

Conclusions
from the I Tourism Forum of the Carpathian Countries
in Rzeszów, 28 May 2014.

The participants of the I Tourism Forum of the Carpathian Countries in Rzeszów in Poland,

Accept the provisions of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians signed in Kiev in May 2003 by the Carpathian countries,

Adopt with satisfaction the:

- entry into force of the Protocol on sustainable tourism to the Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and call on the parties that have not yet ratified the Protocol to do it.

- existing results of the work on the Strategy of the future sustainable development of the Carpathians, which is to be adopted during the fourth Conference of the Parties (COP 4) in Mikulov in Czech Republic in September 2014.

Underline the importance of cooperation between the Carpathian countries within the scope of tourism and the involvement of the Carpathian countries for the development of the tourist cooperation in the region.

Ask the tourism sector to profile the Carpathian region as the area of the sustainable development of tourism, in particular to:

1. implement the provisions of the Protocol on the sustainable tourism to the Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and implement the tasks specified in the future Strategy of the sustainable development of tourism in the Carpathians,
2. promote the Carpathian brand in the field of tourism, which is an important element of the economy of the Carpathian region,
3. implement sustainable products and services in the tourism sector as well as support the exchange of best practices and knowledge related to the development,
4. establish the cooperation for the joint promotion of the Carpathian region on local market as well as in Europe, Asia and America.
5. elaborate standards of the sustainable development of tourism in the Carpathians.

Urge all stakeholders of the tourism sector to:

6. support the tourism industry in striving at meeting serious challenges – growing competition worldwide, demographic trends, reversals in trends of tourists' behaviour, etc.,
7. acknowledge the importance of the small and medium enterprises in the tourism sector, which confirms the need to create the support and cooperation structures,
8. continue the efforts in order to develop the cooperation within the Carpathian region specifying common objectives and actions, on the basis of the Protocol on the sustainable tourism to the Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians,
9. continue further development of the platform of international cooperation as part of the Tourism Forum of the Carpathian Countries, in which the multi-level cooperation will be the essential element,
10. focus on the establishment of sustainable links in the tourism cooperation with the strong orientation to the sustainable development, innovations and economic growth and the increase of employment.

Ask the parties of the Carpathian Convention to make a declaration concerning the organization of the II Tourism Forum of the Carpathian Countries in 2015.