

High Level Ministerial Meeting

Bucharest, February 23, 2007.

STATEMENT

Mr. Reuf Hadžibegić, Assistant Minister
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Excellencies,
Distinguish colleagues of international community, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to have an opportunity to greet you all in the name of the Government of Bosnia & Herzegovina. I will also use this opportunity to express my highly gratitude to the Government of Romania and specially the Ministry of Environment and Water Management for their welcomes and an extraordinary hospitality shown to us.

Bosnia & Herzegovina has an honor to ratify the Danube Convention and join the efforts of 18 countries in the Danube River basin to protect one of the most international river in the world. We understand and support the high responsibility of this mission and would like to ensure you that we will put all the efforts in order to succeed in accomplishment of this important and honored task.

I had an opportunity to be informed about the Bosnia & Herzegovina activities within the framework of ICPDR and I am very pleased to be able to notice the spirit of creativity and cooperation related to this activities. This makes me believe that together we will manage to accomplish our complex tasks successfully. In this regard I would like to thank ICPDR Secretariat for their support in the previous activities and to stress that we count on their support in the future as well.

The following items were the main issues for Bosnia & Herzegovina in the past two years:

- Development of the Roof report for Bosnia & Herzegovina for the watersheds > 4000 km² in the Sava River Basin,
- Preparation and endorsement of the new Water Laws in B&H fully in compliance with WFD;
- Further development and strengthening of institutional capacities of institutions responsible for the implementation of WFD;
- Promotion and active participation in the sub-basin cooperation within the framework of Sava Commission, involving mainly non-EU member

- contracting parties in ICPDR activities, such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro;
- Support of on-going activities related to the technical issues of the WFD such as participation in and hosting of EG meetings, taking part in various activities regarding information and public participation and up date and support of DABLAS activities;
 - And last but not least: Support and promotion of the experiences of the ICPDR among other institutions dealing with Water Framework Directive in Bosnia & Herzegovina, such as Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) for Adriatic See.

Concerning our future plans, let me point out that we wish to continue with good practices and experiences started in the previous period. Moreover I do hope we will be able to intensify and enrich on-going activities in Bosnia & Herzegovina regarding obligations towards ICPDR and pass on to the ICPDR Secretariat for follow-up in 2007. This will assure the continuity and success of the activities, which have been performed in the previous years under the ICPDR and help Bosnia & Herzegovina to achieve the same results as majority of countries in the Danube River Basin.

We are looking forward to maintain fruitful cooperation with the Sava Commission, ICPDR expert working groups as well as all parties of the Danube Convention. We also aim to contribute to the cooperation between the neighboring countries, especially promoting and strengthening the sub-basin activities. In addition, we hope to be able to contribute to the countries` efforts focused on making the environment of the Danube better and further promote more sustainable social-economic development in the whole Danube River Basin, in general and in Western Balkan Countries, in particular.

Thank you for attention!