



## Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

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### COP4 High Level Segment - Rapporteur speech

Allow me to briefly report on the procedures and outcome of the Working Level Sessions of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, taking place in the past two days. The meeting, which was attended by over 150 representatives, was opened by Mr. Rastislav Rybanic, representing Slovakia, the outgoing chair. Welcome words were spoken by the Mayor of Mikulov and, on behalf of the host country by the incoming chair, Dr. Jan Plesnik .

Dr. Jan Plesnik from Czech Republic was nominated as Chair while I was entrusted with the honor to act as your Rapporteur.

All the credentials of the delegations were received and found in order.

The agenda for the meeting, contain in doc 1/rev1, was adopted as well as the proposed organization of word, contained in doc1/add2/rev2. At the request of the chair, Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the Secretariat, informed delegations about the status of contributions and ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol, Forest Protocol and Tourism Protocol. A number of delegations updated the meeting about the process of ratification in their respective countries.

Mr Egerer presented the progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention contained in doc 9, informing the delegations of the success, challenges and future priorities in the implementation of the Convention and its protocols. Delegations expressed their high appreciation and support for the achievements and the work and performance of the Secretariat.

Mr. Egerer, Head of Secretariat, consequently introduced the list of draft decisions for COP4, contain in doc 10. He informed the delegations that a consolidated version of the document, including the written comments received from Czech Republic, Poland and Romania, was in the making and would be soon be available to facilitate the discussion and decision-making on the proposed decision.

The chairman requested and guided the delegations in their consideration of the list of draft decisions, by introducing the decisions, sometimes paragraph by paragraph, followed by a discussion and, in the majority of cases, an immediate consensus on the text.

With regard to the decisions on sustainable agriculture and forestry (4), cultural heritage (7), and the location of Convention Secretariat (16) contact groups were constituted, chaired by Mr. Thomas Krejzar from the Czech Republic, Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski from Poland, and Mr. Rastislav Rybanic from Slovakia respectively. All three the contact groups finally concluded their work successfully, allowing the COP to adopt the proposed decisions, as amended, in its entirety.



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The list of decisions, as agreed at the working level sessions, is before you for your consideration and adoption as doc 10/rev 1.

As part of the decisions the working level meeting is recommending that you adopt and sign the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, contained in document 2/rev1.

I may furthermore draw your attention to the fact that by adopting the list of decisions you also adopt the Protocol on Sustainable Transport (decision #5), the Strategic Agenda Action Plan for the Implementation on the CC Forest Protocol (decision #4), Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism (decision #6), Strategic Agenda for Adaptation to Climate Change (decision #10), Ministerial Declaration on Cultural Heritage (decision #7), Joint Alpine – Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change (decision #12), and the Programme of Work 2014-2017.

I may conclude my brief presentation by reporting to you that delegations expressed their high appreciation for the effective conduct of the working level sessions, by Dr. Jan Plesnik, as well as for the support they had received from the Head of the Convention Secretariat and its staff.

For my part I would like to thank you for your confidence as well as thank the Secretariat for its continued support.