

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP5)

Ministerial Segment

Brief report on the COP5 Technical Segment by the Rapporteur

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

It is an honour to me to briefly report on the proceedings and outcomes of the Technical Segment of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, which was held in the past two days in Lillafüred, at the kind invitation of the Government of Hungary.

The meeting was opened on Tuesday, 10 October 2017 at 13:00 by Mr. Michal Pastvinský from the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, in the capacity of the outgoing Presidency to the Convention. Ms. Klára Székér from the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary then delivered a welcome speech in which the priorities of the upcoming Presidency were announced.

Welcome remarks were followed by the election of officers. Hungary was nominated and elected as Chair, Poland as Vice-Chair and the Czech Republic as Rapporteur. Upon the election, Ms. Klára Székér took the chair representing the new Presidency of Hungary.

The Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Mr. Harald Egerer reported on credentials and full powers. Representatives of all seven Parties to the Convention attended the meeting. Credentials of six out of seven delegations were received and found in order. Altogether, some 180 participants registered for the meeting.

The provisional agenda, available as document CC/COP5/DOC1, was adopted. The representative of Ukraine in the capacity of the Depository reported on the status of ratification of the Protocols to the Convention (CC/COP5/DOC9).

Within agenda item 4 focusing on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention activities, scientific inputs and draft decisions for COP5 were presented. In this regard, I would like to highlight specifically the contributions by the Science for the Carpathians. The introduction of particular draft decisions was accompanied by numerous presentations of projects, activities or studies developed within the last implementation period and related to the topic of the respective draft decision. This new format allowed the participants not only to learn about the progress made within different areas of the implementation of the Convention, but also supplied the text of the decisions with necessary substance. Moreover, this approach provided an excellent opportunity for experts and stakeholders from different Carpathian countries and fields of work to learn about the issues discussed within other areas. Possible links and opportunities for future cooperation can therefore be considered more easily, in line with the integrated approach the Carpathian Convention is unique for.

Although time limitations did not allow to display the content of all draft decisions, in most cases delegations did not call for open floor discussions, since the documents were presented to Parties in good time in advance and were subject to thorough precedent negotiations.

In summary, I have the pleasure to announce that the delegations reached consensus on the text of all decisions, allowing them to be submitted to the COP5 for adoption in its entirety.

Altogether, Parties agreed on the text of 19 decisions, as they appear within the document CC/COP5/DOC5. Some of the decisions address general issues such as the implementation of the Convention, cooperation with the EU, Alpine Convention and other international conventions and bodies, Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention, Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols, Location of the Permanent Secretariat, Date and venue of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and the Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.

Next, the decisions also address different areas of work, as referred to by specific articles of the Convention, namely the Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Spatial development, Sustainable and integrated water / river basin management, Sustainable agriculture and rural development, Sustainable forest management, Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Sustainable tourism, Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, Environmental assessment / information system, monitoring and early warning, Climate change and last but not least, Awareness raising, education and public participation.

Furthermore, I would like to kindly draw your attention to the fact that by adopting the above mentioned decisions, Parties are also adopting the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (CC/COP5/DOC3) and the amendment to the Carpathian Convention, new article 12bis on Climate Change (CC/COP5/DOC4).

Next, within agenda item 5, the meeting considered the date and venue for its sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and gladly accepted the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Poland to host the meeting in 2020.

The Technical Segment of the COP5 closed at 19:15 on Wednesday, 11 October 2017.

By way of conclusion, please allow me a personal note. I would like to thank the Presidency for an excellent organisation of the meeting, to Madame Chair for successfully conducting it, to the Secretariat of the Convention for providing an invaluable support as well as to all distinguished delegates, speakers and observers for your active contributions.

Thank you.