

Report

First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure 22 - 23 March 2007

The First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure was held in Bolzano on 22 - 23 March 2007 in the premises of the European Academy EURAC in the framework of the CADSES Carpathian Project and with the support from the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the CEI ES. The meeting was serviced by Mr. Sandei Pier Carlo Project Manager of EURAC. The event was attended by experts from all Participating States of the Carpathian Convention, except Serbia and Romania. The meeting was also attended by the CEI-ES Deputy Director General, representatives from UNEP and NERHT. The list of participants is attached (see attachment 1).

Aim and purpose of the Working Group

The Working Group will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Articles 8 (Sustainable Transport and infrastructure) and 10 (Industry and energy) of the Carpathian Convention, as well as guide and advise the work of the European Academy (EURAC) in preparing the Study on the transport network in the Carpathians.

Items included in the Agenda:

Carpathian Convention process and the role of the Working Group (WG) on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure
Inputs from the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project into the activities of the Working group
Discussion on the objectives and tasks of the WG on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure
Discussion and approval of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the WG on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure

Session of 22 March

Adoption of the agenda of the Meeting by consensus without amendments

Discussion for the adoption of the ToR

Presentations:

Mr. Sandei presented the tasks of the WG and the study that has to be developed by EURAC with the support of the WG in the framework of WP2 of CADSES project

Mr. Luciani, from EURAC Research, presented the REC-EURAC Regional assessment and handbook, documents prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS, as back ground document for the development of the activities of the WG



Following the presentation the ToR was discussed and, following the request of some delegations, amendments were made to the proposed structure.

Session of 23 March:

The final version of ToR and the Work Plan were adopted on the basis of the inputs of the participants in the meeting (see attachments 2 and 3)

Presentations:

Mr. Massimo Santori (EURAC expert on transport) presented EURAC's experience resulting from the SWOMM project (sustainable ways of mobility in mountains) resulting from its work in the Alps and introduced the concept of the study EURAC will carry out on this issue and the methodology EURAC intends to follow. In particular the Work Plan and the data/information needed were presented and discussed.

The participants agreed to support EURAC in this study and to provide them with relevant data necessary for the study.

Mr. Broyde, Ukrainian Delegation, gave a brief background of the current status of the Pan-European Corridors and pointed out the weak points as well as transport environmental impact in Carpathian region. In this context, Ukraine offered proposals for the Railway Network.

Mr. Fuller of the New Europe Railway Heritage Trust and Mr. Wiggs, presented their activities on the matter of tourist railways in many of the Carpathian Convention countries. He insisted that the governments of the Carpathian countries should make an effort to help resolve the problem by removing legal and political obstacles which may hinder the development of tourist railways and by joining in applications for European funds.

Mr. Borsa, representative of RTI Polska, partner of the INTERRRGIIB CADSES, suggested some strategic goals, such as improving the transport network in the Carpathians, defining the main transport links and their role for socio-economic development in the Carpathian region, assessing the transport supply in protected areas of the Carpathian region.

It was agreed that the members of the WG will be asked to provide EURAC and the Secretariat with the following materials for the development of the study on transport system in Carpathians

- National Transport Master Plan (English version/synthesis)
- Local documents on current transport situation and/or Transport Plans about specific areas of environmental and tourist interest (English version/synthesis)
- General up-to-dated data on transport demand; freight and passengers traffic volume on the main roads and rails
- Suggestions and reasons behind the selection of a few case-studies regarding specific areas of environmental and tourist interest to be developed in the study
- General data concerning traffic generation and attraction by selected areas of environmental and tourist interest

The meeting was closed at 15.30 with the final approval of the TOR (attached) and of the Work Plan of EURAC (see attachments 2 and 3)