

Draft Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention

Preamble

Chapter 1 Use of Terms and Scope of Application

Article 1 Use of Terms

For the purposes of this Protocol,

“Convention” means the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (22 May 2003, Kyiv, Ukraine);

“Party” means a Contracting Party to this Protocol;

“The public concerned” means the public affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in tourism development and related decision making; the definition includes indigenous peoples and local communities; for the purposes of this definition, non-governmental organizations promoting any aspect of sustainable development and meeting any requirements under national law shall be deemed to have an interest;

“Sustainable tourism” in the context of development, is defined as all forms of tourism development, management and activity, which maintain the environmental, social and economic integrity and well being of natural, built and cultural and human resources in perpetuity. Sustainable tourism should:

- contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, geodiversity, landscape diversity, and cultural diversity;
- contribute to the well-being of local communities, enhancing social equity and respect for the rights and sovereignty of local communities and indigenous people;
- include an interpretation/ learning experience;
- involve responsible action on the part of tourists and the tourism industry;
- be appropriate in scale;
- require the lowest possible consumption of non-renewable resources;
- respect physical and social carrying capacities;
- retain maximal levels of earned value locally; and
- be locally owned and operated (through local participation, ownership, and business opportunities, particularly for rural people).

Article 2 Scope of Application

1. This Protocol shall be applied to all kind of tourism activities
2. This Protocol provides guiding principles for integrated sustainable planning, development and management of tourism in the Carpathians, including trans-boundary tourism.
3. This Protocol applies to the Carpathian region (hereinafter referred to as “the Carpathians”), as defined by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Chapter 2 General Provisions

Article 3 General Objectives and Principles

1. In accordance with Article 9 of the Convention, the objectives of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism are to enhance and facilitate cooperation of the Parties for the development of sustainable tourism, management and monitoring of tourism in the Carpathians.
2. The Parties shall therefore cooperate to:
 - a. Develop and manage tourism in a way that it helps to conserve biodiversity and protect important habitats and species in accordance with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - b. Develop and manage tourism in a way that it helps to conserve landscape diversity in accordance with the objectives of the European Landscape Convention;
 - c. Exchange information between governments and all stakeholders, on best practice for sustainable tourism development and management, including information on

planning, standards, legislation and enforcement, and of experience gained in implementation of these principles;

- d. Develop, harmonise and implement relevant management plans;
- e. Integrate sustainable tourism planning with planning for all sectors while ensuring that the needs of all areas are addressed;
- f. Ensure that plans create and share employment opportunities with local communities;
- g. Ensure that plans contain a set of development guidelines for the sustainable use of natural resources and land;
- h. Promote development of a diverse tourism base that is well-integrated with other local economic activities;
- i. Facilitate the transfer and assimilation of environmentally-sound, socially acceptable and appropriate technology and know-how; and provide training in areas related to sustainable tourism, such as planning, legal framework, standards setting, administration and regulatory control, and the application of impact assessment and management techniques and procedures to tourism
- j. Encourage development of networks for the exchange of views and information;
- k. Involve stakeholders in the development and implementation of tourism plans, in order to enhance their success;
- l. Encourage development of partnerships with stakeholders to facilitate ownership in projects and a shared responsibility for success;
- m. Facilitate investments and financing for sustainable tourism development by consolidating partnerships with the private sector, donors and the financing community and by participating in international initiatives with this focus;
- n. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector by focusing on integrated approaches addressing *inter alia* environmental, social and economic aspects of tourism development.

Article 4 Measures Aiming at Development of Sustainable Tourism, Management and Monitoring of Tourism in the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall develop and/or implement national policies, strategies as well as other legal and administrative measures aiming at the development of sustainable tourism and its management and monitoring in the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall take into consideration policies, strategies as well as other legal and administrative measures aiming at the development of sustainable tourism and its management and monitoring in the Carpathians, developed and implemented by other Parties.

