

R O M A N I A



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
CABINET OF THE MINISTER**

12, Libertatii Boulevard, Sector 5, Code 040129, Bucharest

Tel.: +40-21- 316.02.18; Fax: +40-21-312.42.27

No .....1165.../LB.DR.03-2011

**Dear Mr. Egerer,**

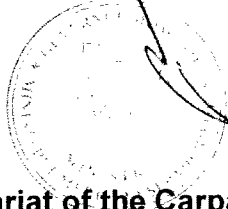
In line with the recommendations of the Implementation Committee Meeting from Bratislava, on the 25<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2011, please find attached the Romanian Offer regarding the hosting of the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

The present offer has been updated and further substantiated by the offer to host the CNPA Management Unit in the heart of the Romanian Carpathians, in Brasov.

Looking forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation, please, receive the assurance of my highest consideration.

**Yours sincerely,**

**László BORBÉLY  
MINISTER**



**To Mr. Harald EGERER  
Head of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  
UNEP-ROE  
Vienna International Centre  
PO box 500  
A 1400 Austria**

**HOSTING OFFER of the Permanent Secretariat  
of the Carpathian Convention, and of the CNPA Unit  
in Braşov, Romania**

**Part I**

**Legal framework**

*1.1 General provisions on privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the permanent secretariat and its staff members, family members/dependents of the staff, representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Convention, delegates and experts invited to the meetings and conferences in the Host Country of the Convention.*

Can the Permanent Secretariat, its staff members, family members/dependents of the staff, representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Convention, delegates and experts invited to the meetings and conferences in the Host Country enjoy the privileges and immunities as are accorded to the existing United Nations organizations in your country, including:

- a. Immunity from jurisdiction?
- b. Inviolability of the premises, archives, samples, equipment, and other material?
- c. Freedom of financial assets from restrictions?
- d. Facilities and immunities in respect of communications (e.g. uses of code/sealed bag/radio transmission) and publications?
- e. Exemption from taxes and customs duties?
- f. Other privileges and immunities?

The Permanent Secretariat, its staff members, family members/dependents of the staff, representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Convention, delegates and experts invited to the meetings and conferences in the Host Country can enjoy the privileges and immunities as are accorded to the existing United Nations organizations in Romania. They can enjoy immunity from jurisdiction, inviolability of the premises, archives, samples, equipment, and other material, freedom of financial assets from restrictions, facilities and immunities in respect of communications, exemption from taxes and customs duties and other privileges and immunities as long as they are granted in the sole interest of the Permanent Secretariat and not to ensure personal gains to the beneficiaries.

*1.2 Legal framework for ensuring equal treatment of premises and staff of the Permanent Secretariat.*

Please, specify in which legal form the above mentioned privileges and immunities will

be secured.

The above mentioned privileges and immunities will be secured by way of a Headquarters Agreement to be concluded with the Contracting Parties to the Convention. The Agreement will be ratified by the Romanian Parliament and will be incorporated into Romanian Law.

*1.3 Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of family members/dependants of staff members.*

Can spouses and children of the staff members of the Permanent Secretariat enjoy access to the labor market without complicated process? On the termination of the duties of the staff members, can their spouses and children continue working in certain reasonable period?

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development together with the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform may facilitate the process of obtaining work permits for the spouses and children of the staff members of the Permanent Secretariat. Once the working permit is granted, the national regulations will apply including after termination of the duties of the staff members.

*1.4 Social Security aspects.*

Can the Permanent Secretariat and its staff members be exempt from all compulsory contributions to the social security system of the Host Country? If yes, are they allowed to choose an insurance system of the Host Country on voluntary basis, and if yes, specify the possible ways.

The Permanent Secretariat and its staff members can be exempt from all compulsory contributions to the social security system of Romania and they can be allowed to choose an insurance system of Romania on voluntary basis. Specific provisions in the future Headquarters Agreements have to be inserted.

