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## Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

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### **Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians on its Third meeting**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3 CC) was held at the Radisson Blue Carlton Hotel in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, from 25 to 27 May 2011. The meeting was opened by Mr. Christian Apostol, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Romania (Presidency COP2). Mr. Rastislav Rybanič, General Director, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, made a welcome statement in which he stressed the importance of the International Year of Forests, the need of implementing measures and adopting policies according to the needs of the people in the Carpathian region.

#### **2. Organizational matters**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, the meeting elected the following Bureau:

Czech Republic – Ms. Dagmar Zikova/ Vice-Chair  
Hungary – Ms. Zsuzsanna Árokháti-Kissné/ Rapporteur  
Poland – Ms. Bożena Haczek  
Romania – Mr. Cristian Apostol  
Serbia – Ms. Aleksandra Došlić  
Slovak Republic – HE Mr. József Nagy/President, represented by Mr. Rastislav Rybanič in the plenary session  
Ukraine – Mr. Sergiy Gubar

The Chair proposed and the meeting agreed to convene a Working Group on Sustainable Tourism facilitated by the interim Secretariat to deal with comments with regard to the draft text of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism.

Delegations were requested to submit their credentials to Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention for his review.

The meeting adopted the provisional Agenda contained in UNEP/CC/COP3/DOC1.

### 3. Status of contributions, status of ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol

Ukraine serving as the depositary of the Carpathian Convention informed on the status of ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Ukraine have deposited their instruments of ratification. Serbia informed participants that ratification of the Protocol is expected to happen soon. Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, informed the meeting about the state of contributions.

### 4. Implementation of the Carpathian Convention – Draft Decisions for COP3

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the interim Secretariat, made a presentation highlighting the successes, challenges and future priorities for the Carpathians. Ms. Miriam Weiss on behalf of the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC) made a presentation of the “Draft Report – National Achievements and Challenges related to the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention”.

Considering the list of decisions contained in documents UNEP/CC/COP/DOC4 and UNEP/CC/COP3/DOC10, Parties:

- Agreed on Decisions COP3/2 on spatial development, COP3/5 on sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy, COP3/8 on environmental assessment/ information system, monitoring and early warning and COP3/9 on awareness raising, education and public participation, COP3/11 on cooperation with the Alpine Convention and Decision COP3/12 on cooperation with other conventions and international bodies, for adoption by the Ministerial segment;
- Reviewed and agreed on the amended Decisions COP3/1 on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, COP3/3 on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management, COP3/4 on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry, COP3/6 on sustainable tourism, COP3/7 on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, COP3/10 on cooperation with the European Union, COP3/13 on the Program of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention, COP3/14 on the administration and financial management of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) and its Protocols, for adoption by the Ministerial segment. Regarding the scale of contributions Romania highlighted that its State budget is not established for more than one year. Therefore, Romania will make all the required efforts to meet the scale of contributions.

By agreeing on Decision COP3/1, Parties recommended to the Ministerial segment to adopt the text of the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, as well as the CNPA Medium-Term Strategy.

By agreeing on Decisions COP3/1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 Parties recommended to the Ministerial segment to renew the mandate of the respective Working Groups.

By agreeing on Decision 3/4, Parties recommended to the Ministerial segment to

adopt the text of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management.

By agreeing on Decision 3/6, Parties recommended to the Ministerial segment to adopt the text of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, as amended on the basis of the discussions and reporting by the Working Group (WG) on Sustainable Tourism.

Following the request by the European Commission – DG Environment to consult with the Parties and Observers of the Carpathian Convention on the possibility of establishing a WG on adaptation to climate change, Parties adopted Decision COP3/15 on climate change, as well as Terms of Reference of the WG on Climate Change.

