
**Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable
Development of the Carpathians**

CC/COP5/DOC5/FINAL

1. *Welcomes* the *Joint Declaration of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River - Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the sustainable development of the Tisza River Basin within the Carpathian Region* signed at the Danube Annual Forum on 29 October 2015 in Ulm, Germany, and *encourages* enhanced joint programming with the ICPDR, *inter alia*, on climate change adaptation, agriculture or water nexus;
2. *Welcomes* the approval of the JOINTISZA Project - Strengthening Cooperation between River Basin Management Planning and Flood Risk Prevention to Enhance the Status of Waters of the Tisza River Basin funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, *appreciates* the role of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention as the Associated Strategic Partner (hereinafter ASP), and requests it to participate in it by providing relevant expertise.

**DECISION COP5/7
Sustainable agriculture and rural development
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter SARD Protocol), *invites* the Parties to sign and ratify the Protocol, *encourages* the Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, to undertake, whenever possible, actions taking into account its provisions, and *appreciates* the work conducted by the WG SARD, as well as the expertise provided by the Eurac Research to the development process of the SARD Protocol;
2. *Requests* the WG SARD to prepare and prioritize strategic actions taking into account the provisions of the SARD Protocol;
3. *Reiterates* the calls for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with the ICPDR on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

**DECISION COP5/8
Sustainable forest management
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note of* further progress made in preparing the inventory of virgin forests¹, *appreciates* the work done by the WG Forest and the European Environment Agency (hereinafter EEA)

¹ Article 7 (k) of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention

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- involved in the process, and asks the Parties, with support of the WG Forest and other relevant stakeholders, to complete the inventory of virgin forest before the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter COP6);
2. *Welcomes* progress made on typology of natural forests², *requests* the WG Forest to continue this work, *recommends* the WG Forest to propose voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of natural forests in the Carpathian region, implementing, *inter alia*, Article 11 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter Forest Protocol);
 3. *Recommends* the WG Forest to strengthen its cooperation with the WG Climate Change to facilitate the implementation of Article 14 of the Forest Protocol;
 4. *Takes note* of the threat that illegal logging in some Parties poses to the natural capital of the Carpathian region, including virgin and natural forests in both existing protected and non-protected areas, and *calls on* the Parties to take urgent and forceful measures to address this problem, *acknowledges* the socioeconomic issues related to illegal logging, and *invites* the WG Forest to compile and disseminate information on illegal logging in the Carpathian Mountains as well as to recommend measures for addressing this problem that take into account socioeconomic issues.

DECISION COP5/9
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy
Article 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Transport Protocol) by the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Poland, and *encourages* the ratification of, or accession to, the Protocol by the Parties which have not yet done so;
2. *Recommends* the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Infrastructure, Industry and Energy (hereinafter WG Transport) with support of the TRANSGREEN project, to develop a Strategic Action Plan for fostering the implementation of the Transport Protocol, *invites* other Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to support the process;
3. *Recalling* paragraphs 4 and 8 of decision COP4/5, *welcomes* approval of the TRANSGREEN project – *Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature* funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, and *appreciates* the support given to the activities by the WG Transport, as well as the WG Biodiversity and the WG Spatial Development, *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF as the Lead Partner, and *requests* the Secretariat to participate in the project by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;
4. *Welcomes* cooperation and experience sharing with the Balkan region through the project *ClimaProof - Enhancing Environmental Performance and Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Investments in the Western Balkan Region from an EU integration perspective*,

² Article 7 (e) of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention