



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND TOURISM
Directorate of Tourism

Nr. 310053/18.02.2015

Mr Harald Egerer
Head of United Nations Environment
Programme
Vienna Liaison Office
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Dear Mr EGERER,

As a result of direct interest that the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Tourism has in terms of implementation of the sustainable development of tourism Strategy in the Carpathians, please note that our institution expresses its support for the initiative of establishing the Permanent Secretariat and the Coordination Centre of the Carpathian Convention with the desire that their headquarters to be located in Romania.

We express our belief that supporting Romania's position in this project of establishing of the Permanent Secretariat and of the Carpathian Convention Coordinating Centre on its territory, is due to the existing opportunities, our country having 40% of the entire mountain range and over 700 mountain towns and villages with almost 2 million inhabitants. In our country there are 32 mountain resorts, of which 12 balneary resorts, 29 national and natural parks and 900 protected areas.

The fact that a third of the country is covered by the Carpathian Mountains, gives the advantage of existence of several ski regions in various geographic areas. Each ski region has its special charm, complemented by specific customs and traditions, by romanian's hospitality and beautiful landscapes.

Romania offers tourists the possibility of skiing in many beautiful and relatively inexpensive skiing resorts. Lately, Romania has made remarkable progress in development and improvement of the skiing areas, with currently 152 ski slopes in 66 resorts. Increasingly more and more foreign tourists are excited about the possibilities for skiing in Romania.

Due to the high potential it has, Romania justifies a special attention that must be given regarding hosting the Permanent Secretariat and Coordination Center of the Carpathian Convention, this also being a good opportunity to present the Carpathian Garden in an

international environment, ensuring partnerships and strong ties regarding the economic activities underlying the development of sustainable tourism in the Carpathians.

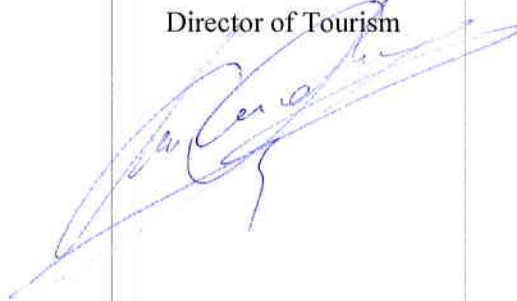
Given the above, it's a fact that Romania fulfills the necessary conditions for hosting the Permanent Secretariat and the Coordination Center of the Carpathian Convention both in terms of location and technical facilities in the Carpathian region and our experience as members various projects within the EU border strategy and as a full member of the World Tourism Organization.

With the hope that the decision will be favorable in our case, we send our thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Marius ANDRA

Director of Tourism

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marius Andra', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized and slanted.