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REPORT
from the 56th Session of the
International Sava River Basin
Commission

23-24 March 2021

Hybrid meeting: Premises of the ISRBC and video conference

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I. ATTENDANCE

The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC, Sava Commission) held its 56th Session on March 23-24, 2021.

The following representatives of the Parties to FASRB – members and deputy members of the Sava Commission, attended the Session:

Ms. Duška Kunštek – member (Croatia) *in person* in the premises of the Sava Commission; Ms. Elizabeta Kos – deputy member (Croatia); Mr. Igor Pejić – member (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Mr. Mitja Bricelj – member and Ms. Mojca Deželak - deputy member (Slovenia) and Ms. Nataša Milić - member (Serbia) *via video link*.

Ms. Olivera Janković (Serbia) and Ms. Sanja Genzić Jurišević (Croatia) attended the Session as experts *via video link*.

The part of the session open for guests and observers was, *via video link*, attended by Ms. Branka Španiček (WWF-Adria).

Mr. Dragan Zeljko – Secretary of the Sava Commission and the officials of the Secretariat – Ms. Jovana Rašeta, Mr. Samo Grošelj, Mr. Željko Milković, Ms. Majda Despotović, Mr. Nikola Cvjetković, Mr. Mirza Sarač and Ms. Melita Žižanović Dakić attended the Session *in person* in the premises of the Sava Commission.

II. CHAIRMANSHIP

Ms. Duška Kunštek, the Chair of the Sava Commission, chaired the Session.

III. ADOPTED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Secretariat's related issues
3. Overview of tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from previous sessions of the Sava Commission
4. Realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2020
 - 4.1. Water Management
 - 4.2. Navigation
 - 4.3. Cross-cutting and development issues
 - 4.4. Cooperation, stakeholder involvement and promotion activities
5. Projects
6. Work Plan of the Sava Commission for Financial Year 2021
7. Financial issues
8. Legal issues

9. Other internal issues
10. Other business
11. Date and preliminary agenda of the next Session of the Sava Commission
12. Adoption of the Report from the Session

IV. CONCLUSIONS

AD. 1 – Adoption of the agenda

The Sava Commission adopted the agenda of the 56th session (Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-1/3-2), with the agenda items presented in Part III of this Report.

AD. 2 – Secretariat’s related issues

AD.3 – Overview of tasks and duties regarding decisions and conclusions from previous sessions of the Sava Commission

AD. 4 – Realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2020

4.1. Water Management

Conclusions:

- 1. The Sava Commission took note of the Status report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2020 with regard to Water Management issues (Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/1-2).*
- 2. The Sava Commission took note of the status of development of the 2nd Sava RBM Plan. Taking into account that the data and information collection process has not yet been finalized, the Sava Commission urges responsible institutions to intensify the delivery of the remaining data and information in order to fulfill the planned tasks in preparation of the draft 2nd SRBMP for the start of public consultation procedure in July 2021.*
- 3. The Sava Commission took note of the status of implementation of the 1st Sava FRM Plan as well as on the preparation of elements for the 2nd cycle of the FRM planning, including the development of the 2nd joint Sava PFRA report. The Sava Commission requests the PEG FP to complete the data collection process as soon as possible, and to finalize the draft report by the end of year. The Sava Commission tasked the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of preparing the draft report through the Shelter project, by engaging a technical assistance to the Secretariat.*
- 4. The Sava Commission took note of the current status of the functioning of the Sava FFWS and asks the signatories from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia to take the steps in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum, i.e. the signing and delivery of the Agreements on conditions of use of the Sava FFWS (both countries); the payment of contribution for the System (Bosnia and Herzegovina), as soon as possible. The Sava Commission took note of the information that JVP “Srbijavode” is the new Sava FFWS user. After receiving the official notification, the Secretariat will inform all signatories of the Memorandum. The Sava Commission took note on nominations of the members of the bodies stipulated in the Memorandum and nominates:*

- *Mr. Mirza Sarač, as the official of the Sava Commission in the Technical group;*
 - *Mr. Mirza Sarač, as the member of the International Forecasting and Development Teams;*
 - *Mr. Nikola Cujetković, as the member of the International Support Team.*
5. *With regard to the further development of Sava FFWS, the Sava Commission in principle agrees to conduct a contract award procedure with Deltares (NL), by applying negotiated procedure with one potential supplier, provided that such recommendation is given by the Sava FFWS Steering Group. In that case the related decision will be made by the Sava Commission in a written procedure.*
 6. *The Sava Commission took note of the status of work of expert groups in the field of water management (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/2-2) and the following reports:*
 - a. *Report from the 42nd PEG FP meeting (15 September 2020);*
 - b. *Report from the 43rd PEG RBM meeting (26 November 2020);*
 - c. *Report from the 25th PEG APC (1 December 2020);*
 - d. *Report from the 43rd PEG FP meeting (3 March 2021).*
 7. *The Sava Commission took note of the Report on executed dredging in the Sava River Basin for 2019 (Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/3-2) and the Report on planned dredging in 2020 (Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/4-2) and tasked the Secretariat to deliver the reports to designated national authorities.*
 8. *The Sava Commission asks the competent authorities of the Parties to deliver information regarding dredging in line with the deadlines set by Article 9 of the Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB, in order to be able to prepare the summary reports on time.*
 9. *The Sava Commission took note of the start of development of the Outline on Sediment Management, supported by UNESCO Office in Venice. The contract between the Sava Commission and the UNESCO Office in Venice was signed on March 19, 2021.*

