

United Nations Environment Programme - Vienna Office
Mr. Harald Egerer
Head Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat
UNEP Vienna - ISCC
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
A 1400 Austria

Ref.: 10146

Vienna, 10 December 2010

Request for observership of the ICPDR in the UNEP Carpathian Convention

Dear Mr Egerer,

As a follow-up of the successful cooperation within the UNDP/GEF Tisza project and based on the resolutions passed at the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 9 December 2010 related to the establishment of a mutual observer status between ICPDR and UNEP Carpathian Convention, the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River is herewith officially applying for an observer status to the UNEP Carpathian Convention.**

The ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (herewith ICPDR) is the organisation established by Article 18 of the Danube River Protection Convention (herewith DRPC) to implement the objectives and provisions of the DRPC. The fifteen contracting parties – Danube States and the European Community (which have ratified the DRPC) – are the members of the ICPDR.

The main objective of the Convention is the protection and sustainable use of surface and groundwater and riverine ecology, directed at basin-wide and sub-basin-wide cooperation with transboundary relevance.

In order to achieve substantial progress in implementing the Convention the following overall strategic aims have been agreed:

- maintain and improve the status of water resources as to quality and quantity
- prevent, reduce and control water pollution, including accidental pollution
- improve the environmental conditions of the aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity
- contribute to the protection of the Black Sea from land-based sources of pollution

Since 2000, the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive is the highest priority for the ICPDR. The ICPDR provided the platform for coordination necessary to develop and establish a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube River District. The Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) has been finalized in 2009 and approved in the frame of the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting as of 16 February 2010.

The ICPDR also put specific emphasis on sub basin related activities and established its Tisza Group in 2004 aiming at to develop an Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan by 2009/2010 focusing on the integration of land use and water quality and water quantity management.

Taking into account the complementary nature of the goals of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) - specifically its Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention about "*Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management*" - and the common field of interest with the ICPDR in connection to the Tisza River Basin as part of the Carpathian Region and activities such as integration of land use management - water quality and water quantity management as well as climate change impacts on the Carpathian Region, an initiative was proposed to be established between the two international organizations via endorsement of mutual Observer status focusing on the following activities

- ⇒ Initiate dialog between land use management and water quality management sector in the Tisza River Basin and related awareness raising
- ⇒ Assessment of climate change impacts in the Tisza River Basin/Carpathian Region – development of a case study

We look forward to the approval of the UNEP Carpathian Convention and are expecting a fruitful cooperation with mutual benefits for both parties.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitja Bricelj'.

Mitja Bricelj
ICPDR President