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Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (CCIC)

SIXTH MEETING

Brussels, Belgium

24 November 2016

FINAL CCIC Decisions

1) Election of a Chair and Adoption of the Agenda

CCIC elected Ms. Zuzana Tollrianova as the Chairperson of the CCIC on behalf of the Czech Presidency of the Carpathian Convention. CCIC- adopted the revised draft Agenda

2) Status of contributions

The Secretariat reported on the status of contributions to the Trust Fund of the Carpathian Convention.

CCIC thanked the Parties for their timely payments of contributions, and encouraged Parties, which have not yet done so, to arrange for the payment of outstanding contributions for 2015, and contributions for 2016, to the Carpathian Convention Trust Fund as soon as possible.

3) Status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention

CCIC thanked Ukraine as the Depository of the Carpathian Convention for the report on Status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention, and welcomed the new signatures and ratifications.

Furthermore, CCIC encouraged the Parties, which have not yet done so, to ratify the remaining Protocols.

4) Report on the Czech Presidency activities

CCIC welcomed the progress made and encouraged the Presidency and all the Parties to act in mutually supportive manner whenever possible in order to achieve joint objectives at the international and EU level.

5) Implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention 2015 – 2017 - Progress report – presentation of the ongoing and planned activities

CCIC took note of the progress in implementing the programme of work and welcomes the planned activities.

CCIC welcomed the offer of Romania to host the next meeting of the WG Forest and thanked Romania for taking the leadership of WG Forest.

CCIC welcomed the ongoing work on ecological connectivity and transport, requested the WG Transport to identify the key elements for the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan in the Carpathians for the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention, and invited a Party or Parties to take the leadership of WG Transport.

CCIC welcomed the contribution of the WG Climate Change to the Climate –ADAPT, thanked Hungary for the leadership of the WG Climate Change, approved the Terms of Reference for the WG Climate Change, and welcomed the UNEP offer to support elaboration of a regional assessment of climate change adaptation policies for the Carpathian region.

CCIC thanked Poland, Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre for organising the first joint meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity and Spatial Development, and welcomed the offer of Poland to host a next meeting.

6) Information on administrative units in which the Parties plan to implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols following the COP4/2 Decision para 3

CCIC welcomed the recent submission of information by the Czech Republic, reiterated the COP4 invitation to the Parties to provide such information, recommended to all Parties to provide such updated information by 30 June 2016 with an Excel table of the smallest administrative units up to the NUTS 2 level, and relevant maps, and requested the Secretariat to prepare the template for such Excel table, circulate it, and make the information received available in the appropriate way by the next CCIC meeting.

7) Update on development of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) and the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

CCIC took note of the first draft of the SARD Protocol, and requested the Secretariat to circulate the draft Protocol together with an updated timeline for the Protocol's further development to the WG SARD.

CCIC thanked Serbia for the leadership of the WG SARD. CCIC expressed its gratefulness to UNEP to support the Protocol's development through the Transboundary Institutional Mechanisms (TIM) project.

CCIC noted progress made on the Draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, requested the WG to report on its progress to COP5, and noted the close links between the SARD Protocol and the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge as well as the need for coordination.

CCIC invited a Party or Parties to take leadership of the WG Culture Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and encouraged the WG to implement the Roadmap in line with the COP 4 Ministerial Declaration on Cultural Heritage.

8) Overview of activities related to the Working Group on Biodiversity - discussion and next steps

CCIC requested the WG Biodiversity to discuss the first round of reporting on implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol including a possible date for its submission.

CCIC requested the WG Biodiversity to discuss possible next steps and, as appropriate, resource mobilization relating to the Carpathian Red Lists of Species, of Habitats, of Endemic Species.

CCIC welcomed the plan for a workshop on large carnivores in the Carpathians, to be held in the Czech Republic in 2016, in conjunction with the WG Biodiversity and the Czech Presidency to the V4, and thanked the Czech Republic for the leadership of the WG Biodiversity.

CCIC emphasized the relevance of the Carpathian Convention for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recommended the inclusion and consideration of the Carpathian Convention in the SDG processes at the national and international levels.

CCIC noted that the work on preventing wildlife crime will be synergetic with the work UNEP is undertaking in this field, and invited UNEP to consider the Carpathian region in its ongoing activities on this subject.

9) Overview of activities -related to the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism– discussion and next steps

CCIC emphasized that the need for establishing a common international mechanism to support the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Protocol and its Strategy, and the possible tasks of such structure and financial sustainability of such an arrangement, should be further considered.

Consequently, CCIC requested the WG Sustainable Tourism to consider the draft ToRs for a possible Common Sustainable Tourism Coordination Platform/common international mechanism and to submit a position for email consultation by the CCIC.

