



Doc. No: 1S-35-M-14-1/1-3

REPORT
from the 35th Session
of the International Sava River Basin Commission

July 1, 2014
Ljubljana

I Attendance

The International Sava River Basin Commission held the 35th Session (as a special session) in Ljubljana, on July 1, 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, Ms. Leposava Sojić (Serbia) – Deputy Member, Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) – Member, and Mr. Robert Kojc (Slovenia) – Deputy Member.

Ms. Elizabeta Kos and Mr. Janko Brnardić (Croatia) and Ms. Dragana Milovanović (Serbia), attended the Session as experts.

The Session was also attended by Mr. Boštjan Petelinc, Ms. Barbara Potočnik, Mr. Robert Grnjak (Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Slovenia), Mr. Žarko Pregelj (Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning of Slovenia), Ms. Mira Kobold (Environment Agency of Slovenia), Mr. Dimitrios Theologitis (European Commission), Ms. Diana Maršić (U.S. Embassy Zagreb – Office of Defense Cooperation) and Mr. Ivan Tasić (U.S. Embassy Belgrade – Office of Defense Cooperation).

II Chairmanship

Pursuant to the rule of chairmanship rotation set up in Article 2 of the Statute of the ISRBC, Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia) officially took the chairmanship over the ISRBC on June 25, 2014, and chaired the Session.

III Adoption of the agenda

AD. 1 – Adoption of the agenda

Conclusion:

The agenda is adopted (Doc. No. 1S-35-O-14-7/1-3) 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. The 5th Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB
4. Current issues of implementation of the FASRB
 - 4.1. Flood Management issues
 - 4.2. Navigation issues
 - 4.3. Protocols to the FASRB
5. Protocols to the FASRB
6. Internal issues (closed session)
7. Other business
 - 7.1. Promotion activities
 - 7.2. Reports from the meeting of the ISRBC expert groups
8. Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC
9. 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-35-O-14-8/1-3).*
2. *The ISRBC took note that Decision 6/14, on donation of 3600 Euros as financial support to the flood affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, by the payment through humanitarian organizations, was adopted in written procedure on May 29, 2014.*

3. *The ISRBC took note that Decision 7/14 on adoption of the Report on Realization of the Budget for FY 2013 was adopted in written procedure on June 9, 2014.*
4. *The ISRBC took note that Decision 8/14 on adoption of the Annual Report on Work and Activities of the ISRBC for the Period April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014, was adopted in written procedure on June 13, 2014.*

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

Conclusion:

The ISRBC discussed open issues regarding the preparation and organization of the 5th Meeting of the Parties, and thereof, concluded the following:

- a) *The 5th Meeting of the Parties will be held on December 2, 2014.*
 - b) *Following the Conclusion 3.1.3(b) from the 34th Session, the ISRBC approved the draft declaration in the part referring to the approval of the Sava RBM Plan by the Meeting of the Parties. The declaration will be further upgraded in regard with the other agreed issues.*
 - c) *The countries' Reports on implementation of the FASRB shall be delivered to the Secretariat by August 20, 2014. The countries' Reports will include the updated information for the period April 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014.*
 - d) *The Secretariat shall update the proposed plan of activities on the preparation and organization of the 5th Meeting of the Parties and deliver the document to the ISRBC representatives within 10 days, along with amended versions of the accompanying Draft Agenda and Draft Program of Work, as well as Draft List of institutions/ organizations to be invited to the meeting. The draft documents shall be confirmed by the ISRBC within 5 days as of the delivery.*
 - e) *The members of the Organizational Board of the 5th Meeting of the Parties are as follows:*
 - *Ms. Enisa Babić and Mr. Boško Kenjić from Bosnia and Herzegovina;*
 - *Ms. Marina Matkovic and Ms. Sanja Genzić Jurišević from Croatia.*
- The ISRBC representatives from Serbia and Slovenia shall inform the Secretariat of the representatives of their respective countries in the Organizational Board of the 5th Meeting of the Parties within 10 days.*
- f) *The members of the Organisational Board will also work on the preparation of the documents for the 5th Meeting of the Parties.*
 - g) *The First Meeting of the Organizational Board will be held on September 10, 2014, in Zagreb, at the ISRBC premises.*
 - h) *The final Draft Agenda and Draft Program of Work for the 5th Meeting of the Parties will be defined at the First Meeting of the Organizational Board, and, thereof, delivered to the ISRBC.*

- i) **The Secretariat shall send the Initial Notification Letter to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia by July 4, 2014.**
- j) **The ISRBC representatives from Croatia shall provide the Secretariat, by July 15, with the following information:**
- **Contact point from Croatia, responsible for the operative communication with the Secretariat;**
 - **Contact point from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, responsible for communication with the Secretariat regarding the information to be distributed through diplomatic channels;**
 - **Institution, as well as the contact person from the institution, responsible for official communication with the Secretariat regarding PR activities.**

