Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians[1] (CC COP8)

Vienna, Austria
1 – 3 December 2026

Meeting Venue: Vienna International Center
Building C, Room: CR1 (second floor)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the CC COP8 – Secretariat
2. Welcome by the Outgoing Presidency – Serbia
3. Welcome by the Incoming Presidency – Ukraine
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Organizational Matters
    a) Election of Officers
    b) Review of credentials

6. Status of ratifications and contributions - the Depositary and the Secretariat:
    a) Protocol on Biodiversity
    b) Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management
    c) Protocol on Sustainable Tourism
    d) Protocol on Sustainable Transport
    e) Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
    f) New Article 12bis on Climate Change
    g) Status of the contributions

7. Progress Report:
    a) Presentation of the Progress Report by the Secretariat
    b) Moderated Reflection by Working Group Chairs and key implementation partners
    c) Observers input - Exchange of views on achievements, challenges, lessons learned and future needs

[1] COP8 serves also as the Meeting of the Parties to the: Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, Protocol on Sustainable Transport, Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

8. Consideration and finalization of draft COP8 decisions, related documents and the COP8 Ministerial Declaration, including:
    a) DECISION COP8/1 - Implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
    b) DECISION COP8/2 - Support for the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Ukraine
    c) DECISION COP8/3 - Programme of work and strategic priorities for the implementation period 2027–2029
    d) DECISION COP8/4 - Cooperation with the European Union
    e) DECISION COP8/5 - Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral environmental agreements and international bodies
    f) DECISION COP8/6 - Cooperation with Eurac Research
    g) DECISION COP8/7 - Strengthening the science–policy–practice interface
    h) DECISION COP8/8 - Stakeholder engagement, education, awareness raising and public participation
    i) DECISION COP8/9 - Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity *(Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention, Biodiversity Protocol)*
    j) DECISION COP8/10 - Spatial planning *(Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)*
    k) DECISION COP8/11 - Sustainable and integrated water and river basin management *(Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention)*
    l) DECISION COP8/12 - Sustainable agriculture and rural development *(Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, SARD Protocol)*
    m) DECISION COP8/13 - Sustainable forest management *(Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, Forest Protocol)*
    n) DECISION COP8/14 - Sustainable transport, infrastructure, industry and energy *(Articles 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention, Transport Protocol)*
    o) DECISION COP8/15 - Sustainable tourism (*Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention*, Tourism Protocol)
    p) DECISION COP8/16 - Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge *(Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention)*
    q) DECISION COP8/17 - Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning *(Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention)*
    r) DECISION COP8/18 - Climate change *(Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention)*
    s) DECISION COP8/19 - Implementation, reporting, compliance and institutional arrangements under the Carpathian Convention
    t) DECISION COP8/20 - Budget, financial arrangements and resource mobilization for the Carpathian Convention
    u) DECISION COP8/21 - Administrative and Secretariat matters
    v) DECISION COP8/22 - Presidency of the Carpathian Convention
    w) DECISION COP8/23 - Date and venue of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
    x) COP8 Ministerial Declaration

9. Reports by the Observers[2]

[2] As provided for under Rule 35 (Participation of Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

10. Carpathian Conversations: Collaborative Dialogues:
    a) Strengthening the position of the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention at the European level;
    b) Balancing economic development with environmental protection;
    c) Advancing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity through the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework;
    d) Strengthening climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through sustainable water and land management.

    Objective: These interactive dialogues will explore the four priority themes of the Ukrainian Presidency (2027-2029), bringing together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss challenges, opportunities, and actions for their implementation under the Carpathian Convention. Detailed session programmes will be made available in due course.

11. Strengthening partnerships - presentations of new partnerships and signing of cooperation agreements:
    a) Memoranda of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and Špirála;
    b) Memoranda of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe (IENE);
    c) Memoranda of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Foundation;
    d) Programme of Collaborative Work 2026–2027 between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

12. Poster session (TBC)

Side Events
Parallel Side Event (TBC)
Parallel Side Event (TBC)

13. From Recovery to Action: Identifying Priorities and Partnerships for the Ukrainian Carpathians

    Objective: This session will examine recovery priorities for the Ukrainian Carpathians, ongoing initiatives in Ukraine, the engagement of international partners and the role of the Carpathian Convention in the process. Through an interactive dialogue, participants will identify priority actions, partnership opportunities, and key recommendations for coordinated recovery efforts.

14. Opening of the COP8 High-Level Segment and setting the scene by the Secretariat

15. Address by Serbia, outgoing Presidency

16. Symbolic handover of the Presidency

17. Address by Ukraine, incoming Presidency

18. High-Level Roundtable – "Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians: Solidarity, Recovery and Regional Cooperation"

    a) Chair's introduction
    b) Ministerial statements by Parties
    c) Interventions by observers, international organizations and development partners
    d) Interactive discussion and exchange among Ministers and partners
    e) Chair's summary

19. Report by the COP8 Rapporteur

20. Adoption of COP8 Decisions and COP8 Ministerial Declaration

21. Closing statements and official closure of COP8

22. COP8 Group photo

Official Side Event of the Ukrainian Presidency

"Carpathian 8: Unlocking Investment Opportunities in the Carpathian Macro-region: Private Capital, Public Partnerships and Regional Cooperation"

Objective: The side event will explore how sustainable investment, economic cooperation and financing mechanisms can contribute to the objectives of the Carpathian Convention, balancing economic development with environmental protection. Building on the outcomes of the C8 Summit in Bukovel, the discussions will focus on identifying investment opportunities, addressing barriers to cross-border cooperation and defining practical steps for further regional cooperation.