

## Recommendations of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism to COP2

*The Second Tourism Working Group meeting, 24 April 2008*

The Working Group appreciates the work done by CEEweb/ETE in developing the draft Tourism Protocol and acknowledges the valid input of international experts, including:

- a. Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer, Sustainable Use, Tourism and Island Biodiversity at the Secretariat of CBD (Canada)
- b. Stefanos Fotiou, UNEP DTIE (France)
- c. Gabor Vereczi, UNWTO (Spain)
- d. Laszlo Puczko, Xellum Ltd. (Hungary)
- e. Jan Rohac, Amber Trail (Slovakia)
- f. Scott Muller, Codesta (Panama)
- g. Rainer Schliep, Environmental Information & Communication Services (EICS); (Germany)
- h. Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe (Germany)

The Working Group has revised the draft Tourism Protocol and has reached a consensus about the formulation of the Articles at its second meeting.

The Working Group acknowledges the need for developing a Tourism Strategy for the implementation of the protocol.

The Working Group has identified the adverse impacts of unsustainable tourism practices on natural and cultural resources throughout the Carpathians, resulting *inter alia* from poor enforcement of existing legislation and lack of planning for sustainable tourism at the national level.

The Working Group finds it valuable to continue its activities according to the decision COP1/10.

The Working Group looks forward to the cooperation with those responsible for the Alpine Convention Soft Tourism Strategy.

Recommendations:

1. The Working Group urges the Parties and other stakeholders to plan, develop and manage tourism in the Carpathians according to the principles of sustainability, pending the finalisation and adoption of the Tourism Protocol and Strategy.
2. The Working Group recommends the Parties to start the process for the final negotiation and signature of the Tourism Protocol.
3. The WG recommends the Parties to continue the development of the Tourism Strategy, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, in parallel to the finalisation of the Tourism Protocol.
4. The WG recommends the Parties to begin implementing the Tourism Strategy once it is developed and approved by the WG, even if the adoption of the Tourism Strategy by the COP is pending.
5. The WG recommends the Parties to continue the activities of the Working Group under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, as per decision COP1/10, including the following functions: to act as a coordination body for the implementation of the Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention; and to monitor and assure the quality of the initiatives, programmes and projects relating to sustainable tourism, which are developed under the framework of the Carpathian Convention.
6. Recommends the (Interim) Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to establish cooperation with those responsible for the Alpine Convention Soft Tourism Strategy.