



**Road Map toward the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention
- overview by the Secretariat**

11th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting
8 October 2020 | ONLINE MEETING

| UN Environment Vienna Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Carpathian Convention - unique framework for cooperation in the EU context

- providing a transnational framework for multisectoral policy integration and cooperation in the Carpathian region and beyond
- consistent with the EU legislation, facilitate and enforce the implementation of the EU policies, especially environmental and regional policies, in **ALL** the Parties to the Convention
- strengthens regional cooperation between the five EU Member States in Central Europe
- facilitates and promote the integration process of strategic non – EU countries



The Carpathian Convention and the region – challenges and opportunities

- The Carpathians are an ecoregion of European and global importance with exceptional levels of biodiversity and providing vital ecosystem services - threatened by unsustainable developed, changing climate, environmental degradation
- Supporting policy development e.g. Convention's Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management - the only legally binding instrument on SFM in Europe, can support the EU in addressing forest fragmentation, illegal logging and sustainable use issues
- Regional instrument for the implementation of other convention, strategies and policies (Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Agenda 2030, EU polices, e.g. EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy)
- Excellent example of regional cooperation
- Model for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors



EU and the Carpathian Convention

- COP1 in 2006 - first formal invitation for the EU to accede to the Convention
- Repeated at following COPs
- Numerous official letters and declarations
- Efforts by the Parties (e.g. Polish Presidency of the Council of European Union, 2011)

EU is a Party to numerous and various Conventions and Agreements

Why then not to the Carpathian Convention



Towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention

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| ➤ Consultation with the Parties | → | Regular consultation |
| ➤ Consultation and support by the Members of the European Parliament | → | Official question by MEP, ideas of public hearing in the EP |
| ➤ Cooperation with the Committee of the Regions | → | Opinion of the Committee of the Regions, December 2019, regular participation in the meetings |
| ➤ Consultations with the European Commission (DG Envi, DG Regio) | → | Meeting with the Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Sinkevičius, seminar on Mountain Dimension of cooperation at the EU |
| ➤ Consultation with the Permanent Representation of the Carpathian Counties to the European Union | → | Contacts established |
| ➤ Consultation with UNEP | → | High-Level Meeting between UNEP and the European Commission, 2 March 2020 |
| ➤ Including this topic in every possible communication materials and presentations for awareness raising | → | Nature Directors Meeting of EU (April 2019), the Ministerial Conference on Large Carnivores – Challenges and Solutions (6 – 7 June 2019, Bucharest, Romania) |



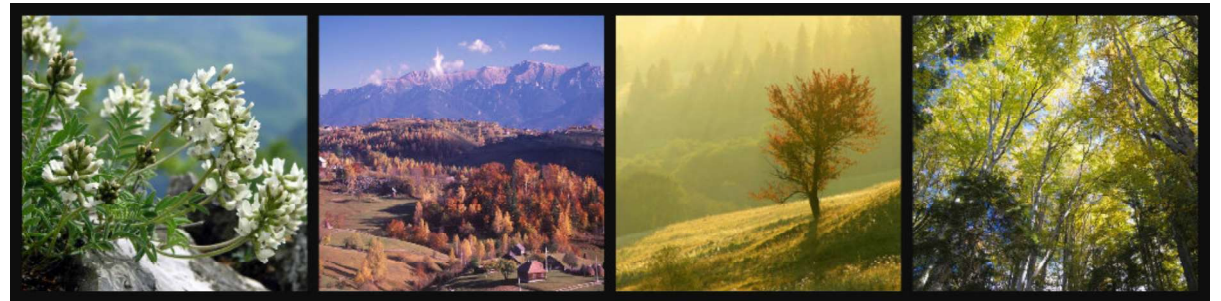
[background paper - EU accession to the Carpathian Convention – briefing note and rationales](#)

Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention

Agreed by the 10th CCIC meeting in December 2019 but implementation hindered by the COVID – 19 pandemic



Need for updating and realizing with support of all the Parties and involved actors



Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention – update 11th CCIC :

Consultations between the Parties, especially the Ministries of Environment and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretariat regarding the EU accession to the Convention and related further steps to be undertaken
– led by the Polish Presidency (online on regular basis)

6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6) - 25 November 2020, online meeting

- The COP reiterates the invitation for the EU to accede to the Carpathian Convention, and adopts relevant decisions in this respect
- Poland officially announces that the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention is the Presidency priority

Elaboration of a background document facilitating the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention – coordinated by the Secretariat

Meeting/s of the Ministers responsible for the Environment at the margins of the EU Environmental Council – organized and led by Poland with support of Hungary (date tbc)

- The Carpathian Ministers will inform the Commissioner for Environment about the political will for the European Union accession to the Carpathian Convention, asking for consideration of this issue and inviting the Commissioner for the Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention in 2021

Establish a dialog with the EU Commission regarding the EU accession to the Convention

- EU Commission designates a focal point in this respect

Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention - 2021, Poland (tbc)

- official request(tbc) for the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention made by the Heads of Delegations (in a form of a declaration, or a letter,) ideally in the presence of the Commissioner/other EU representative

EU Environmental Council - 2021/2022,

- official request made by the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to the EU Environmental Council for the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention





Thank you for your
attention!

UNEP Vienna Programme Office
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

www.carpathianconvention.org
<https://www.unenvironment.org/>