



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

PC.DEL/232/07
19 March 2007

ENGLISH only

Conference Services

Please find attached the presentation by Mr. Dejan Komatina, International Sava River Basin Commission delivered to the Plenary Session 2 - OSCE experiences in promoting transboundary co-operation on water management, Second Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Zaragoza, Spain, 12 - 13 March 2007.

Transboundary Cooperation in the Sava River Basin

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General Info on the SRB

Parameter	Quantity	Comparison with other tributaries in the Danube River Basin
River length	940 km *	The third largest tributary, after the Tisza and the Drava rivers
Basin area	95 720 km ²	The second largest tributary, after the Tisza basin
Flow rate	1722 m ³ /s **	The largest tributary

* 586 km were navigable before the war

** The average flow rate at the mouth

General Info on the SRB

Country	Share of the basin (%)	Part of the territory within the basin (%)
Albania	0.1	0.5
Bosnia & Herzegovina	40	76
Croatia	26	45
Montenegro	7.5	52
Serbia	15.4	17
Slovenia	11	53

General Info on the SRB



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The Sava River Initiative

- ❑ **Launch of the Initiative:** June 2001
- ❑ **Signing the Letter of Intent on cooperation in the SRB:** November 29, 2001
- ❑ **Signing the FASRB:** Kranjska Gora (Slovenia), December 3, 2002
- ❑ **Establishment of the Interim Sava Commission:** Brussels (Belgium), March 12, 2003
- ❑ **Ratification of the FASRB:** December 29, 2004
- ❑ **Establishment of the Sava Commission:** Zagreb (Croatia), June 27-29, 2005
- ❑ **Establishment of the ISRBC Secretariat:** Zagreb, January 9, 2006

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FASRB

- ❑ **The first multilateral agreement** in the region signed after the Dayton Peace Agreement (1995)
- ❑ **Regulates** Transboundary Cooperation in the Sava River Basin
- ❑ **Signed** in December 2002, **entered into force** in December 2004
- ❑ **Parties:** Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia (Montenegro to express the interest)
- ❑ Implemented by the **Sava Commission**, with the **Secretariat** as its executive and administrative body

FASRB

- ❑ **General objective:**

**Transboundary cooperation
for sustainable development of the region**

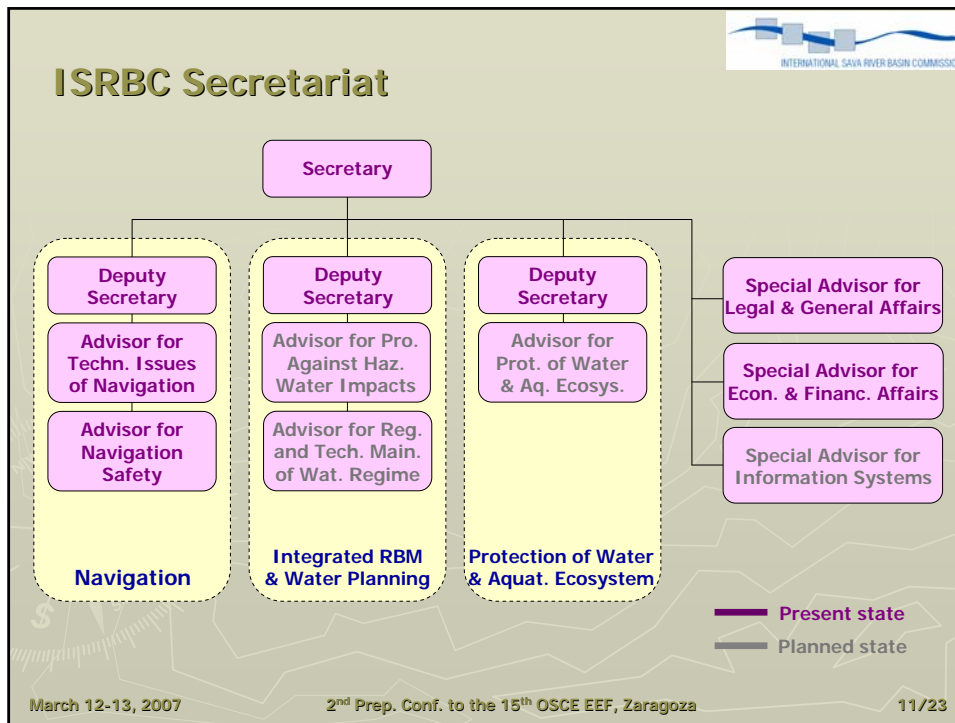
- Issues of **sustainability**
(Improvement of water quality, Protection of aquatic ecosystem)
 - **Development** activities
(All kinds of water use, Protection against the harmful effects of water)
- ❑ **Particular objectives:**
 - To establish an international regime of **navigation**
 - To establish a sustainable **water management**
 - To prevent / limit **hazards** (floods, droughts, ice, accidents) and eliminate / reduce the **consequences**


ISRBC

- Established **for implementation** of the FASRB
- Given the international **legal capacity**, for:
 - Making decisions in the field of Navigation
 - Providing recommendations on all other issues (i.e. Water Management)
- Composed of **8 representatives** of the Parties (Member and Deputy Member) nominated by the governments
- **Chaired** by:
 - Mr. Kemal Karkin (B&H), the Chairman, or
 - Mr. Branko Bačić (HR), the Vice-Chairman
- **Financed** through regular annual contributions of the Parties from their budgets

