

Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
23-26 September 2014, Mikulov, Czech Republic

**Ministerial Segment
Statement of Ukraine**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we note the great progress in achieving the goals of the Carpathian Convention. Few international treaties demonstrate today such a good growth as Carpathian Convention does. For a short period of time came into force three protocols – the Biodiversity Protocol and Protocols on Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Forest Management. A number of strategic documents to ensure implementation of the Protocols and the Convention are developed.

Now begins a new important stage in the Carpathian Convention process and we hope – successful. The very pearl of this meeting is the signing of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport. Unfortunately, Ukraine will not be able to participate in the ceremony. We sincerely hope that we join the Signatories in the nearest future, after completion of the necessary national procedures.

The Conference participants also came to the agreement on the ways of solving the crucial problems for the Carpathian region. Though we have unsolved issues, the most important are the geographical scope of the Carpathian Convention, the location of the Permanent Secretariat. These and other issues need our special attention.

The result of our joint efforts today will be the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Cultural Heritage of the Carpathians and the Joint Alpine-Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change.

I am deeply convinced that constructive dialogue at all levels and demonstrated high level of trust and mutual respect during Conference will ensure further cooperation towards environmental, economic and social progress of the Carpathian region.

We thank the Government and People of the Czech Republic and the city of Mikulov for the warm and friendly atmosphere of our work, the President of the Conference – for the wise presidency, the UNEP – for permanent support and service for Carpathian convention, the Interim Secretariat – for the preparation of the documentations and assistance provided during the meeting, WWF, Alpine Convention and other international organizations and processes for their valuable support of the Convention implementation. We also thank all the participants of the meeting for fruitful and constructive cooperation.

We wish you good health, strength and energy to ensure the prosperity of the Carpathians - the "Green Heart" of Europe!