Article 5 Integration of the Objectives of Sustainable Tourism, Management and Monitoring of Tourism in the Carpathians into Sectoral Policies

1. The Parties shall take into consideration the objectives of this Protocol in their other policies, in particular on conservation of biological and landscape diversity, spatial planning and natural resources management, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, industry and energy.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on integrating the objectives of sustainable tourism into other sector policies and strategies adopted at the regional and/or the global level which could have influence on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians.

Article 6 Participation of Regional and Local Authorities

1. Each Party shall involve the regional and local authorities directly concerned in the various stages of preparing and implementing these policies and measures, within their sphere of competence and within the existing institutional frameworks.
2. Each Party shall define, within its existing institutional framework, the best level of coordination and cooperation between institutions and regional and local authorities directly concerned so as to encourage shared responsibility, in particular to exploit and develop

synergies when implementing policies and measures for the development of sustainable tourism.

Article 7 International Cooperation

1. The Parties shall encourage active cooperation among the relevant institutions at the international level with regard to sustainable tourism.
2. The Parties shall remove obstacles to cooperation between local authorities in the Carpathians at the international level, and seek solutions to shared problems at the most suitable level.
3. The Parties shall take into account available expertise, instruments and work undertaken in international forums with relevance for sustainable tourism development.

Article 8 Links between the Convention and the Protocol

1. This Protocol constitutes a Protocol to the Convention within the meaning of Article 2 point 3 thereof and any other relevant articles of this Convention.
2. Entry into force, amendment of and withdrawal from this Protocol shall be done *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with Articles 19, 21 paragraphs 2 to 4 and Article 22 of the Convention.
3. Only a Party to the Convention may become Party to this Protocol.

Article 9 The CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development and Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements and Arrangements

1. It is duly noted that the Parties to the Carpathian Convention have all ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As such, attention is called to Decision VII/14 of the CBD, the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism and Development as a practical tool with great utility for realising the goals of this protocol.
2. Parties to the Carpathian Convention shall strive for synergies in the implementation of other bilateral and multilateral agreements relevant for the implementation of this Protocol in the Carpathians, *inter alia* the Aarhus Convention, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, the World Heritage Convention, the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change, the European Landscape Convention and others.

Chapter 3 Cross-Cutting Issues

Article 10 Tourism as Integrative Tool for Sustainable Regional Development, including Less Developed Areas and Protected Areas

1. Each party shall undertake measures to integrate tourism into its national, regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on biological diversity, geo-heritage and landscape diversity and/or cultural values.
2. Each party shall consider sustainable tourism as a supporting factor to sustainable regional development in the Carpathians, which contributes to the conservation of biological diversity, geo-heritage and landscape diversity, the preservation of cultural and traditional values and fostering of local economies.
3. Parties shall take any appropriate action to support initiatives, which focus on sustainable tourism development in least developed areas.
4. Parties shall develop sustainable tourism in and around protected areas in line with and respecting zoning and regulation schemes and design systems to optimize the financial contribution of the tourism industry to the establishment and management of protected areas
5. Parties shall structure tourism development embedded into diverse economic activities in order of avoiding economic dependencies.

Article 11 Decision Making

1. Decision-making is normally required for, *inter alia*:
 - a. Development, approval and implementation of trans-boundary strategies and/or action plans for tourism;
 - b. Development, approval and implementation of national strategies and plans for tourism or any other related national documents;
 - c. Proposals for tourism development and activities;
 - d. Adequacy of impact management measures in relation to anticipated impacts from tourism development and activities;
 - e. Adequacy and frequency of monitoring and reporting.
2. The decision-making process shall be transparent, accountable, and apply the precautionary approach. Legal mechanisms shall be put in place for notification and approval with respect to decisions identified in Article 11 paragraph 1 and for ensuring implementation of the conditions of approval of the decisions. Decision makers shall use effective tools, such as multi-stakeholder processes, for facilitating successful decision-making

Article 12 Access to Information

1. Each Party shall ensure that public authorities, in response to a request for tourism development related information, make such information available to the public, within the framework of national legislation, including, where requested, copies of the actual documentation containing or comprising such information.
2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be made available as soon as possible and at the latest within one month after the request has been submitted, unless the volume and the complexity of the information justify an extension of this period up to two months after the request. The applicant shall be informed of any extension and of the reasons justifying it.

