

MILOČER DECLARATION - (22 April 2003)*(translation)*

Declaration from the Final Preparatory Ministerial Conference for participants from Serbia and Montenegro (Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of SaM, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, NGOs and representation of the Standing Conference of SaM Cities and Towns) for inclusion into the process of "Environment for Europe" and participation to the Fifth Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Environment



We, participants of the Final Preparatory Conference of Serbia and Montenegro for inclusion into the process of "Environment for Europe" and for participation to the Fifth Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Environment:

Recognize the significance of the "Environment for Europe" process and find it a key for sustainable development, regional co-operation and for accession to the European Union. Participation at the Kiev Conference is of substantial importance for this process, as well as an opportunity for SaM to move towards regional stability and co-operation.

Confirm our commitment to intensively co-operate on the issues of common interest and importance for SaM to establish mechanisms for information exchange on environmental matters and for mutual co-ordination of activities.

Commit ourselves to work in accordance with institutions and legislation, as well as on their harmonization with European standards, taking into account procedures from the Process of Stabilization and Association to EU.

Consider that on the Union level, as well as on the level of member States, it would be beneficiary to create an efficient mechanism and legal procedure for accession to and ratification of international regulations, conventions and agreements in Environmental Protection matters, however, in accordance with the international standards and framework determined by the Constitutional Charter. Implementation of international regulations, conventions and contracts from the area of Environmental Protection is under the responsibility of the Union SaM member states.

Comprehend that it is necessary to take decisive steps in order to create a proper environment for ratification of a certain number of international contracts in which SaM does not have a status of a contracting party. Priorities that are considered are defined by the Agreement on Co-operation of Ministries of SaM. We conform that the initiative for approaching to Carpatian Convention should be supported.

Believe that addressing of all the participants from SaM on the upcoming Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" should be co-ordinated and adjusted and that steps should be made in order to create conditions for SaM Union to sign a Protocol on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (as part of ESPO Convention SEA in cross-border context) and Protocol on emission registering and Protocol on PRTR – Pollutant Release Transfer Register (as part of Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters). We also consider it necessary to take

certain measures in order to create conditions for gradual implementation of the documents mentioned and obligations that are deriving from them.

Agree that the environmental problems are complex and that all the stake holders should be involved in finding their long-term and sustainable solution, especially non-governmental organizations and economic partners. Support from international organizations is important to foster inclusion in the international processes and structures, as well as for harmonization with international standards. In that context the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was recognized as one of the key partners.

Propose continuance of the co-operation performed so far, under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in order to provide conditions for monitoring the initiated activities and implementation of conclusions adopted at the Kiev Conference.

Miločer 22 April, 2003.