FOURTH MEETING OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (CCIC)

DECISIONS

*Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity*

*Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention*

*The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee*

Takes note of the draft format of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report and requests the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Working Group to further discuss the document as well;

Requests the Parties to provide comments before 31 January 2013 to the Secretariat;

Requests the Working Group to propose the report format and the reporting intervals for the consideration by the COP 4, through the CCIC;

Requests Parties, upon submission by the SNCSR of the documents agreed at the Sixth Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Working Group held in Banska Bystrica Slovakia on 26 – 27 March 2012, to provide available information to SNCSR for the elaboration of the Carpathian Red List of Species and Habitats and List of Invasive Alien Species;

Requests Parties, upon submission by the other BIOREGIO Carpathians partners of the needed documents, to provide available information to the partners for the development of the project outputs of their responsibility;
Invites Parties, if needed, to contact the BIOREGIO Carpathians project partners in their respective countries in order to ensure their commitment in fulfilling their project tasks;

Requests the BIOREGIO Carpathians project to assist the Secretariat in servicing the CNPA.

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Requests the Secretariat and the Parties, as appropriate, to promote the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Carpathian Area adopted by COP 3 and its priority actions for the Carpathians in relevant meetings at EU and international level.

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Welcomes the revised version of the Tisza River Basin Joint Declaration, considers it as final, and mandates the Secretariat to sign it.

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Takes note of the updated version of the Forest Protocol SAP and welcomes the initiative of WWF DCP to draft the common criteria for the definition of the Carpathian virgin forests, to be subsequently discussed by the Working Group.
The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Takes note of the results of the work of the WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure and appreciates the support of the Access2Mountain project;

Requests the WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure to focus their work until COP 4 on the elaboration of the Protocol on the topic “Sustainable transport and related infrastructure” and to encourage a wide stakeholders involvement and the adequate reflection of environmental aspects in the Protocol;

Invites Parties to nominate representatives from both environment and transport sectors to participate in the WG.

Sustainable tourism
Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Requests the Secretariat, subject to allocation of external funds for the project “Development of the Strategy for the future sustainable tourism development of the Carpathians”, to coordinate and facilitate actions necessary to implement the project.

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Takes note of the progress in the implementation of Article 11, as well as present and planned activities.

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning
Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
Invites the Parties to engage respective EIONET Focal Points in the implementation of Art. 12 of the Carpathian Convention;

Welcomes the idea of cooperation and invites the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the CCIC, a draft MoU on cooperation with the EEA on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to submit the draft to the Bureau for approval;

Welcomes the signature of the MoU between the Carpathian Convention and Science for Carpathians Initiative;

Welcomes the development of the “LANDOBE – M: Landscape observatories for European mountain regions: from open data to benefits for citizens” project proposal, prepared under the leadership of the Jagiellonian University;

Requests the Secretariat to circulate the project proposal to the Parties in order to collect their comments;

Requests the Parties to support the further development of the project and its possible approval by the FP7 Programme, as appropriate, through the respective FP7 – Environment National Contact Points.

**Awareness raising, education and public participation**

*Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention*

**The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee**

Takes note of the progress in the implementation of Article 13, as well as present and planned activities.

**Cooperation with the European Union**

**The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee**

Requests the Secretariat and the Parties to promote a EU macroregional strategy for the Carpathian region “bridging” the EU Danube and Baltic Strategies and “completing” the Danube Strategy with those priority actions for the Carpathians that are not included in the already existing Strategies;

Encourages the participation of all Carpathian countries in the future European Territorial Cooperation Programme for South East Europe (possible Danube Programme);

Requests the Secretariat and the Parties to maintain and, if possible, to increase their efforts aimed at the accession of the EU to the Carpathian Convention, inter alia through
the respective Permanent Representations, Permanent Missions and members of the European Parliament;

Requests the Slovak Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to liaise with the upcoming Irish Presidency of the EU Council on the possible decision of the Council regarding the accession of the EU to the Carpathian Convention.

**Cooperation with the Alpine Convention**

*The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee*

Welcomes the Secretariat activities in enhancing cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the Alpine Convention;

Requests the Secretariat to liaise with the Alpine Convention Secretariat and Presidency concerning potential support from the Parties of the Alpine Convention to the accession of the EU to the Carpathian Convention.