Article 13 Public Participation in Tourism Development and Tourism Impact Management

1. Each Party shall make appropriate practical and/or other provisions for the public to participate during the preparation of plans and programmes relating to tourism development, within a transparent and fair framework, having provided the necessary information to the public
2. The public concerned shall be informed of all necessary information early in the decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner.
3. For the purpose of effective public participation, each Party shall ensure that the public concerned, including relevant non-governmental organisations, indigenous and local communities, is identified.
4. Each Party shall ensure that concerns raised and proposals made in the frame of public participation are fully considered in decision-making and approval processes.
5. Within the scope of the relevant provisions of this Protocol, the public concerned shall be able to exercise its rights without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile and, in the case of a legal person, without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities.

Chapter 4 Planning and Management

Article 14 Territorial Integration and Integrated Management

1. Parties shall utilise planning and management methods for the successful integrated management of regional and local sustainable tourism development.

Article 15 Adaptive Management

1. Parties shall ensure the active cooperation of all stakeholders in tourism, and especially those in the private sector while implementing adaptive management in relation to tourism developments.
2. Where necessary, Parties shall review and/or amend legal frameworks to support adaptive management, taking into account experience gained.

Article 16 Tourism Impact Assessment and Management

1. Parties shall ensure using internationally accepted methodologies while planning and managing tourism.
2. Where necessary tourism shall be restricted and prevented or changed in vulnerable ecosystems and landscapes.
3. Parties shall select and support appropriate institutions at national level, identify those that will be responsible for implementing impact management and for the resources required for impact management.
4. Parties shall urge the tourism industry to adopt corporate policies on sustainable tourism and to report their progress publicly on a regular basis.

Article 17 Land Use/ Spatial Planning and Approval Processes

1. Parties shall develop the local and municipal capacity to implement participatory land use and spatial planning as well as the respective approval processes in order to incorporate sustainable tourism development options in line with and respecting zoning and regulation schemes of protected areas.

Article 18 Institutional Coordination

1. In order to ensure coordination between the levels of decision-making in Government departments, inter alia the ministries responsible for tourism and for the environment, and agencies concerned with the management of tourism as well as agencies responsible for broader national economic development, inter- and intra-departmental and inter-organizational structures and processes shall be established, if they do not already exist, to guide policy development and implementation.

Chapter 5 Environmental Impacts

Article 19 Managing Environmental Impacts

1. Parties shall assess the impacts of tourism on environment, including biological diversity as defined by the CBD, and shall take any appropriate measures to avoid or minimize the negative impacts and to maximize the positive impacts, of both existing and new tourism developments;
2. In addition, the Parties shall promote a variety of measures (including market mechanisms) to compensate or offset the negative impacts attributable to tourism.

Article 20 Tourist Traffic and Transport

1. In order to decrease the impacts of traffic and transport on the environment, Parties shall create legal and operational conditions to allow and motivate visitors to travel to the Carpathian destination by public transportation.
2. Parties shall agree to legal measures for ensuring the easy travel of tourists within border regions by any means of transportation and/ or travel (e.g. hiking, biking or with motor vehicles).

Article 21 Tourism Activities

1. Parties shall take all appropriate actions to regulate tourism activities with negative effects on biological diversity, especially in protected areas, such as, but not limited to hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, paragliding, rafting, jet-skiing, motor-cross, canyoning, cross-country skiing and skiing.
2. Parties shall undertake measures in improving and/or establishing laws and regulations in order to limiting the negative effects on biological diversity caused by sports activities.

Article 22 Sports Facilities

1. Parties shall take into full consideration existing international regulations (e.g. EIA) and EU regulations where applicable (e.g. related to NATURA 2000) in planning of sport facilities in the Carpathians.