*1.5 Nature of the headquarters agreement*

The Headquarters Agreement will be a stand-alone agreement.

## **Part II**

### **Features of the office site and related financial issues**

*2.1. Main features of the building to house the permanent secretariat, including office space and scope for its expansion, facilities for conferences and availability of general services (security, maintenance, etc).*

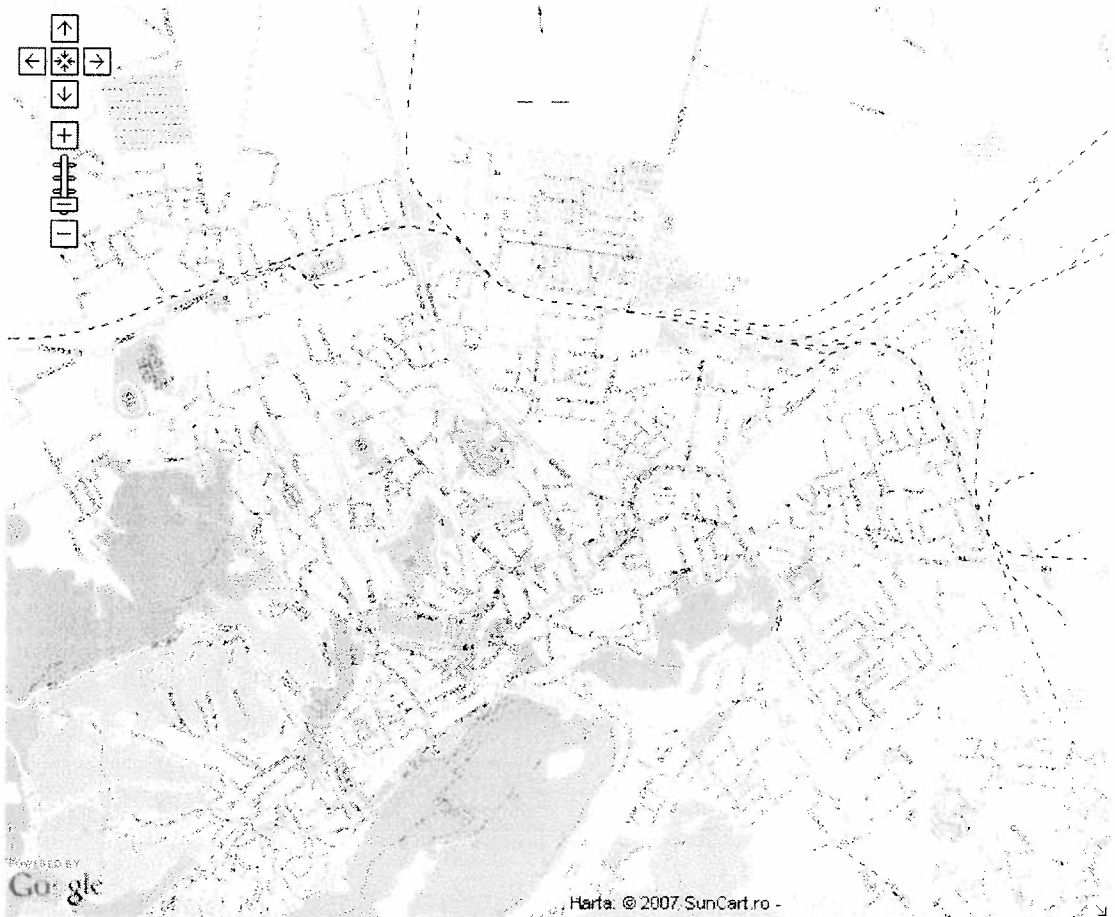
- a. Will you provide a newly-constructed office building/accommodations or already have an existing one? Describe the location, available area, amount/type of rooms, please.

The building offered for hosting the premises of the Permanent Secretariat is located in the “Tractorul” neighborhood, on the Olteț street no.11 in Braşov city. The building is one story house with ground floor and first floor, has been recently renovated and it has a small courtyard that includes 4 parking spaces.

