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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.

*Spatial development
Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention*

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.

*Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention*

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.

*Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention*

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.

*Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy
Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian
Convention*

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*

(Carpathian Convention) and its Protocols

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

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

EURAC.....	European Academy Bolzano
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for Danube Region
EUSDR PA 6 SG	EU Strategy for the Danube Region – Pillar 2 – Priority Area 6 Steering Group
FAO.....	Food and Agriculture Organization
Forest Protocol SAP.....	Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Forest Protocol
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
ICIMOD.....	The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICPDR.....	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ISCC.....	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
InRuTou	Innovations in Rural Tourism
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP.....	Medium Size Project
NFPs.....	National Focal Points
NFC.....	National Forest Center
PSAC.....	Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
PA	Priority Area
REC.....	Regional Environmental Center
RCE.....	Regional Centre of Expertise
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SC.....	Steering Committee
SDC.....	The Swiss Agency for Development and Sustainable Cooperation
SEE	South East Europe
SG	Steering Group
SNCSR.....	State Natural Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
S4C.....	Science for the Carpathians Initiative
TORs.....	Terms of Reference
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ROE.....	Regional Office for Europe
UNOOSA.....	The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
UNWTO.....	United Nations World Tourism Organization
VITUKI.....	Environmental and Water Management Research Institute
WG.....	Working Group
WP.....	Working Package
WWF DCP	WWF Danube Carpathian Programme