AD. 4 - Current issues of implementation of the FASRB

4.1. Flood Management issues

Conclusions:

1. **The ISRBC reaffirmed the conclusions from the Ministerial Meeting on regional cooperation in the field of flood protection, organized by the ISRBC (Belgrade, June 16, 2014), attached to this Report as Annex I. The Secretariat shall prepare draft Recommendation(s) for the Parties in order to ensure effective implementation of the conclusions from the Ministerial meeting within agreed deadlines.**
2. **The ISRBC accepted the Report on Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in the Sava River Basin. The report will be made available to the public through the ISRBC web site. Since the information from Republika Srpska is still missing, the report will be upgraded by the Secretariat as soon as this information is submitted.**
3. **The ISRBC acknowledged the presentation made by the representative of the Environment Agency of Slovenia on the flood forecasting system for the Slovenian part of the Sava river basin as well as on the assistance that has been provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina after recent floods. The ISRBC requested the Environment Agency of Slovenia to deliver the complete information on the activities being carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to enable efficient implementation of the activities that are coordinated by the ISRBC.**
4. **The ISRBC acknowledged the participation of the U.S. representatives at the Session and welcomed the information on approval of the second phase of cooperation with the ISRBC.**
5. **The ISRBC acknowledged the support offered to the ISRBC at the 12th Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR and the 3rd Annual Forum of the EU Danube Strategy, for realization of further activities in the field of flood protection.**

4.2. Navigation issues

Conclusion:

1. *The ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 33rd 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.*
2. *The ISRBC supported conclusions of the Meeting with representatives of the ministries of the Parties responsible for transport, organized by the ISRBC (Ljubljana, June 30, 2014) to discuss further steps regarding the rehabilitation and development of navigation and transport on the Sava river. The conclusions from the Meeting are attached to this Report as Annex II.*
3. *The ISRBC acknowledged the participation of the representative of European Commission at the Session and his presentation on the EU Inland Waterway Transport policy and cooperation with the ISRBC.*

4.3. Protocols to the FASRB

Conclusions:

1. *Reaffirming the conclusions from the Ministerial Meeting on regional cooperation in the field of flood protection, organized by the ISRBC (Belgrade, June 16, 2014), the ISRBC stressed once again the importance of entering into force of the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB as soon as possible. In this regard:*
 - a) *The ISRBC representatives from Serbia informed on finalization of the intersectoral harmonization and submission of the act of ratification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for launching the ratification procedure;*
 - b) *The ISRBC representatives from Slovenia expressed the expectation on finalization of the ratification process by the 5th Meeting of the Parties.*
2. *In order to organize negotiations on final harmonization of the Protocol on Sediment Management as soon as possible, 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, taking into account the related information previously submitted by Croatia. The negotiations should be organized in October 2014.*
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.*

AD. 5 - Projects

Conclusions:

- 1. The ISRBC took note on the Status Report on realization of projects (Doc. No. 1S-35-O-14-9/1-2), 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.**
- 2. Following the conclusion from the Ministerial meeting held on June 16, 2014, regarding the nomination of national coordinators for coordination of regional projects of common interest, the Secretariat shall prepare a draft Recommendation for the Parties and submit it to the ISRBC for adoption.**

AD. 6 – Internal issues (closed session)

AD. 7 – Other Business

7.1 Promotion activities

Conclusion:

Following the Conclusion 4.6.2 from the 33rd Session, the ISRBC representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina informed that Ms. Meliha Lepara and Ms. Violeta Janković will be members of the Editorial Board of the Sava NewsFlash bulletin from their country.

7.2 Reports from the meeting of the ISRBC expert groups

Conclusion:

The ISRBC took note on the following reports from the meetings of the ISRBC expert groups:

- (a) Report from the 24th PEG FP Meeting (Doc. No. 3-14-7/3-2);**
- (b) Report from the 18th PEG APC Meeting (Doc. No. 4-14-2/2-2);**
- (c) Report from the 17th PEG NAV Meeting (Doc. No. 2-14-2/15-2-PEG NAV);**
- (d) Report from the 15th Ad hoc L_EG Meeting (Doc. No. 5-14-3/2-2-L-EG).**

AD. 8 – Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC

Conclusion:

The 36th Session of the ISRBC will be held on October 14, 2014, 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 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**
 - 4.4. **Meetings, cooperation and stakeholder involvement**
 - 4.5. **Promotion activities**
 - 4.6. **Protocols to the FASRB**
5. **Projects**
6. **Internal issues**
7. **Other business**
8. **Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the ISRBC**
9. **Adoption of the Report from the Session**

AD. 9 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

The ISRBC adopted the Report from the 35th Session.