#### **5. Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention – Update on offers and positions**

To the present date, the interim Secretariat has received offers for hosting the permanent Secretariat from Romania, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. Discussing the Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Convention, the representatives of Romania, Slovak Republic and Ukraine briefly reiterated and Romania and Ukraine presented their detailed offers to host the Secretariat. Parties underlined the need and urgency of taking a decision on the location of the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and recommended that, serviced by the interim Secretariat, a meeting at expert level will be held within six months to prepare for High-level meeting to be organized by the Presidency. In preparation for the meetings Country offers should be updated, proposed sites should be visited, and criteria for the selection of the location should be prepared by the interim Secretariat and adopted by the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

#### **6. Preparation of the Ministerial Declaration of the Third Conference of the Parties**

Parties considered and reviewed the Ministerial Declaration of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption by the Ministerial segment.

#### **7. Date and venue of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4)**

The Delegation of the Czech Republic offered and Parties welcomed and recommended the offer to host the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP4) in 2014 to the Ministerial Segment for adoption.

#### **8. Other matters**

None.

## Ministerial Segment

A welcome message of HE Mr. József Nagy, Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic was followed by a presentation of Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the interim Secretariat, highlighting achievements and future prospects of the Carpathian process.

In the following Mr. Jean Christophe Bouvier, Director and Regional Representative of UNEP in Europe, delivered a welcome statement of Mr. Achim Steiner, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP.

Statements were made by Mr. Tomáš Tesař, Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic; Mr. Zsolt Horváth, Deputy State Secretary for International Relations, Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary; Mr. Janusz Zaleski, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Environment of Poland; Mr. Christian Apostol, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Romania; Mr. Ivica Radović, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning of Serbia and Mr. Igor Lazarevich, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

The following observers also made statements: Mr. Ewald Galle, National Focal Point for Alpine Convention, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria; Mr. Paolo Angelini, National Focal Point for Alpine Convention, Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy; Mr. Olivier Baudelet, Coordinator for the European Strategy for the Danube Region, DG REGIO/ European Commission, HE Ambassador Mr. Mykola Melenevskyy, current Presidency of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; Mr. Marco Onida, Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention; Mr. Diego Masera, Chief of Renewable Energy Unit, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

The stakeholders' messages were delivered by: Mr. Otto Szabo, Regional Environmental Center (REC); Mr. Andreas Beckham, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF DCP); Mr. Jacek Kozak, Science for Carpathians Network (S4C); Mr. Giacomo Luciani, European Academy Bolzano (EURAC).

On behalf of the President Mr. Rastilav Rybanič presented a brief report on the plenary sessions (25-26 May 2011). The finalization of the report was entrusted to the interim Secretariat, working in consultation with the President and the Rapporteur to be submitted in due course.

The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft Decisions prepared by the plenary sessions (25-26 May 2011) on a number of issues relevant to the items on the Agenda of the meeting, adding a Decision 3/16 on the location of the Permanent Secretariat, introduced by the Chair and based on the discussions during the Ministerial breakfast.

The Ministers and High-level Representatives adopted the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia,

Slovak Republic and Ukraine signed the Protocol, whereas Poland expressed its commitment to sign the Protocol after fulfillment of its internal procedures.

The Ministers and High-level Representatives adopted and Czech Republic, Romania, Slovak Republic and Serbia signed the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. Hungary, Poland and Ukraine expressed their commitment to sign the Protocol after fulfillment of their internal procedures.

Before the adoption of the two Protocols, Romania requested - in accordance with the reservation of Romania to the original text of the Carpathian Convention made by its signing at Kyiv on 22 May 2003 – the inclusion of the following text in the report of COP3: “The Government of Romania declares that it interprets article 2 para 1 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and article 6 para 1 of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism only according to the provisions of and limitations to the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, done at Kyiv on 22 May 2003”.

The Conference of the Parties adopted the Ministerial Declaration.

The Ministers and High-level Representatives further adopted the revised draft decisions, including an additional inserted provision on the location of Permanent Secretariat (Decision COP3/16).

The interim Secretariat confirmed that the credentials, as well as the full powers necessary for the signature of the Protocols, of all participating representatives of Parties were found to be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure for COP and recognized their validity. The originals of the credentials/full powers will be kept by the interim Secretariat.

The President declared the meeting closed at 12.30 hours on Friday, 27 May 2011. A press conference followed.

The Parties expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Slovakia for having hosted the COP3.