

Statement by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia

**Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework  
Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the  
Carpathians (CC COP4)**

*23 September - 26 September 2014*

Your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to address all of you, on behalf of Republic of Serbia and of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. We would like to express strongest support to the international and regional cooperation within the Carpathian Convention implementation processes.

Man's relationship to nature and contemporary economic development are no longer acceptable in terms of environmental protection and the survival of humanity. In this regard, current socio-economic issues and the existing global economic crisis call for innovative thinking and searching for new solutions.

The current economic crisis accompanied by climate change, energy crisis, drinking water and food shortages is, in fact, a unique opportunity for radical social and economic changes towards implementing "green economy" principles that call for widespread use of renewable resources, opening of new "green" jobs that are directly linked with the environment and transition to new – "green" economic growth in Carpathian region.

We firmly believe that one of the crucial benefits of this conference will be sharing the experiences we all have made and lessons we have learned in implementation of the Convention. The fact is that Carpathian protected areas contain a resources of outstanding ecological and cultural importance. We may say with certainty that Carpathian Convention and its adjacent protocols, represent a good mechanism, whose fundamental task is integration of protection of the entire Carpathian ecosystem with its outstanding diversity. We can all agree that we have to ensure the progress and economic development of the Carpathian eco-region.

In recent years, the Republic of Serbia has made significant progress in providing political and practical framework for improved implementation of international commitments, including those arising from the Carpathian Convention and its protocols. Several strategies, legal instruments and projects have been completed in this field, which makes the current legal framework harmonized with CBD and biodiversity related conventions, including the Carpathian Convention. These political commitments put us all in the position to undertake concrete actions and measures that will make the green sustainable growth and development an eminent reality.

For all these reasons it is clear that the existing tools and mechanisms, such as Carpathian convention and its protocols, must be utilized in best possible way. In addition, nationally appropriate goals and measures ought to be clearly reflected in relevant strategic documents.

In the attempt to meet all requirements, we also remain committed to implementation of other related mechanisms that contribute to integrated protection of nature and biodiversity.

In the end, I would like to use this Carpathian Conference to remind us that all international endeavors to preserve and protect environment, nature and biodiversity must be considered jointly and

that we should all make an attempt to strengthen synergies between relevant multilateral environmental agreements in order to make the best use of available financial resources and human capital to fulfill those goals that will secure our coexistence with nature.

Thank you very much for your attention, and wish us a very fruitful and successful Meeting!