We provide the first floor for the Permanent Secretariat premises. The first floor has 5 rooms with a total surface of 171 sqm (17.4 sqm; 20.5 sqm; 31.6 sqm; and 2 rooms each of them having 51.0 sqm). One of the 51.0 sqm rooms is suitable to be arranged as a council room. Storage places can be provided at the ground floor.



- b. Please, specify the main features of the building placed at the disposal of the Permanent Secretariat (offices, conference rooms, storage rooms, parking garages, security, maintenance etc.). Presentation of city-maps and photos, indication of the building's location on the city-map.



On the map above, the street Oltet is marked in red.

c. Indication of the existing parking space

Will it be enough parking space free-of-charge?

As previously mentioned, the building has a small courtyard with 4 parking places.

d. Will the building include a cafeteria and/or a restaurant that can accommodate staff and delegations?

The building doesn't have cafeteria or restaurant but there are suitable restaurants quite close to the premises.

2.2. *Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the Permanent Secretariat, such as:*

a. Ownership by the Permanent Secretariat (through donation or purchase, if the case?);

- b. Ownership by the host Government without rent;
- c. Host Government ownership with rent to be paid by the Secretariat, and amount of such rent.

The building is being placed free of charge at the disposal of the Permanent Secretariat by the Romanian Government. The building belongs to the City Hall of Brasov.

2.3. *Who will have a responsibility for:*

- a. Major maintenance and repairs to the office facilities;
- b. Normal maintenance and repair;
- c. Utilities, including communication facilities.

Please, indicate possible expenses to be paid by the Secretariat.

The major maintenance and repairs of the building facilities will be in the charge of the Romanian Government. The secretariat will have to pay the expenses for normal maintenance and minor repairs also for the communication facilities.

2.4. *To which extent the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the Host Government?*

*Will your offer include the provision free-of charge of the following items:*

- a. office furniture;  
Yes
- b. office equipment;  
Yes
- c. office supplies;  
No
- d. public utilities (e.g. gas/water/sewage/electricity/waste disposal);  
Yes
- e. lines of communication (telephone/ISDN/fax/computer network/telephone centre of the house/wiring);

Yes

f. security equipment/security zone equipment;

Yes

g. conference equipment including interpretation system

No.

*2.5. Please, specify the duration of the arrangements regarding office space.*

Unlimited.

### **Part III**

#### **Local facilities and conditions**

3.1. Short general overview of the town/city and region features:

- a. Population figure; The 2005 census showed a number of 289.982 inhabitants in the Brasov City, and a total number 595,211 inhabitants in the Brasov County. The nationality ratios of the city's inhabitants are as follows: Romanians-87.3% , Hungarians-8.7%, Germans-0.8% and Others-3.2%
- b. Territory total area;- 267.3 square km.
- c. Short general description of the city/region features:

Brasov is one of Romania's biggest towns and the most important commercially and culturally outside of Bucharest. It combines a beautiful historic centre with an important and developing commercial centre. It is centrally located in the heart of Romania on the edge of the Carpathians Mountains. Brasov is a very important tourist area for both its historical heritage and the recreational opportunities. It is a 'must see' on most tourism itineraries to Romania; its diverse cultural heritage makes it especially welcoming to international visitors. A short drive away is one of the most important winter resorts in Romania, Poiana Brasov.