2. In such cases where those regulations have no effect and where national laws and regulations do not provide appropriate mechanisms, Parties shall take all necessary measures for the sustainable planning of new sport facilities in order to avoid or minimise the negative impacts and to maximise the positive impacts on biological diversity.
3. As referred to in Article 17 of this Protocol, Parties shall take into full account carrying capacity methodologies (e.g. Limits of Acceptable Change) while planning new sport facilities.
4. When planning new sport facilities (e.g. ski slopes), Parties shall first consider revitalising existing (not in use) facilities, before opening new areas for sports use in the Carpathians.
5. In all such cases, Parties shall take all possible actions for building the capacity of local and regional governments, to facilitate cooperation and coordination, for the efficient and sustainable planning and/or revitalising of sports facilities.

Article 23 Wildlife Observation

1. Parties shall take into full consideration existing international regulations (e.g. CMS) and EU regulations where applicable (e.g. related to NATURA 2000) in developing appropriate mechanisms for limiting the impacts on wildlife caused by observation (e.g. ornithological excursions).
2. In such cases where those regulations have no effect and where national laws and regulations do not provide appropriate mechanisms, Parties shall take all necessary measures in order to avoid or minimise the negative impacts and to maximise the positive impacts on wildlife. These measures shall be effective for all kind of wildlife, such as protected under national and/or international laws and such not under protection.
3. Parties shall take appropriate measures in avoiding the feeding of wildlife for observation reasons.

Chapter 6 Social and Cultural Impacts

Article 25 Preservation of Cultural Values and Traditions

1. With particular reference to the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property endangered by Public or Private Works (adopted at Paris 1968), Parties shall ensure the inclusion of cultural values into the design of policies and programmes for sustainable tourism development.
2. Parties shall encourage the tourism industry to promote and manage tourism in ways that respect and preserve cultural heritage and living cultures of host communities.

Article 24 Managing Social Impacts

1. Parties shall assess the impacts of tourism development on people and cultural diversity and shall take any appropriate measures to avoid or minimise the negative impacts and to maximise the positive impacts, both of existing and new tourism developments.

Article 26 Equitable Sharing of Benefits

1. Parties shall encourage the participation of local communities in all commercial activities of tourism to guarantee social equity in development and benefit sharing.
2. The flow of the benefits of sustainable tourism development shall be monitored and reported by a local entity (e.g. destination management organization),

Chapter 7 Economic Impacts

Article 27 Enhancing Economic Benefits to the Communities and Regions

1. Parties shall collect information about the spending pattern of visitors from which the share of local business in the total consumption can be drawn.
2. Every product and service should indicate its regional origin by means of an appropriate label.
3. Parties shall compile data to inform visitors about the percentage spent on conservation from the total revenue from tourism in the area and run fund(s)/charity that can take further support from visitors for special projects.

Article 28 Supporting the Marketing of Sustainable Tourism

1. Parties shall identify and support institutions for establishing incentives, promotion and marketing campaigns to change visitors/clients demands towards the use of sustainable tourism products and packages.
2. Parties shall agree to the establishment of a Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Marketing Fund, with a contribution of 10% of the total marketing budget of each country, related to the percentage of Carpathian mountain coverage in the country, for taking joint actions in the promotion and marketing of the Carpathians as a sustainable destination.

Article 29 Tourism Businesses Quality Improvement

1. Parties shall agree to a Carpathian wide "Code of practices for sustainable tourism" with all stakeholders groups involved in tourism and shall create a committee for monitoring its implementation.
2. Each Party shall identify appropriate measures for supporting the tourism businesses environmental performance improvement.
3. Parties shall agree to the establishment of a Carpathian wide Tourism Service Quality and Sustainability Scheme that certifies service providers.

Article 30 Business Environment (Regulations and Deliveries)

1. Parties shall develop appropriate measures to offer subjective and objective benefits to businesses that are providing sustainable tourism products and services.

