



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



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

First meeting

Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006

Agenda item 9

Decisions and Adoption of the Carpathian Declaration

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the work of its first meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention was held at the Club of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 9 Instyutaska str., 01008 Kyiv, Ukraine from 11 to 13 December 2006.

Mr. Vasyl Dzharty, Minister of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, made the opening statement. He remarked that it was appropriate that the opening of the COP coincided with International Mountain Day. He also emphasized the importance of the Rio Earth Summit results and of regional and international partnerships to promoting the environmentally sustainable development of the Carpathian region.

In addition to the seven participating Government delegations, some 50 representatives of non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting.

2. Organizational Matters

The Secretariat proposed that, in line with common practice, the COP's provisional Bureau should consist of a President, a Vice President and a Rapporteur. The meeting elected Minister Vasyl Dzharty as President by acclamation. The President then proposed that Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Director and Regional Representative, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Regional Office for Europe, be confirmed as the Co-President. The meeting then elected Ms. Jana Brozova of the Czech Republic as Vice President and Ms. Carmen Damian of Romania as Rapporteur. Minister Dzharty requested, and the meeting agreed, that Mr. Igor Ivanenko, Head of the State Agency for Protected Areas of Ukraine, would serve as President during his absences. The meeting agreed that Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Office, would act as the COP's Executive Secretary.

The provisional agenda of the meeting was presented by the Secretariat and adopted without changes. The meeting agreed to organize its work according to the proposal contained in

UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.1, with the expert session to be held from 10h to 13h and from 15h to 18h on both Monday and Tuesday, 11 – 12 December 2006. Decisions adopted by the expert session were to be forwarded for final approval to the high-level Ministerial segment to be held on Wednesday, 13 December, from 9h30 to 13h00.

3. Status of ratification of the Carpathian Convention

The meeting was informed by the Depositary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, that, with the ratification of the Convention by Romania on 13 October 2006, the Convention would shortly have six Parties; only one ratification (Serbia) remains pending.

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the COP and of Financial Rules for the Carpathian Convention

Following a comprehensive discussion and agreement on several amendments, the meeting adopted the Rules of Procedures for the Convention as Decision COP1/1 and the Financial Rules for the Convention as Decision COP1/2, in the understanding that the budget will only be decided once arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat will have been made, and that the scale of contributions will be elaborated in Decision COP1/3.

It also agreed to elect a Bureau of the Conference of the Parties that would consist of one member from each of the seven countries. Pursuant to Decision of COP1 on Rule 16, para. 1, of the Rules of Procedure, saying that each Party shall nominate a member of the Bureau, the following further Bureau members (in addition to the President, the Vice-President and the Rapporteur already elected) were nominated: Ms. Zsuzsanna Arokhati, Ministry of Environment and Water of Hungary; Ms. Bozena Haczek, Ministry of Environment of Poland; Ms. Aleksandra Doslic, Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia; and Ms. Dana Cajkova, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

5. Programme of work and budget

Decision COP1/3 also established a Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee as a Subsidiary Body of the Carpathian Convention. The Committee in turn will oversee the establishment and convening of six Working Groups responsible for managing the projects and activities related to the Convention, notably the EU co-financed INTERREG IIIB CADSES (Central European, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space) “Carpathian Project”. Many of these activities, and those initiated by other partners, are already actively promoting the goals of the Convention.

The meeting agreed that each Working Group would define its Terms of Reference at its first meeting. It decided to revisit the number and composition of the Working Groups in 2008 at the Second Meeting of the Parties and to make any necessary adjustments.

The meeting also finalized and adopted the Convention’s Programme of Work for the three-year period 2006 to 2008. Delegates recognized the agreed result as an ambitious but realistic Programme through which the Convention can make a practical impact. The various elements of the Programme of Work were then allocated to the six proposed Working Groups.

a) Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/4 establishing the mandate for the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. The Group is to develop a Protocol on the Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity. The Protocol

will detail concrete measures for strengthening the Convention's impact and is to be finalized "possibly before the COP2".

The meeting established the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) constituting a thematic network of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. Its Steering Committee is to be composed of the CNPA Focal Points designated by each country. A conference will be held in 2007 in cooperation with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas to advance the CNPA.

(b) Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management (Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/5 on sustainable and integrated water and river basin management. The Decision calls, among other measures, for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). COP1 requested the Working Group on spatial planning to deal with the issue of sustainable water management and the Working Group on biodiversity to address the issue of the Carpathians Wetlands Initiative.