Located only 160 km from Bucharest, Romania's capital, it is well provided with national and international transport connections. . Important national roads and railways cross the city connecting north and south, east and west of Romania with the

rest of the Carpathian region. The climate is temperate-continental with average temperature 7,6 Celsius degree. Tucked close into the Carpathian Mountains – it is comfortable in summer and provides all the aesthetic and recreational benefits of being close to the mountains in winter. It is also one of the most important economic/ cultural centers in Romania. Many international businesses are locating to the city to take benefit of its excellent facilities, reasonable costs and skilled/well educated workforce. It has excellent educational facilities – both school and higher education and houses one of the best Forestry Universities in Romania. As an important tourism destination and because of its diverse cultural heritage, Brasov has everything needed to make an international team and their vistors feel welcome and at home. There is a high standard of living combined with reasonable costs. It has a rich cultural life with theatre, film, opera and musical events taking place on a daily basis. There are several nationally and regionally important museums in the city. The historic centre has many reasonably priced high standard national and international restaurants and cafes to cater for every taste. The well preserved historical centre is an attractive and stimulating environment. The Black Church and the other important historical buildings of this medieval walled city provide many attractions.

Close to Brasov are some of the most important natural areas in Romania – including National Parks within the Carpathian Range, Natura 2000 sites and the Transylvanian Plateau. Within a short drive from the city there are culturally and historically important villages including a number of World Heritage Sites. The Transylvanian region provides excellent opportunities for enjoying eco-tourism activities with a well developed network of service providers including some that have received Eco-certified status.

3.2. *Description of the following facilities and conditions:*

a. Diplomatic representation in the host city/region;-

There are no diplomatic missions in the city. Brasov is about 2 1/2 hours drive from the capital City, Bucharest. All the countries related to the Carpathian Convention have their diplomatic missions in Bucharest.

b. Presence of international organizations in the host city/region;



WWF DCP has a project office in Brasov and a Forest Certification Information Centre.

c. Presence of NGOs relevant to the Convention in the city/region:-

Association of Eco-tourism

Fundatia ADEPT

The Environmental Partnership

Pro Patrimonio

d. Environmental National NGO's- Natura 2000 NGOs Coalition Romania has its secretary located in Brasov

Other national organizations relevant to the Convention;

#### Culture and art

Brasov has 5 museums, one theater, one children theater, one opera hall and one philharmonic. There are opened 2 cinemas, with 3 halls each. More than 50 statues, historic monuments, churches and buildings with a great cultural relevance are an important part of Brasov heritage.

Every year are organized several cultural events: The Days of the City, in May-"We love Brasov", "Brasov-The Music Citadel"-classic music festival, in the Summer, "The Harvesting Days", in Autumn, The National Drama Festival, in November, "Brasov - the Fairytale City" in December. Concerts or music festival (rock, jazz, folk, ballet, classic music, etc), traditional and cultural fairs, tourism and business fairs are also organized regularly. Also, Brasov used to be the hosting city of the "Golden Stag Festival" (*Cerbul de aur*), an anual international festival of music

There are cultural centers representing Germany, France, Japan and Hungary, very active in the community life. Also, the Municipal Library, whit its 6 section, located all over the city, is involved in cultural events and exhibitions. Brasov has at least 5 art galleries, 10 important book shops and several private art and antiques shops.

Education, research: Transilvania University, several private universities and colleges

Health - Brasov has 34 clinics and hospitals of various specializations and also a international recognized University of Medicine.

Social services - City of Brasov has specialized departments for child and family protection and old people help, for people with no home, department for job services.

Human rights - A human rights NGO (Liga Pro Europa), juridical conciliation associations and other NGOs have official offices in Brasov and the local administration is very active in promoting the human rights information.

Religion - In Brasov , 85.4% of the population is of Orthodox religion and the rest is as follows: 3.9% Romano-Catholics, 2.6% Evangelic, 2.5% Reformat, 1.1% Unitarian; 0.8% Greco-Catholics and 3.7% are of others confessions. In Brasov there are many cathedrals, churches, also one synagogue, and all the religions have a place for their activities. Pictures here. [http://www.brasovean.ro/cat\\_galerie\\_biserici](http://www.brasovean.ro/cat_galerie_biserici).

Business and professional organizations - Brasov Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) was set up on the 20th of January 1850, being the oldest Chamber of Commerce within the Romanian territory; has got connections with all the Chambers of Commerce and Industry around the world and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Now, this organization has 600 members, companies, private investors, and business related organizations.

