



**Framework Convention on the Protection
and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**

Original: English

1ST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF COP3

28 – 29 November 2011, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

REPORT

Day 1, 28 November 2011

Opening of the Meeting

The Presidency, represented by Mr. Rastislav Rybanic, Ministry of the Environment of Slovak Republic, welcomed the Meeting participants and asked Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Senior Advisor, UNEP, to chair the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

On the basis of the request of Ukraine, the item “Status of the Protocols” was added to the Meeting Agenda.

Status of contributions and update on financial arrangements

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the Interim Secretariat, updated the Bureau members on the status of the contributions of the Parties to the Convention and expressed his hope that the Carpathian Convention Trust Fund should become operational in the upcoming weeks. A request including the Decision COP3/14 has been sent to UNEP in June 2011.

Process for the selection of the location of the permanent secretariat

Slovakia informed that no updated offer for the Permanent Secretariat was sent to the Secretariat due to the change of the Government and upcoming elections in March. Only after this date Slovakia will be able to send the new updated offers.

The process for the selection of the location of the permanent secretariat was discussed and the following conclusions were agreed by the Bureau members:

1. The Countries Representatives will make comments to the document concerning criteria for the selection of the Secretariat location, after which the Secretariat will finalize the document for initial approval by the Countries per correspondence and final approval by the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.
2. The visits to the nominated locations will take place on invitation of the candidate Countries, under the indication that it would be preferable that the visits will be made by the same nominated experts by each Country. Representatives of the Secretariat will be invited to participate as resource persons to the sites visits and efforts will be

- made to try and link the sites visits to the Carpathian Convention meetings in order to reduce the costs.
3. The meeting of Experts should preferably take place linked to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting.
 4. The High Level Meeting can be organized by the Presidency if all the needed information and documents are finalized.

Status of the Protocols

The Head of the Interim Secretariat informed the Bureau members about the signature of the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and on Sustainable Forest Management in September by Poland. The Bureau members informed the Meeting participants about the status of signature and ratification of the Protocols in their respective Countries. Romania requested the circulation of the updated status information by the Depository in cooperation with the Secretariat.

Planning of meetings of Working Groups and Bodies of the Carpathian Convention for the Carpathian Convention Programme of Work period 2012-2014

The Secretariat collected proposals from the Bureau members about the dates and venues of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups and Bodies to be included in the table prepared by the Secretariat. It was agreed that the Secretariat will send via e-mail the modified table for further proposals on meetings dates and venues to the Countries Representatives.

Day 2, 29 November 2011

Criteria for the selection of the Permanent Secretariat location

As agreed the Bureau members made their comments to the criteria for the selection of the Permanent Secretariat location proposed by the Secretariat. It was agreed that the Secretariat will finalize the draft document on the basis of the comments made by the Countries Representatives and will circulate it to them for initial approval before submission to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee for final approval.

The Secretariat will circulate also a document including the main costs related to the Secretariat in Vienna and a scenario of the costs of the received offers in order to facilitate their evaluation, as well as an estimate of the cost of the status quo in Vienna. This estimation could also be used to change the countries offers in the future. It was understood that there is not time limit to the possibility to change the Countries offers.

Update on current activities and projects

The Secretariat updated the Meeting participants on current activities and projects developed by the Secretariat related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention (see presentation attached).

Ukraine informed the Meeting participants about a project on the establishment of a national label for Carpathian products and a project submitted under the ETC SEE Programme on the implementation of the Tisza River Basin management plan. Ukraine suggested also some modifications to the new Carpathian Convention website, in particular the inclusion of a specific section for COP decisions.

Mr. Lubos Halada, representative of Science for Carpathians, informed the Meeting participants about the second edition of the Forum Carpaticum that will be held in Slovakia from 30 May to 4 June 2011. Ms. Natalia Shovkoplias, Union Town and Cities of Slovakia, showed her interest in particular to be involved in the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change due to the link with other activities developed by her organisation in the field. Ms. Zuzana Okanikova, State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, offered the possibility for its Institution to host the next Carpathian Convention Working Groups on Sustainable Tourism and on Biodiversity.

Presidency update on EU accession to the Carpathian Convention

The Presidency informed the Meeting participants that in the Agenda of the next Council of Ministers of the European Union – Environment to be held in Brussels on 19 December, under “Any other business” will be mentioned the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention. The Bureau members agreed to mobilise their Permanent Representations in Brussels to support this recommendation. The Secretariat will circulate the Agenda to the Bureau Members for their information and action. In addition to this the Bureau agreed on the proposal of the Secretariat to send a letter of congratulation to the new Minister of the Environment of Italy, Mr. Corrado Clini, raising the importance to strengthen the Alpine – Carpathian Partnership especially at EU level.

Closure of the meeting

Mr. Ratislav Rybanic closed the meeting on behalf of the Slovak Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.

Attachments:

- List of Participants
- Secretariat presentation
- Criteria for the selection of the Carpathian Convention Permanent Secretariat location
- Carpathian Convention Working Groups and Bodies draft table
- Status of the Carpathian Convention Protocols
- Agenda Council of Ministers – Environment, 19 December 2011, Brussels