4.2. Navigation

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the Status Report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2020 with regard to navigation (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/5-2).*
2. *The Sava Commission took note of the status of work of expert groups in the field of navigation (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/6-2) and the Report from the 23rd PEG NAV meeting held on October 28-29, 2020.*
3. *The Sava Commission considered and adopted Decision 7/21 on Adoption of the Plan for Waterway Marking and Maintenance on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for the Year 2021 (Doc. No: 1R-56-D-21-3/1-2).*
4. *The Sava Commission considered and adopted Decision 8/21 on Adoption*

of the Rules on Vessels Personnel in the Sava River Basin (Doc. No: 1R-56-D-21-4/1-2).

5. The Sava Commission considered and adopted Decision 9/21 on Delivery of Results of Bathymetric Surveys of the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries to the Sava Commission (Doc. No: 1R-56-D-21-5/1-2).

4.3. 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 2020 regarding cross-cutting issues (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/7-2).
2. Welcoming the progress in this area, the Sava Commission expresses special satisfaction with the multi-sectoral approach and encourages further joint activities of the water management and navigation sectors.
3. The Sava Commission took note of the status of work of the related expert groups (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/8-2) and the Report from the 21st PEG GIS meeting held on October 21 October 2020.

4.4. Cooperation, stakeholder involvement and promotion activities

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission took note of the Status report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2020 with regard to cooperation and stakeholder involvement (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-4/9-2).

AD. 5 – Projects

Conclusions:

1. The Sava Commission took note of the Status Report on realization of Work Plan of the Sava Commission for FY 2020 with regard to realization of projects (as described in Doc. No. 1R-56-O-21-5/1-2) including overview of:
 - a. the FASRB-related ongoing projects;
 - b. external projects supported by the Sava Commission.
2. The Sava Commission took note of information on the Shelter project (Sustainable Historic Environments holistic reconstruction through Technological Enhancement and community based Resilience”, financed by E Horizon 2020 Programme.
3. Upon proposal of the 3rd stakeholder workshop and the conclusion from 43rd PEG FP meeting, the Sava Commission agreed to extend the Task Working Group for the follow-up of the implementation of the Shelter project (Shelter TG) to include the representatives of emergency management sector (civil protection).

In accordance with the Shelter TG Tasks and working arrangements the Sava Commission representatives shall nominate one member per each Party (from authorities responsible for emergency management/civil protection) by April 12, 2021 and inform the Secretariat accordingly.

The Secretariat shall invite relevant authorities from Montenegro to nominate their members.

4. *The Sava Commission took note of information on the Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin – WACOM project, co-funded by the European Union funds (ERDF, IPA) (as described Doc. No. 1R-5 5-O-20-6/3-2).*

AD. 6 – Work Plan of the Sava Commission for Financial Year 2021

AD. 7 – Financial issues

AD. 8 – Legal issues

AD. 9 – Other internal issues

AD. 10 – Other business

Conclusions:

1. *The Sava Commission took note of the results of the 2nd EU Macro-Regional Strategies week, held on March 1-5, 2021, presented by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, and expressed satisfaction for development of concrete intersectoral projects within the frame of regional cooperation, and with active role of the Sava Commission.*
2. *The Sava Commission tasked the Secretariat to assist Ms. Mojca Deželak in preparing a short information about SHELTER project that will be presented at the high-level meeting with Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, to be held soon in Ljubljana.*
3. *The Sava Commission took note of the information on the workshop on EU environmental regulations in connection with infrastructure works in inland navigation, organized jointly by DG MOVE and DG Environment; then on the results of Mixed Environment Transport External Expert Team (METEET) initiative, as well as of the start of the Platina 3 Project (PLATform for the implementaTION of NAIades), delivered by Ms. Duška Kunštek.*

AD. 11 – Date and preliminary agenda of the next Session of the Sava Commission

Conclusion:

The 57th Session of the Sava Commission will be held on July 1-2, 2021, 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. *Current issues of the FASRB implementation*
4. *Internal issues*

5. *Other business*
6. *Date and preliminary agenda for the next Session of the Sava Commission*
7. *Adoption of the Report from the Session*

AD. 12 – Adoption of the Report from the Session

Conclusion:

The Sava Commission adopted the Report from the 56th Session.