In Brasov thousand of private companies are very active, in different field: production, commerce, sales, etc. Brasov is one of the first 5 the most important cities of Romania, in field of Economy and Industry. Also, the real estate investments are growing very fast in town and in the areas close by.

Other International Institution:

- e. Presence of universities/institutes/academies/research institutions in the city/region;-
- f. Availability of international conference facilities and the conditions for their use (free of charge, rental, etc.);

Brasov has many conference venues available within both the public and private sector. These venues can provide all of the necessary modern facilities and support services needed to host a professional and successful conference. There are good translation services available locally. There are venues suitable for all sizes of event within Brasov and its surrounding environs. A list of the conference venues in Brasov city as well as in surrounding areas, containing prices and conditions is annexed to the present offer.

Brasov and its surrounding area also provides many excellent opportunities for field

trip activities that provide an added value for hosting events and can inform and demonstrate issues related to the conservation and sustainable development of the Carpathians. These include a number of National Parks, Natura 2000 sites, World Heritage Sites, model rural development projects and integrated conservation projects.

- g. International and local transport facilities (air, train, bus connection; local urban transport facilities) with detailed information on connection with capital cities of the Parties, actual travel expenses, overall travel time and transport time schedule. Telecommunication facilities.

Bus and train connections are very good with Brasov served by the national and international Intercity network. Modernization of the CFR rolling stock means that an increasing number of trains are equipped with modern business facilities such a power sockets for laptops. Train fares are reasonable and competitive.

International train connections are possible from Brasov to all the capitals of the parties. In brackets are specified the approximate fares for round trips (sleeping wagon)

Kiev - 30 hours daily options. (110 Euro, 2<sup>nd</sup> class only)

Beograd - 14 hours multiple daily options (120 Euro, 1<sup>st</sup> class only)

Vienna - 14 hours multiple daily options (204 Euro 1<sup>st</sup> class and 188 Euro 2<sup>nd</sup> class)

Bratislava - 14 hours multiple daily options (135 Euro, only seated)

Prague - 18 hours multiple daily options (277 Euro 1<sup>st</sup> class and 245 Euro 2<sup>nd</sup> class)

Warsaw - 22 hours Multiple daily options (258 Euro, 1<sup>st</sup> class only)

Budapest - 11 hours multiple daily options (150 Euro 1<sup>st</sup> class, 130 Euro 2<sup>nd</sup> class)

There are plans in development for the construction of an international airport close to Brasov (Ghimbay). The construction has started recently and the works are planned to be finished by 2010.

The nearest international airports are presently in Bucharest (2 ½ hours by car/ train), Cluj (4 hours by car) and Sibiu (2 hours by car/ train). Air transport options are good with a good network of both scheduled and low cost operators providing connections

throughout the region – with daily direct and connecting flights to both capitals and regional airports in the member countries. Fare prices are reasonable and competitive – dependant on flight choice and destination. There are a range of professional airport transport services that offer good corporate rates for individual and group transfers.

Local urban transport facilities are very good – with a modernized bus network and an economical effective taxi service – enabling efficient movement around the city.

Romania has been ahead of many countries in developing its telecommunications network – with mobile internet access available across the country at higher speeds and convenience than many western countries. Good mobile (3G/HSPDA), fixed line telephone and internet facilities are the norm. All these facilities are available at reasonable costs.

- h. Local availability of trained personnel for possible employment in the permanent secretariat, taking account of language and other skills; There is an extremely good local availability of trained well educated personnel that would be suitable for employment within the permanent secretariat. The combination of high standards of education, good language skills and the capacity building activities of both business and the NGO sector has resulted in motivated and professional young people with strong interests in the field of activity of the Convention. An additional bonus resource is the presence in the region of a number of international professionals with a variety of relevant expertise that have settled permanently in Brasov after undertaking project work in the region.

