



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

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

on cultural heritage of the Carpathians

We, the Heads of Delegations of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic, and Ukraine, attending the high-level segment of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians¹ (hereafter Carpathian Convention), held in Mikulov, Czech Republic, on 26 September 2014;

Appreciating the uniqueness, richness and diversity of the cultural heritage of the Carpathians, and *reaffirming* the commitment to faithfully implement Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention;

Acknowledging the contribution of the local communities and people in the Carpathians to preserving the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, and transmitting it to the next generations for their benefit;

Convinced that efforts to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the Carpathians require international and regional cooperation, and *committed* to preserving and promoting cultural diversity in the Carpathians, and fostering dialogue and cooperation between Carpathian regions, sub-regions and communities;

Have declared the following:

We note with concern that the cultural heritage of the Carpathians, in particular its intangible manifestations, is increasingly threatened, *inter alia* by social transformations and changing

¹ Article 1 of the Carpathian Convention.



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economic conditions, the ongoing depopulation process of rural mountain areas, and the globalization of culture, which might lead to its deterioration, abandonment and disappearance;

We welcome the progress achieved so far towards the development of the draft Protocol on cultural heritage, and the ongoing work by the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge preparing the ground for the future implementation of the Protocol;

We commit ourselves to the implementation of the road map towards the achievement of the objectives of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, constituting an Annex to this Declaration.

Done in Mikulov, on 26 September 2014.