(c) Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/6 elaborating the activities to be undertaken by the Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

(d) Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry (Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/7 concerning the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry. This Working Group is to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

(e) Sustainable energy (Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/8 addressing the critical issue of sustainable energy. The Decision requests the interim Secretariat to cooperate with the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Energy Community, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). The work on sustainable energy will take place under the Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure, whose other activities are further elaborated by Decision 9 on sustainable transport.

(f) Sustainable transport and infrastructure (Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/9 establishing a Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure.

(g) Sustainable tourism (Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/10 on the Working Group on sustainable tourism. This Group is to support and promote a number of highly promising and practical initiatives in this field. Several delegations expressed the view that sustainable tourism offers enormous potential for regional cooperation.

(h) Spatial planning (Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/11 concerning the Working Group on spatial planning. Among other activities, this Group is to undertake work on sustainable and integrated water and river basin management as set out under Decision COP1/5.

(i) Cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation (Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention)

The final decision on the Programme of Work adopted by the meeting was Decision COP1/12, which addresses the Convention's work on cross-cutting issues. These issues include awareness raising, education, public participation and capacity building. The Decision requests the interim Secretariat to cooperate with the Aarhus Convention Secretariat and to work with other partners to promote awareness of the Convention amongst civil society and the general public.

6. Cooperation with the EU and other conventions and international bodies

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/13 setting out a plan for strengthening cooperation with the European Union and the INTERREG IIIB CADSES project, aiming at the environmentally sustainable development of the "Carpathian Space". The Decision also invited the European Community to accede to the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP1/14 on cooperation with other conventions and international bodies welcomed the signing of MOUs with the Ramsar Convention, the Alpine Convention, the Central European Initiative and the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI). It also requested the interim Secretariat to prepare MOUs with other interested organizations.

7. Other decisions

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/17 on Input to Mountain Initiatives to the 2007 Belgrade Environment for Europe Conference. In Decision COP1/18 it welcomed the offer of Romania to host the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2008. It also agreed to postpone decisions on the geographical scope of the Convention's application (Decision COP1/15) and on arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat (Decision COP1/16) until the COP2.

8. Ministerial Segment and the "Carpathian Declaration"

Ministers from Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic; Deputy Ministers of the Czech Republic and Ukraine; and the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Ukraine participated in the final day of the COP meeting. After the President of COP1, Minister Vasyl Dzharty of Ukraine, declared the session open, Mr. Frits Schlingemann of UNEP made an opening statement on behalf of UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. The Rapporteur, Ms. Carmen Damian of Romania, then presented a brief oral report on the expert session. The meeting agreed that the Rapporteur, with the support of the Secretariat, would submit a brief final written report of the meeting in early 2007.

Statements were made by HE Jan Dusik, Deputy Minister and Director General for Legislation and International Relations, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic; HE Miklos Persanyi, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water Management of Hungary; HE Jan Szyszko, Minister, Ministry of Environment of Poland; HE Sulфина Barbu, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water Management of Romania; HE Goran Aleksic, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Serbia to Ukraine; HE Jaroslav Izak, Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic; and HE Pavlo Bol'shakov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine.

The following observers also made statements: HE Josef Markus Wuketich, Ambassador of Austria in Ukraine; Mr. Corrado Clini, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy; Mr. Mykola Melenevsky, Deputy Director General of the Central European Initiative; Ms. Aline Kuster-Menager, Head of International Affairs Division, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of France, representing the Presidency of the Alpine Convention; Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Mr. Douglas McGuire, Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat; Ms. Beata Wiszniewska, Regional Director of the Regional Environment Centre (REC); Mr. Jan Seffer, Chair of the Carpathian EcoRegional Initiative (CERI); Mr. Ivan Rybaruk, All-Ukrainian Association “Hutsulshchyna”; and Ms Monika Ochwat, League of Nature Protection, Poland, (ANPED).

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation next consider the two documents forwarded by the Preparatory Segment. The first (see Annex I) contained the draft decisions; the high-level segment formally adopted this document and all 19 decisions without changes. The second document contained a draft Carpathian Declaration expressing a vision for the future of the Carpathian Convention and highlighting achievements, challenges and cooperation and partnerships; this too was adopted by the high-level segment.

The meeting agreed that the Carpathian Convention would also be referred to as the Kyiv Convention, after the city where it was adopted in 2003. COP1 confirmed that the credentials of all participating representatives of Parties / Signatories were found to be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure for COP and so recognized their validity. The originals of the credentials will be kept by the Presidency, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President adjourned the meeting at 12h30. A press conference and a cultural event followed.

Annex I

Decisions of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

Annex II

Carpathian Declaration