The presence of the Transilvania University with its Forestry Faculty and Tourism Faculty give a good resource of newly qualified candidates or interns. The attractive conditions and reasonable standard of living in Brasov also make it an interesting location to attract national and international personnel.

- i. Local transport facilities and their proximity to the office facilities at the disposal

of the permanent secretariat;- Brasov has a very good local transport network with extremely regular public transport. Public transport stops within a few minutes walk of the proposed office facilities.

- j. Health facilities and access to them by staff members of the Permanent Secretariat; Brasov has 34 clinics and hospitals of various specializations.
- k. Availability of suitable housing and the proximity of this housing to the office facilities at the disposal of the Permanent Secretariat; Yes , Hotels /Nr. Places- 20/3541 Price-30-60-100 euro/day
- e. Overview of the housing market and accommodation facilities (motels, hotels, etc.) with a price and classification range description; other service facilities (stores, restaurants, etc.); Rent- 150-500 euro /month for apartments, depending on location and room numbers.; Purchase- 45.000 – 120.000 euro/ for apartments, depending on the room number and position in the city.
- l. Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing classes in languages other than the local language; Yes ; Elementary school = 20
- m. Facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the Permanent Secretariat and its staff members;

All the major national and international banks are present in Brasov with multiple branches throughout the city. All the banks have good experience in dealing with international clients – both personal and business. Many staff are multi lingual. A comprehensive of ATM's accepting international cards covers the city and the majority of retail and service outlets now accept credit cards.

- n. The time needed for processing entry requirements and ability to ensure that participants in meetings organized by the Permanent Secretariat in the territory of the Host Government are granted visa entry permits, where necessary, in expeditious manner. ?

Entry visas in Romania are not required for the EU citizens as well for the Serbian and Ukrainian citizens holding diplomatic and official passports. The contact details and programs of the Romanian Diplomatic Missions in both Serbia and Ukraine, where these entry visas requests are processed, are available on the internet at

<http://www.mae.ro/index.php?unde=doc&id=27&idlnk=4&cat=6> .

### **Other relevant information**

#### *4.1 Any additional contributions to be made by the Host Government to meet the operating costs of the Permanent Secretariat.*

In line with the recommendations of the Implementation Committee Meeting from 2-4 April 2008, the Romanian Offer for hosting the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention is further substantiated by the offer to host the CNPA Management Unit in the Romanian Carpathians.

Provisional arrangement for hosting the CNPA Management Unit can stay with the Protected Area Service established within the National Forest Administration. Facilities could be provided by associating the Management Unit with the Piatra Craiului National Park Administration, having its headquarter on the outskirts of Brasov City. The National Forest Administration is currently administrating 24 of the 27 national and nature parks. Support will be given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the establishment of the CNPA Unit in this transitional period..

The Unit for CNPA will benefit of all the facilities of the Permanent Secretariat location., including office space and a meeting place. All the costs related to its functioning (premises, availability of general services as well as maintenance services, communication, office supplies, etc??, will be covered from the Secretariat budget..

Romania has committed at the first COP of the Carpathian Convention (December 2006) to use its potential GEF 4 national allocation under Biodiversity Focal Area for the development and implementation of a regional project aiming at improving the financial sustainability of the Carpathian Network of Protected Area. The objective of this project is to help the Carpathian Countries and the CNPA to secure stable and long-term financial resources for protected areas, to build capacity within the governmental agencies and the CNPA for allocating financial resources in a timely manner and appropriate form to cover the costs of protected areas and, ensure that the protected areas are managed effectively and efficiently. The project entitled *Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas* is complementing the other initiatives at national and regional level and in particularly the “2012 PA Programme - The Carpathian Mountains Ecoregion” implemented by WWF and funded by MAVA foundation. The total value of the project is millions USD his approval is currently pending. The beneficiary of this project is the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the implementing agency is National Forest Administration..

#### *4.2 Any other information that the potential host country may deem relevant.*