Article 31 Support to SMEs and Local Businesses

1. Parties shall support SMEs and Local Businesses through their participation in regional quality labels, as appropriate.
2. Parties shall support SMEs and local businesses in
 - i. developing new business opportunities targeting customers who are environmentally aware;
 - ii. strengthening the quality of its products through a transparent and accountable framework and the involvement of local people;
 - iii. participating in regional quality labels
 - iv. building partnerships with protected areas; and
 - v. demonstrating commitment to the development of sustainable tourism in the Carpathians.

Article 32 Containing Economic Leakages

1. Parties shall contain economic leakages from tourism business, through the promotion of *inter alia*:
 - a) investments from local sources as an important prerequisite to avoid revenue leaking;
 - b) diversified tourism offers to enhance the involvement of SMEs and local businesses;
 - c) access to and information about markets, marketing expertise and infrastructure to make SMEs and local businesses competitive;
 - d) regional products to minimise the import of goods for tourist consumption; and
 - e) staff training to enhance employment opportunities to locals.

Chapter 8 Incentive Measures

Article 33 Supporting the Uptake of the Environmentally-friendly Technologies by Tourism Facilities

1. Parties shall agree upon recommendations for donor organisations to ensure that in various EU support schemes priority should be given to those applicants that would use environmentally-friendly technologies. This applies especially for those programmes managed by the countries directly.

Article 34 Certification and Labeling

1. Parties shall agree on and establish a 'Green' certification scheme, or adopt existing certification schemes, as appropriate, that can be applied to the key service providers, e.g. hotels, spas, ski areas, golf courses. The scheme should be applicable to all Carpathian countries.
2. Where applicable, Parties shall apply the Green Flag scheme to lake areas.

Article 35 Tax Reduction

1. Parties shall decide, on the basis of their national and local legislation and sovereignty, to establish an incentive scheme to allow a defined tax percentage reduction (not less than 3%) to those businesses, which are proven to be environmentally friendly through a certification scheme.

Article 36 Support of Voluntary Initiatives

1. Parties shall take any appropriate action to encourage the private sector to establish voluntary initiatives in all fields of sustainable tourism

Chapter 9 Implementing Bodies

Article 37 Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to this Protocol

1. The Conference of the Parties shall serve as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
2. Parties to the Convention that are not Parties to this Protocol may participate as observers in the proceedings of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, decisions under this Protocol shall be taken only by those that are Parties to it.
3. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, any member of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing a Party to the Convention but, at that time, not a Party to this Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to this Protocol.
4. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall keep under regular review the implementation of this Protocol and shall make, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation.
5. The rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and financial rules of the Convention shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, under this Protocol, except as may be otherwise decided by consensus by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
6. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be convened by the Secretariat in conjunction with the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties that is scheduled after the date of the entry into force of this Protocol. Subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
7. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

Article 38 Secretariat

1. The Secretariat established by the Convention shall serve as the secretariat to this Protocol.
2. According to the Convention the functions of the Secretariat shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to this Protocol.

3. To the extent that they are distinct, the costs of the secretariat services for this Protocol shall be met by the Parties hereto. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall, at its first meeting, decide on the necessary budgetary arrangements to this end.

Article 39 Implementation Committee

1. The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee shall serve as Implementation Committee for this Protocol by effectively facilitating at national or regional level programmes, alliances and activities which support the implementation of this Protocol in the Carpathians.

Article 40 Participation of the Relevant National, Regional and Local Authorities and National Focal Points

1. Parties shall assure the participation and support of their governmental institutions in different sectors and at all levels in the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 41 Participation of Observers

1. Parties welcome the participation of observers including representatives of different businesses and civil society organisations along with International Organisations in the implementation of the Protocol.
2. Parties welcome their full support in maintaining an ambience conducive to intergovernmental discussions and negotiations, and to open and fruitful dialogue between Parties and observers.
3. Parties shall develop and keep under review principles and criteria concerning the participation of observers in a separate document.