CCIC requested the Secretariat to also facilitate the elaboration of a joint proposal of the Common Sustainable Tourism Coordination Platform/common international mechanism to support the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Protocol and its Strategy, by Euroregion Karpacki, Romanian National Authority for Tourism, and ETE/EWS, until the next WG Tourism meeting, and subsequent electronic consultation by the CCIC.

CCIC welcomed the establishment of the National Tourism Task Forces and approved the Terms of Reference for the WG Tourism.

CCIC welcomed the offer by Romania to host the 8th meeting of the WG Sustainable Tourism in Brasov, Romania, and the offer of Poland to host the 9th WG meeting in Kombornia, Poland.

CCIC thanked Serbia for organizing a meeting of the WG Sustainable Tourism, and Hungary for the leadership on WG- Sustainable Tourism, and the continuous support of the German government.-

CCIC thanked UNEP for its support to this CCIC meeting as well as various substantive activities through the TIM project.

10) Carpathian Convention Project Platform

CCIC took note of the report of the Secretariat on participation in EU programmes and the submission of the EU programme applications

CCIC welcomed the submission and successful selection of the WILD for DC Project under the Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP) and of the ConnectGREEN Project under the START – Danube Region Project Fund.

CCIC welcomed the submission of the Expressions of Interest of the projects ConnectGRENN, TransGREEN, TRANSHERIT, Danubiom, Restar, JOINTisza, to the first step of the first call of the Danube Transnational Programme; and appreciated the cooperation of various stakeholders on the development on these projects proposal, contributing to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

CCIC requested the Secretariat to keep the Project Platform on the website and up to date in the appropriate format.

CCIC considered that the Secretariat in Vienna has the capacity to participate in EU-financed programmes, and should continue to actively pursue these submission and further efforts of resource mobilization. The themes of such projects are set by the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention, the Convention, its Protocol and relevant COP Decisions.

CCIC requested the Secretariat to consult with all actors involved, and propose measures to enhance compatibility of procedures in order to facilitate the smooth participation in relevant EU programmes and projects.

11) Cooperation with other initiatives:

CCIC took note of the progress report by the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat with the guidance and support of the Presidency to coordinate process for preparation of a draft MoU with the International Council for Game and Wildlife.

CCIC requested the Secretariat with the guidance and support of the Presidency to update the draft MoU with EURAC.

CCIC welcomed the signature of the Declaration between the ICPDR - Tisza Group and the Carpathian Convention, requested the Secretariat to pursue its implementation, and requested the Secretariat to explore further opportunities of cooperation with the UNECE Water Convention.

CCIC requested the Secretariat with the guidance and support of the Presidency to finalize the draft joint Work Plan 2016-2017 with EEA and to initiate its implementation.

CCIC recommended signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations.

CCIC welcomed the draft of the Presidency and the European Commission proposal on a Memorandum of Cooperation and joint paper on synergies Carpathian Convention - EUSDR.

CCIC requested the Secretariat to explore further opportunities of synergies with the EU Baltic Strategy.

**12) Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols:
enhancing institutional, financial and administrative arrangements (headquarters
arrangements, administrative arrangement, Trust Fund arrangement)**

CCIC welcomed the outcomes of the UNEP evaluation and invited UNEP to report on the implementation of recommendations of the evaluation. CCIC encouraged the Presidency to pursue its efforts and requests UNEP to implement the parts relevant to the Carpathian Convention, i.p. to ensure the Secretariat's ability to engage in projects with main donors, in particular the European Union.

CCIC requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the implementation of the Decision COP4 / 15 including exploring the possibility of a Headquarters/Seat Agreement with Austria, an Administrative Arrangement with UNEP, and the question of overheads / programme support cost of the Trust Fund and the fitness of the Secretariat to participate in the relevant EU programmes (including funding contracts).

13) Programme of work and budget 2018-2020 of the Carpathian Convention

CCIC recommended the closer cooperation between relevant Working Groups through the WG Chairs, and the organization of joint meeting if possible, however the online exchange and consultations are encouraged.

CCIC requested the WGs, with assistance of the Secretariat, to update the Terms of Reference for the Working Group as required, to update information on the national members of –all Working Groups and to keep them up to date.

CCIC encouraged strong involvement of regional and local authorities in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention as they are direct beneficiaries of the Carpathian Convention activities.

CCIC noted the report by the Secretariat on increased need for resources, and requested the Secretariat to prepare an option paper for enhanced resource mobilization based on Parties' inputs (regular contributions, voluntary contributions, contributions by other authorities or institutions involved, projects, in kind contributions and secondments, payment of travel and participation in meetings, a scale of assessment, required contributions to the Protocols through line Ministries in charge etc.)

14) Upcoming Meetings of the Carpathian Convention

CCIC took note of the list of planned meetings.

15) Updates on COP5

CCIC welcomed the preparations by Hungary for COP5, and requested the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the CCIC.