

Honourable Ministers, excellences, ladies and gentlemen!

- Thank you for inviting the ICPDR to the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin for the opportunity to address this event.
- The excellent cooperation between ICPDR and ISRBC has a long tradition, fostered in annual meetings of the Secretariats as well as mutual participation in plenary meetings of both Commissions.
- Synergies in our work are broadly utilised, the close cooperation helps to avoid duplication. This has also been reflected in the river basin and flood risks management plans for both the Danube and Sava Basins.
- Excellent case of such synergy and of fostering cross-sectoral cooperation is the "Joint Statement Process", uniting the efforts of three commissions: ICPDR Sava and Danube Navigation Comm. The needs for such activity and multiple benefits are obvious, let me mention just the key ones:
 - Infrastructure developments in support on navigation have a local dimension with often basin-wide consequences;
 - The METEET exercise successfully pioneered in two Sava countries is strengthening the impact of this joint effort;
 - Joint Statement process is activity of global significance and a good practice case for a stakeholder dialogue.
- Other example is adaptation to Climate Change, the processes of the update of the Danube River Basin Adaptation Strategy with development of the Sava Basin one are being not only strongly coordinated but also are enriching each other.
- Pollution reduction is a field where both ICPDR and ISRBC have more than 20 years of experience, the whole world (e.g. basins such Mekong, Indus, Orange-Senqu) is impressed and wants to learn from our successes.
- The Joint Danube Survey 4 is in full speed of preparation for its start in summer 2019. Already 4th volume of this unique scientific exercise would comprehensively increase the understanding of the status of the entire Danube all along its length. Through JDS 4 new format would trigger more ownership and activities conducted by all Danube countries and in particular - due to this ownership – in all key tributaries, naturally including Sava.
- Not only the Sava Commission is learning from the ICPDR areas of progress. The ICPDR is admiring the progress you made in development and operation of the Sava HIS and ownership of it by your hydro-meteorological services; another example is the Sediment protocol to the FASRB.

- - It is obvious that basin-wide efforts and activities need strong regional partners in the sub-basins.
- Let me also mention one example of a great cooperation and harmonisation of our work through the EU Grant ICPDR received on implementation of both RB plans. The discussions we have had (and will have) on CC adaptation and on agriculture pollution (big challenge for the entire DRB) via small training workshops are bringing fruits to both partners, and in a long run to all citizens of entire Sava/Danube basins.
- I will conclude with congratulation to our sister Commission - the Sava Commission - to the achievements in implementation of the Framework Agreement, with appreciation of a very good and efficient cooperation with the ICPDR. Let me wish you all success in moving forward all the activities towards sound management of the Sava Basin, covering transboundary co-operation on the flood risk management, inland navigation, tourism and all other development initiatives underpinning the sustainable development of the Sava Basin.
- Thank you for your attention.