

Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure (WG)

Mandate

The first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 1-13 December 2006), by its decisions COP1/8 and COP1/9, decided to “support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”.

Aim

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.

Field of activities

The WG, as a starting phase, will focus mainly on sustainable transport and renewable energy and efficiency and in this sense it will:

Consider to make a proposal for the development of appropriate policy instruments such as sustainable transport protocol and/or strategy under the Carpathian Convention to be included in the study prepared by EURAC.

Guide and advise the work of the European Academy (EURAC) in preparing the Study on the transport network in the Carpathians, and facilitate the provision of the required inputs (e.g. data, case studies) by the Parties, according to the Work Plan developed by the WG.

Consider the information on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Implementation of Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention with regard to Energy Policy, Sustainable Energy Use and the Development of Distributed and Efficient Energy Sources, as contained in UNEP/CC/COP1/9, and provide related recommendations.

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects and activities.

List of results

- Proposed inputs for the COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2, as well as possible proposal for a transport protocol and/or strategy, if so deemed appropriate by the WG.
- Proposals for transnational renewable energy and energy efficiency partnerships or projects in the Carpathians
- A list of follow up projects and proposals

Organization of work

The WG is composed of experts designated by the Carpathian Convention Focal Points for this purpose and observers as well as additional experts as deemed necessary. The work will be undertaken in accordance with the work plan and time table developed by the WG. Countries are invited to take a leading role in contributing on specific issues or themes of their interest.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and interlinkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities contained in the EU Interreg IIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

Furthermore proactive cooperation shall be ensured with key international organizations active in these fields such as DG TREN, UNIDO, CEI, Energy community, REEEP and others.

Scientific Assistance and contributions in the framework of the EU Interreg IIB CADSES Carpathian Project

Preparatory and accompanying activities coordinated by the European Academy (EURAC) within the Carpathian Project, providing inputs to the WG, include:

- Strategic analysis on transport in the Carpathians and harmonized data collected and harmonized cartographic representation of the density of the transport network and of the accessibility of the Carpathian region (1:2 million scale), interpretative text.

Consequently, the Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by EURAC in cooperation with partners, will include, inter alia:

- Policy guidelines for developing sustainable transport in relation to the Carpathians and in particular sub-areas (case studies, limited areas); assessment of potential influence of sustainable transport on socio-economic and spatial development, on environment and for territorial cohesion; definition of priority list in the transport network improvement including connectivity assurance for wildlife (migration corridors, eco-ducts, “green bridges”) ; summary guidelines and methodological tools for ensuring high level of protection of environmentally valuable areas, also by means of increase of use of public transport.
- Electronic thematic maps on density of the existing Carpathian transport network and accessibility, interpretative text (part of the Atlas of the Carpathians).

Other Background information (not exhaustive)

- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment.

- REC-EURAC Regional assessment and handbook, documents prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS
- EST goes EAST Clearing House promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Central and Eastern Europe (see <http://esteast.unep.ch>). The WG will closely interact with the Working Groups on Transport and on Environment of the Central European Initiative (CEI).
- “Building a thematic dimension to the ENP” of the Communication from the EU Commission of 04/12/06 to the Council and the European Parliament on Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy to elaborate common approach (methodology) on IPPC – BAT (integrated pollution prevention control – best available technologies) for sustainable transport, energy, industry and infrastructure development in Carpathian Region.
- Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development on the European Continent as well as Linz Declaration of 21/03/2002 on regional policy & cohesion, governance & the future of Europe, transport networks in Europe, sustainable agriculture & protection of rural areas etc initiated by the Assembly of the European Regions and adopted by the Committee of the Regions of EU, CLRAE and other 14 European Regional Institutions as well
- Communication from the EU Commission of 04/12/06 to the Council and the European Parliament on Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy and Communication from the EU Commission of 31/01/2007 to the Council and the European Parliament “Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries. Guidelines for transport in Europe and neighbouring regions”