serbia) on June 1st, 2016.

The Meeting was attended by all Parties to the FASRB: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Slovenia, as well as by representatives of international partners, states, supporters and other institutions interested in the implementation of the FASRB.

The Meeting was administered by the Secretariat of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) and representatives of the respective ministries from the host country - Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia - Republic Water Directorate and Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia.

List of Participants of the Meeting is enclosed to this Report.

AD 1_Opening ceremony and constitution

(a) Opening ceremony

Mr. Željko Radošević, State Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia welcomed all participants on behalf of the host country and passed the floor to Ms. Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

Ms. Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the host country and briefly outlined the purpose of the Meeting, main goals of the FASRB and the achievements

of the Parties and the ISRBC in their implementation, emphasizing the importance of further strengthening the cooperation among the Parties as one of the key prerequisites for successful implementation of the FASRB in the future. She pointed out the increasing role of the ISRBC in the implementation of a growing number of joint projects, identifying the ISRBC as a stable mechanism of regional cooperation and a reliable partner. She invited the participants of the Meeting to take active involvement in work of the Meeting and, herewith, jointly contribute to the improvement of implementation of the FASRB and the work of the ISRBC. She declared the Meeting open, wished a successful work and passed the floor to the Chairman of ISRBC.

(b) Address of the Chairman of the ISRBC

Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Chairman of the ISRBC, greeted all participants of the Meeting and thanked the Republic of Serbia, as the host country, and the Secretariat of the ISRBC for providing the conditions for a fruitful meeting. Stressing the importance of the approved first Sava RBM Plan, he emphasized the need to jointly seize the opportunities given within the EU Danube Strategy. Referring to the projects, he expressed his pleasure for development of the infrastructure projects, not only those oriented to project documentation. Indicating his strong commitment to contributing to the attainment of the FASRB objectives, he stressed the need of working in close collaboration with all FASRB Parties.

(c) Constitution of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

The Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB was chaired by Mr. Željko Radošević, State Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

The Meeting of the Parties took note of the *Report on Credentials* prepared by the Secretariat of the ISRBC stating that the Credentials submitted by the Parties to the FASRB were in good order. It was announced that, thereby, the Meeting of the Parties was legally constituted and could proceed with its work accordingly

AD 2_Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting of the Parties adopted its agenda as set out in the document No. 5-16-4/6-2 enclosed to this Report.

AD 3_Statements of the Parties to the FASRB

The Meeting of the Parties took note of the statements of the representatives of the Parties to the FASRB, made in the following order:

- ***Bosnia & Herzegovina* - Mr. Mirko Šarović – Head of Delegation, Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr. Ismir Jusko, Minister for Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina;**
- ***Republic of Croatia* - Ms. Elizabeta Kos – Head of Delegation, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia;**
- ***Republic of Slovenia* - Ms. Irena Majcen – Head of Delegation, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia;**

- **Republic of Serbia - Ms. Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković – Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia;**

The statements of the Parties are enclosed to this Report.

AD 4_Partners in cooperation - short address of international partners and supporters of the ISRBC

The Meeting of the Parties took note of the address notes of international partners and supporters of the ISRBC, delivered in the following order:

- **UNECE – Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Water Convention (via Skype);**
- **UNESCO Venice Office – Mr. Philippe Pypaert, Programme Specialist, Science Section;**
- **ICPDR – Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary;**
- **World Bank – Mr. Igor Palandžić, Water Resources Specialist;**
- **Danube Commission – Mr. Rade Drobac, President of the Danube Commission;**
- **U.S. Government - Mr. Raffi Balian, Director of the Regional ESTH Hub Office, U.S. Embassy in Hungary;**

The available address notes of the international partners and supporters of the ISRBC are enclosed to this Report.

Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Chairman of the ISRBC, also informed about support/apology letters received from the invited partners who could not attend the Meeting:

- **Ms. Eva Molnar, Director, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE;**
- **Ms. Ana Luiza M. Thompson, Director, UNESCO Venice Office;**
- **Mr. Daniel Calleja, Director General of DG Environment.**

AD 5_Current issues of implementation of the FASRB

(a) Report on implementation of the FASRB

Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Chairman of the ISRBC, briefly presented the Report on implementation of the FASRB and work of the ISRBC for the period August 1, 2014 – March 31, 2016, and thereupon, passed the floor for comments and/or suggestions. Since no one of the participants had comments and/or suggestions:

Taking into account the Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, the Meeting of the Parties passed the Decision on Adoption of the Report on implementation of the FASRB and work of the ISRBC for the period August 31, 2014 – March 31, 2016, as set out in Annex I to this Report.

(b) Looking at the key challenges ahead

- i. Information exchange in the Sava river basin**
- ii. Flood management in the Sava river basin**

- iii. **Rehabilitation of navigation on the Sava river waterway**
- iv. **Legal basis for future cooperation**
- v. **Implementation of the FASRB in the context of the ongoing cooperation processes**

Mr. Dejan Komatina, the Secretary of the ISRBC, highlighted the main issues, challenges and opportunities in further implementation of the FASRB relating to the importance of information exchange in the Sava river basin, flood management and rehabilitation and development of navigation, as well as the implementation of the FASRB in context of the ongoing cooperation processes.

The presentation is enclosed to this Report.

(c) Feedback from the Parties

Representatives from the Parties to the FASRB presented positions and visions of the Parties regarding the key issues in implementation of the FASRB, in the following order:

- ***Bosnia & Herzegovina* - Mr. Boško Kenjić, Head of Department for Water Resources - Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina;**
- ***Republic of Croatia* - Ms. Elizabeta Kos, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia.**
- ***Republic of Serbia* - Ms. Nataša Milić, Acting Director – Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Water Directorate, and Member of the ISRBC;**
- ***Republic of Slovenia* - Ms. Irena Majcen, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia;**

The available statements are enclosed to this Report.

(d) Feedback from the audience

The participants took the floor as follows:

- **Mr. Martin Šolar, Director of WWF Adria;**
- **Richard Muller, Regional Coordinator, GWP CEE;**

The statements of the participants are enclosed to this Report.

AD 6_Other business

No issue was presented under this item of the agenda.

AD 7_Declaration of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

Mr. Željko Radošević, State Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, briefly introduced the contents of the draft Declaration of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, prepared by the ISRBC in cooperation with experts from

the Parties, and thereupon, passed the floor for comments and/or suggestions. Since no one of the participants had comments and/or suggestions:

The Meeting of the Parties adopted the Declaration of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, as a final act of the Meeting, as set out in Annex II to this Report.

AD 8_Address of the host of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties

The Meeting of the Parties welcomed with appreciation the readiness of the Republic of Slovenia to host the Seventh Meeting of the Parties in 2018.

AD 9_Report from the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

The ISRBC shall prepare the Report from the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, as well as other documents of the Meeting, and submit it to the Parties to the FASRB within 15 days.

AD 10_Closing of the Meeting

Mr. Željko Radošević, State Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, thanked all participants of the Meeting for their attendance and active involvement, and, thereof, closed the Meeting.