



**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative**

**(hereinafter CEI-ES)  
and**

**UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  
(hereinafter UNEP Vienna -ISCC)**

*In consideration of the fact that the Carpathian Convention came into force on 4th January 2006,*

*Noting that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Carpathian Convention (Kiev May 22) requested "the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment (UNEP) to continue to service the Convention process, including provision of interim secretariat support", comprising the coordination of its operations with those of other competent international bodies and conventions,*

*Appreciating the fact that UNEP Vienna ISCC is leading the implementation of the EU CADSES IIIb Interreg Carpathian project,*

*Noting the work of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on sub-regional mountain cooperation worldwide in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, including the mountain regions of the Carpathians, of South Eastern Europe, of the Caucasus, and of the Himalaya – Karakoram – Hindukush,*

*Underlining the fact that all the countries of the Carpathian Convention are Member States of the CEI,*

*Recalling the Plan of Action of CEI for 2007-2009 and in particular the chapter on environment, which defines "Cooperation in Mountain Regions" as a priority of the CEI,*

*Considering that the CEI is an observer to the INTERREG CADSES Carpathian Project and is co-financing one of its component on Transport, and bearing in mind that CEI is co-financing the work of UNEP Vienna ISCC to support the development of a Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of mountain regions in South Eastern Europe,*

*Guided by the principles of the UN Charter and the documents of the Helsinki process,*

*Pursuing the objectives, laid down in the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure, and supporting relevant provisions of the Carpathian Convention;*

*Aiming at further enhancing regional cooperation with the European organisations and institutions as well as other regional cooperation initiatives, and at strengthening the awareness of the significance of a sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe;*

The Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative and UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention agree on the following

### **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC):**

#### **I – Duration**

This Memorandum of Cooperation has permanent validity, and may be periodically reviewed. It can be terminated by six months notice in writing.

#### **II – Goals**

Strengthening of cooperation between the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Executive Secretariat of CEI in fields of common interest, this Memorandum of Cooperation is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Secretariats in the field of information and experience exchange. Furthermore, its objective is the development and implementation of joint, coordinated and/or complementary activities and projects, including in EU-financed projects.

#### **III – Collaboration fields**

Collaboration will include all the issues covered by the Carpathian Convention and of interest to CEI, in particular:

- Mountain protection and sustainable regional development;
- Sustainable transport and infrastructure, energy issues in mountains (energy security and access to energy in mountains, efficiency, renewables), access to information technology in mountains,
- Sustainable agriculture, forestry and rural development in mountains,
- Technical co-operation and capacity building, sustainable tourism and local economies;
- Promoting good governance, by building institutional capacity,

- ensuring public participation and access of the public to information on matters related to the Carpathian Convention;
- Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;
  - Co-operation in the field of environmental assessment, awareness raising and education;
  - Transboundary and transnational co-operation.

#### **IV – Joint activities**

The interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Secretariat of CEI will cooperate by, inter alia:

- Informing each other and disseminating the decisions adopted at their respective fora, and on policies and practices elaborated through their constituencies;
- Cooperating as Partners in EU-financed projects;
- Developing and implementing joint projects;
- Furthering the cooperation with financial institutions such as EBRD, World Bank, European Investment Bank;
- Providing a forum for dialogue on European integration and neighbourhood policy processes;
- Involving the private sector, e.g. by developing partnerships with the business sector;
- Jointly organizing seminars, workshops and advisory services in fields of common interest;
- Coordinating work-plans to the benefit of mutual cooperation, wherever it is possible;
- Mutually informing each other of, and inviting each other to, important events;
- Offering each other their good services and, whenever possible, their structures in support of their operational capacities.

The CEI-ES and UNEP Vienna - ISCC mutually declare their commitment to the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Kyiv, Ukraine, 13 December 2006

For the CEI –ES



For UNEP Vienna ISCC