**On Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies**

*The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee*

Welcomes the Secretariat activities related to the Rio + 20 process;

Requests the Presidency, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to address a letter to the Mountain Partnership (MP) Central Hub at FAO in Rome, expressing concerns regarding the idea of membership fees, emphasizing the need for a transparent process of developing the new MP Strategy, and requesting the strengthening of the Central and Eastern Europe Hub of the MP.

**Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee*

Supports the proposed dates and locations of the next Carpathian Convention meetings.

**Administration and financial management of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**
The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Requests the Secretariat to prepare an evaluation of the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and to present its results, together with any relevant proposals for decisions, to the next meeting of the CCIC.

Climate change

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Takes note of the progress in the implementation of Decision COP3/15, as well as present and planned activities.

Location of Permanent Secretariat

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Requests the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed information document on Permanent Secretariat costs depending on offered locations (not limited to staff costs, comparing the current Interim Secretariat costs and elaborating options of staffing);

Requests the Secretariat to prepare a comparison of the Parties offers on the location of the Permanent Secretariat by 31 January 2013, using the draft of the selection criteria (Doc.3) considered by the Fourth CCIC Meeting;

Requests the offering Parties, upon receipt of the draft comparison from the Secretariat, to amend and complement the information related to their respective offers by 31 May 2013;

Invites Parties, which have not yet presented an offer, to submit, if interested, their offers, using the draft selection criteria, by 31 May 2013;

Encourages Parties to limit their offers to one location per Party;

Requests the Secretariat to finalize the comparison of the offers received and to distribute it to the Parties by 31 July 2013, for the consideration at the next meeting of the CCIC.

Other matters:

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
Notes with great pleasure the upcoming 10th anniversary of adoption of the Carpathian Convention on 22 May 2013, welcomes the proposal of Ukraine to possibly organize a joint celebration in Kyiv, and invites all Parties and the Secretariat to actively participate in the preparations of the celebration event;

Notes that the 10th anniversary of the Carpathian Convention coincides with the International Day of Biodiversity (motto of 2013: water and biodiversity) and recommends to invite important international partners;

Takes note of the information of Hungary on CEI Conference on green growth that will take place in Budapest probably in second half of April 2013;

Takes note of the considerable improvements of the Carpathian Convention website and recommends further adjustments (e.g. in order to facilitate use of documents).
**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEA</td>
<td>Austrian Environment Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEM</td>
<td>European Association of Elected Representative from Mountain Regions</td>
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<td>AKK</td>
<td>Alpine Carpathian Corridor</td>
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<td>ALPARC</td>
<td>Alpine Network of Protected Areas</td>
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<td>ASFINAG</td>
<td>Autobahnen-und Schnellstraßen-Finanzierungs Aktiengesellschaft</td>
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<td>BD</td>
<td>Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol</td>
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<td>BIOREGIO Carpathians</td>
<td>Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathian</td>
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<td>CADSES</td>
<td>Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space</td>
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<td>CARPATCLIM</td>
<td>Climate of the Carpathian Region</td>
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<td>CarpathCC</td>
<td>Climate Change in the Carpathian Region</td>
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<td>CARPIVIA</td>
<td>Carpathian Integrated Assessment of Vulnerability to Climate Change and Ecosystem – Based Adaptation Measures</td>
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<td>CC</td>
<td>Carpathian Convention</td>
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<td>CCIC</td>
<td>Carpathian Conventions Implementation Committee</td>
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<td>CC WG Climate Change</td>
<td>Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change</td>
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<td>CEE</td>
<td>Central East Europe</td>
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<td>CNPA</td>
<td>Carpathian Network of Protected Areas</td>
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<td>CONDESAN</td>
<td>Consorcio para el Desarrollo Sustainble de al Ecorregion Andina</td>
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<td>COP3</td>
<td>Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention</td>
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<td>COP4</td>
<td>Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention</td>
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<td>CoR</td>
<td>Committee of the Regions</td>
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<td>DAHPNE</td>
<td>Institute for Applied Ecology</td>
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<td>DEWA</td>
<td>The Division of Early Warning and Assessment</td>
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<td>EEA</td>
<td>European Environment Agency</td>
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<td>EIONET</td>
<td>European Environment Information And Observation Network</td>
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<td>enerSKI</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency, Networking and Capacity-Building for Skiing-Resorts</td>
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<td>ERDF</td>
<td>European Regional Development Fund</td>
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<td>ESD</td>
<td>Education for Sustainable Development Programme</td>
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<td>EU</td>
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