Chapter 10 Public Awareness Raising, Education and Capacity Building

Article 42 Public Awareness Raising and Education

1. Parties shall promote and facilitate:
 - a. public awareness raising and education; and
 - b. primary, secondary, professional and academic education concerning sustainable tourism planning and management, especially in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in vulnerable areas as well as cultural values and heritage to assure the implementation of the Protocol.
2. In doing so, the Parties shall cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international bodies.

Article 43 Human Resources (capacity building, training at professional, vocational and academic levels)

1. The Parties shall cooperate in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in sustainable tourism for the purpose of the effective implementation of this Protocol.

Chapter 11 Provisions for the Implementation

Article 44 Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians

1. The additional specific provisions for the implementation of this protocol are detailed in the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians.

Article 45 Financial Mechanism and Resources

Specifies what financial mechanisms and resources should be used to assure the implementation of the Protocol

To be included by the Implementation Committee

Article 46 Monitoring of Compliance with Obligations

1. The Parties shall regularly report to the Meeting of the Protocol on measures taken under this Protocol and the effectiveness of the measures taken. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall determine the intervals at which the reports must be submitted.
2. The Meeting of the Protocol shall examine these reports in order to ensure that the Parties have fulfilled their obligations under this Protocol. It may also ask for additional information from the Parties concerned or have recourse to other information sources.
3. The Implementation Committee shall regularly draw up a report on the compliance of the Parties with the obligations arising from this Protocol, for the attention of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
4. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall take note of this report. If it finds that obligations have not been met, it may issue recommendations.
5. Any party and/or other public concerned may address a non-compliance case of a Party to the Implementation Committee. The Implementation Committee is responsible for taking further actions in the case of non-compliance.
6. A mechanism for monitoring the tourism strategy and its implementation shall be developed, such that the signatories to the Protocol undertake their best efforts to the resolution of problems as soon after their notification to the Carpathian Convention (Interim) Secretariat as possible. These efforts and the problems they deal with shall be reported back to the following COP. The efforts undertaken shall engage at least one member co-signatory not involved directly in the problem as an observer.

Article 47 Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Provisions

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall undertake, three years after the entry into force of this Protocol and at least every three years thereafter, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol, including an assessment of its procedures.
2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol may consider the adoption of appropriate amendments to this Protocol where necessary in order to achieve objectives.
3. The regional and local authorities of each Party shall be associated with this evaluation within the existing institutional frameworks.

Chapter 12 Final Provisions

Article 48 Signature and Entry into Force

1. This Protocol shall be open for signature at the Depositary from ***** to .. *****.
2. This Protocol shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by States that are Parties to the Convention.
3. This Protocol shall enter into force for a State that ratifies, accepts or approves this Protocol or accedes thereto after its entry into force pursuant to paragraph 1 above, on the ninetieth day after the date on which that State or deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or on the date on which the Convention enters into force for that State, whichever shall be the later.

Article 49 Withdrawal

1. At any time after two years from the date on which this Protocol has entered into force for a Party that Party may withdraw from the Protocol by giving written notification to the Depositary.
2. Any such withdrawal shall take place upon expiry of one year after the date of its receipt by the Depositary, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification of the withdrawal.

Article 50 Notifications

1. The Depositary shall, in respect of this Protocol, notify each Contracting Party of
 - a. any signature,

- b. the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval,
- c. any date of entry into force,
- d. any declaration made by a Contracting Party or signatory,
- e. any denunciation notified by a Contracting Party, including the date on which it becomes effective.

Article 51 Reservations

No reservations may be made to this Protocol.

Article 52 Depository

The depository of this Protocol is the Government of the Czech Republic.

Done at on in one original in the English language.

The original of the Protocol shall be deposited with the Depository, which shall distribute certified copies to all Parties.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol

For the Government of the Czech Republic

For the Government of the Republic of Hungary

For the Government of the Republic of Poland

For the Government of Romania

For the Government the Serbia

For the Government of the Slovak Republic

For the Government of Ukraine