



## **Draft Terms of Reference for the Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention**

### **Purpose**

The Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention shall be a legally binding document, which shall set the legal frame for the Parties to the Convention.

### **Process of Tourism Protocol Development**

The Tourism Protocol shall be developed in close cooperation between experts, NGOs and other stakeholders. Therefore, the negotiation process towards the development of the protocol will take place through open-ended meetings.

The meetings between COP1 and COP2 will be scheduled as follows:

- April 2007: 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism
- October 2007: Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau Meeting
- April 2008: Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting
- April 2008: 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism

The results of the meetings will serve as both basis and input to the chapters of the Tourism Protocol. The Working Group on sustainable tourism will further develop the contents of the protocol in between the meetings. The draft of the Tourism Protocol will be submitted to COP2 as information document for taking a decision about the finalisation of the protocol.

### **Stakeholder Involvement**

The Tourism Protocol shall be a document, which shall define the legal framework conditions for future tourism development in the Carpathians.

Therefore, the protocol shall be primarily elaborated by governmental representatives of the Parties to the Convention, but also comments from stakeholders from all other relevant sectors and levels shall be taken into consideration.

An interdisciplinary, cross-level and trans-national approach will help to ensure the acceptance and applicability of the Tourism Protocol all over the Carpathians.

A public consultation process will be initiated to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders, including international and non-governmental organizations and initiatives, as well as indigenous peoples, local communities and the private sector. The electronic consultation process with the stakeholders will be started before the second meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism.

### **Relation to the Tourism Strategy**

Detailed measures that are necessary for the implementation of the Tourism Protocol shall be outlined by the strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians (referred to as Tourism Strategy). The strategy is being elaborated by the Working Group on sustainable tourism and will be finalised after the final draft of the Tourism Protocol is developed.