Dragan Zeljko, Secretary

Duška Kunštek, Chair

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

Agenda Item	Document number	Document title
Open session		
AD.1	1R-56-O-21-1/1-2	<i>Preliminary Agenda of the 56th Session</i>
AD.2	1R-56-O-21-2/1-3	<i>Secretariat staff related issues_ Overview - Annex 1: Report of the Screening Committee for vacant positions of Special Advisor for Economy and Financial Affairs</i>
AD.3	1R-56-O-21-3/1-3	<i>Overview of Tasks & Duties from the previous ISRBC sessions - Annex 1: Protocols and Sava FFWS MoU_ overview of tasks and duties_ status 5-3-2021 - Annex 2: Minutes from the informal meeting of the Sava FFWS international teams' members</i>
AD.4.1.	1R-56-O-21-4/1-2	<i>WM_Status report</i>
AD.4.1.	1R-56-O-21-4/2-2	<i>WM_Status of work of related expert groups - Annex 1: Report from the 42nd PEG FP meeting (15 September 2020) - Annex 2: Report from the 43rd PEG RBM meeting (26 November 2020) - Annex 3: Report from the 25th PEG APC (1 December 2020) - Annex 4: Report from the 43rd PEG FP meeting (3 March 2021)</i>
AD.4.1	1R-56-O-21-4/3-2	<i>WM_Report on executed dredging in 2019</i>
AD.4.1	1R-56-O-21-4/4-2	<i>WM_Report on planned dredging in 2020</i>
AD.4.2	1R-56-O-21-4/5-2	<i>NAV_ Status report</i>
AD.4.2	1R-56-O-21-4/6-2	<i>NAV_ Status of work of related expert groups - Annex 1: Report from the 23rd PEG NAV meeting</i>
AD.4.2		<i>NAV_Draft DECISION on Adoption of the Rules on Vessels Personnel in the Sava RB - Annex 1: Rules on Vessels Personnel in the Sava RB</i>
AD.4.2		<i>NAV_Draft DECISION on Adoption of the Plan of the Sava waterway marking and maintenance for 2021 - Annex 1: Plan for the Sava waterway marking and maintenance for 2021</i>
AD.4.2.		<i>NAV_Draft DECISION on Delivery of Results of Bathymetric Surveys of the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries to the Sava Commission</i> □ □

AD.4.3.	1R-56-O-21-4/7-2	<i>Cross-cutting & Dev issues_ Status report</i>
AD.4.3.	1R-56-O-21-4/8-2	<i>Cross-cutting & Dev issues_ Status of work of related expert groups</i> - <i>Annex 1: Report from the 21st PEG GIS meeting (21 October 2020)</i>
AD.4.4.	1R-56-O-21-4/9-2	<i>Cooperation, stakeholder involvement and promotion_ Status report</i>
AD.5	1R-56-O-21-5/1-2	<i>Projects_ Status Report</i> - <i>Annex 1: Status of the FASRB-related ongoing projects</i> - <i>Annex 2: Status of external projects supported by ISRBC</i>
AD.5	1R-56-O-21-5/2-2	<i>SHELTER project summary</i> - <i>Report from the 3rd Stakeholders Workshop (19 January 2021)</i>
AD.5	1R-56-o-21-5/3-2	<i>Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin-WACOM project summary</i>

Annex 2 – List of decisions

DECISION	Doc No	Subject
21/20	WD-20-10/1-3	<i>Announcement of the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs</i>
22/20	WD-20-11/1-3	<i>Selection of the qualified candidate for the position of the Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs in the Secretariat of the Sava Commission</i>
23/20	WD-20-12/1-3	<i>Amendments of the Rules of Procedure of ISRBC</i>
1/21	WD-20-12/1-3	<i>Extension of the Contract of Appointment of Ms. Majda Despotović at the position of Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs</i>
2/21	WD-21-2/1-3	<i>Announcement of the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs</i>
3/21	WD-21-3/1-3	<i>Awarding the contract to the IGEA Ltd., Frana Supila 7/b, Varaždin, Croatia for the improvement of the Sava GIS geoportal functionalities</i>
4/21	WD-21-4/1-3	<i>Nomination of the Screening Committee which shall perform the examination of candidates' applications for the position of Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs</i>
5/21	1R-56-D-21-1/1-3	<i>Extension of the contract with Majda Despotović</i>
6/21	1R-56-D-21-2/1-3	<i>Extension of the contract with Samo Grošelj</i>
7/21	1R-56-D-21-3/1-2	<i>Adoption of the Plan of the Sava waterway marking and maintenance for 2021</i>
8/21	1R-56-D-21-4/1-2	<i>Adoption of the Rules on Vessels Personnel in the Sava RB</i>
9/21	1R-56-D-21-5/1-2	<i>Delivery of Results of Bathymetric Surveys of the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries to the Sava Commission</i>
10/21	1R-56-D-21-6/1-3	<i>Adoption of Work Plan of ISRBC for FY 2021</i>
11/21	1R-56-D-21-7/1-3	<i>Adoption of the Budget of ISRBC for FY 2021</i>
12/21	1R-56-D-21-8/1-3	<i>Reestablishment of the ISRBC expert groups</i>