ISRBC Secretariat

- **Executive** and **administrative** body of the ISRBC
- **Established** in January 2006, **seated** in Zagreb (Croatia)
- Composed of **8 experts** of the Parties, covering:
 - Navigation
 - Integrated RBM and Water Planning
 - Protection of Water and Aquatic Ecosystem
 - Legal and General Affairs
 - Economic and Financial Affairs



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INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
- ## Inception activities
- Establishment of the **working infrastructure/environment**:
- **Documents** (legal, financial, regulating observer status, Preliminary Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB)
 - **Network of national institutions** responsible for implementation of the FASRB
 - **Expert Groups** of the ISRBC (4 permanent, 3 *ad-hoc*)
 - **Cooperation** with organizations, links to stakeholders (levels: international, national, local)
 - **Web-site** of the ISRBC
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Inception activities

Involvement into the **relevant on-going projects**:

- UNDP/GEF DRP Sava Component
- Regional CARDS Sava
- "Development and Upgrade of the HM Information and Forecasting System for the SRB" (HM Institutes of the SRB countries)
- EU FP-6 "SARIB"
- PIN/MATRA Project "Development of an Ecological Network along the Sava River"
- UNDP/GEF DRP "Participation of NGOs in the Process of Development of Sava RBM Plan"
- OSCE Project "Network of Local Actors in the SRB"

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Regular activities

Water Management

- Development of the **Sava RBM Plan** in accord. with the EU WFD
 - **Initial activities** performed
 - **RBM Plan Structure** and **Road Map** produced
 - **Sava River Basin Analysis** – planned to be performed during 2007
- Establishment of **Integrated Systems** for the SRB
 - **Flood Forecasting and Warning** System
 - **Accident Prevention and Control** System
 - **Initial activities** performed

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Regular activities

Water Management

- Preparation and realization of **development programs / projects**
 - Flood risk assessment study for the Sava river basin
 - Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the Sava river basin
 - Improvement of the monitoring system of water quality and quantity parameters for the Sava river basin
 - Establishment of the early warning system for flood protection and the accident risk assessment study for the Sava river basin

Regular activities

Navigation

- Creation of **documents**:
 - to improve **navigation safety** (e.g. Navigation Rules on the Sava River, Rules for Waterway Marking on the Sava River, etc.)
 - to promote **development** and improve **maintenance of the waterway infrastructure** (e.g. Detailed Parameters for Waterway Classification on the Sava River)
- **Harmonization** with the EU regulation:
 - Rules for mutual recognition of **boatmasters' certificates** (CCNR)
 - **Technical standards** and requirements for inland waterway vessels (DC)

Regular activities

Navigation

- Preparation and realization of **development programs / projects**
 - Study on the waterway traffic on the Sava River
 - **Pre-feasibility Study**
 - **Feasibility Study and Project Documentation**
(Detailed Design, Plan for Rehabilitation and Development of Trade and Navigation on the Sava River)
 - **Project Preparation and Management:** Secretariat of the ISRBC
- A high **priority** for the future work
 - **Prevention of the pollution** caused by navigation
(establishment of the system for collection of waste from vessels)
 - So far: Involvement in the development of such systems on the Danube and Rhine Rivers

Regular activities

Other Accompanying Issues

- Creation of **Protocols**, on:
 - Transboundary Impacts
 - Emergency Situations
 - Protection against Floods
 - Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation
 - Exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay

Regular activities

Other Accompanying Issues

□ Information Management

- Information System (GIS)
- River Information Service (RIS), incl. Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC)
- On-going activities:
 - GIS needs and capability assessment
 - Position Paper on GIS and RIS Integration

□ Public Participation

- Further development of the draft **Public Particip. Strategy** (by PEG RBM)
- Preparation of the **Methodology for monitoring implement. of the FASRB**
- Organization of the **Sava Day**

Regular activities

Other Accompanying Issues

□ Cooperation, with:

- River **navigation commissions** (Danube, Rhine, Mosel)
- River **protection commissions** (Danube, Rhine, Elbe, Oder)
- **UN bodies** (UNECE, UNESCO, UNDP, ...)
- **Regional organizations** (OSCE, Stability Pact for the SEE, SEETO)
- **Specialized agencies, associations and groups** (WMO, GIS Forum Danube, PIANC Int'l Navigation Association)
- **International financial institutions** (World Bank, EBRD, USAID)
- **Processes / Initiatives** (Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process, Med EU WI/WFD Joint Process, Adriatic Initiative)
- **National organizations / institutions**
- **NGOs and other stakeholders**

Summary of the approach

Key features:

- **Cohesive** (promoting cooperation of the countries after conflict)
- **Integrated** (whole basin, sustainability, development)
- **Transparent** (public participation)
- **Aligned with EU directives** (WFD, Floods Directive,...)
- **Subregional** (complementary to the regional one)
- **Pragmatic and practical** (offering, to the Sava countries, "products" such as joint plans, development programs, protocols, harmonized regulation, integrated systems)

Summary of the approach

Challenges/possible obstacles to implementation:

- **Differences** between the countries
 - Level of **economic development**
 - **Status** (SLO – EU Member State, HR – accessing country, ...)
 - **Eligibility** for approaching funds
- **Financing**
 - **Priority projects**
 - Establishment of the **integrated systems**
- **Conflict management** in MWM
(Resolving conflicts of interests of different users of water)



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