



INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

**On Work and Activities
of the International Sava River
Basin Commission
For the Period
June 27, 2005 – March 31, 2006**

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I Preamble

The tasks of the International Sava River Basin Commission (Sava Commission) are established by the “Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin” (FASRB). The FASRB also specifies the main responsibilities of the Sava Commission and the Secretariat.

This Report on Work is the first one given after the establishment of the Sava Commission and its Secretariat and it elaborates its work results achieved in the nine-month period as of the June 27 2005. This report meets the obligation of the Sava Commission to submit the Report on Work and the activities to the Parties in accordance with the Article 10 of the Annex I to the FASRB – the Statute of the International Sava River Basin Commission.

The Report reflects course of the actions and activities on establishment of the operative body of the Sava Commission in form of the Secretariat, and simultaneous fostering of different forms of cooperation involving its international, regional, and national aspects, new developments and progress in the related areas.

Work of the Sava Commission is directly relying to the results of the Interim Sava Commission, which was taking care of all necessary steps prior to its full establishment. However, the Interim Sava Commission was working very actively for the period longer than 2 years in order to set grounds for all further actions and operations of the permanent Sava Commission.

Therefore, the main reasons for establishment of the Sava Commission and the Secretariat, as its permanent body, have been:

1. Recognition of the vital importance of trans-boundary cooperation aimed at sustainable development of the Sava River Basin;
2. Establishment of navigation, maintenance and marking of the navigable parts of the Sava River and its tributaries;
3. Awareness of need to promote the sustainable water management by regulating water utilization, protection, aquatic eco-systems, water pollution protection, and hazardous water impacts;
4. Necessity to develop mutual cooperation based on principles of equal rights, state sovereignty and territorial integrity;
5. High importance of the protection of environment and natural resources, and great value of the Sava River Basin;
6. Benefits that the Parties could derive from, and damages that could be prevented and mitigated by joint actions of the Parties;
7. Fact that the Sava River Basin is a part of the Danube basin and that several international law regimes established by multilateral instruments of international water law, international environmental law and legislation of the European Union apply to water resources of the Danube Basin.

II Background

After decay of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the early '90-ies, the Sava River, which was the biggest national river, has become the international river of a recognized importance.

By the end of 2001, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed the "Letter of Intent" on launching mutual activities in regard to the Sava River and its tributaries in Sarajevo. Basic idea contained within the "Letter of Intent" was to utilize, protect and control the Sava River Basin water resources in a manner that would enable "better life conditions and raising standard of population in the region".

The issue of reestablishment of navigation, as the cheapest way of goods transportation, possibility to engage domestic potentials in larger scope and strengthening the infrastructure, which followed transportation directions, was emphasized as priority in negotiations referring to legal definition of relations regarding the Sava River Basin. Croatia expressed special interest for establishment of navigation as its priority, and B&H set the navigation as equal priority with the issue of flood protection.

Development of negotiations caused emphasizing other interests in the Sava River Basin – Slovenia stressed the issues of protection and exploitation of potentials for needs of tourism, B&H set the issue of flood protection and utilization of potentials for purpose of energy production, while Serbia and Montenegro (former Federal Republic Yugoslavia) set the issue of protection and maintenance of water quality and quantity.

Following the above specified, the initial draft Agreement was expanded to all aspects of sustainable water management, and navigation, as firstly set priority, gained advantage before other interests but only in regard to timeframe. Namely, the Protocol on navigation regime was signed jointly with the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) on December 3, 2002, at Kranjska Gora in Slovenia.

Scope of the FASRB considered following areas of sustainable water resources management:

- Utilization and exploitation of water;
- Water quality and quantity protection;
- Protection from hazardous impact of water;
- Water eco-system protection.

The FASRB established the International Sava River Basin Commission, as well as the Secretariat as its executive body. The FASRB also stipulated that the Sava Commission should make all decisions by consensus, and that the Sava Commission should officially commence to work six months latest after entering the Agreement into force, which was the December 29 2004.

Among else, the Sava River Basin gained great significance by adoption of the EU Water Framework Directive in 2000 and by defining the Sava River Basin as a pilot project for implementation of this Directive that is of great importance for the whole Europe.

III Institutional and Operational Framework

The basic principle of all actions to be performed by the Sava Commission is stipulated by the FASRB, more specifically by the Article 3 paragraph 1, stating that the Parties shall cooperate on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit, and good faith in order to attain the goals of the FASRB. Paragraph 2 of the same Article is specifying the Directive 2000/60/EC of the EU Parliament and Council of October 23, 2000, establishing the Framework for Community Activities in the Field of Water Policy (EU Water Framework Directive), as the main axis of cooperation of the Parties to the FASRB.

1. Mandate and responsibilities of the Sava Commission

In the scope of the objectives and principles defined by the FASRB, the Sava Commission is mandated with responsibilities, which in particular, involve:

- a) Development of a methodology and program for preparation of a joint and/or integrated Sava River Basin Management Plan (hereinafter: the Plan);
- b) Coordination of the establishment of a unified information system;
- c) Proposing the Plan;
- d) Carrying out and coordination of the preparation of studies;
- e) Proposing priorities for waterworks constructions and implementation of measures from the Plan;
- f) Coordination of activities related to, *inter alia*:
 - Regulation of waters in the Sava River Basin for all purposes;
 - Protection against detrimental effects of the water;
 - Water pollution prevention;
 - Extraordinary impacts on the water regime;
 - Use and utilization of the waters, including hydro-energy potential of the Sava River Basin, and
 - Issuing water regulation acts;
- g) Coordination of the establishment of unified profiles for water regime control;
- h) Coordination of activities on conservation, protection, and improvement of the aquatic eco-system of the Sava River Basin;
- i) Decision-making in order to provide conditions for safe navigation on the River Sava and its tributaries, *inter alia*, by:
 - Adopting the plan on marking, maintenance and development of navigable waterways;
 - Adopting the unified rules of navigation, taking into account specific conditions of certain parts of the navigable waterways;

- Adopting the technical rules concerning inland navigation vessels and rules on obtaining the boat-master certificates;
- Establishing the River Information Service;
- j) Exercising other tasks and duties in accordance with the FASRB or as particularly entrusted by the Parties;
- k) Cooperation and harmonization of activities with international and national organizations (authorities and bodies), and
- l) Publishing the documents and publications.

2. Institutional and operative structure

The FASRB stipulates two institutional mechanisms of cooperation – one is the Sava Commission and the other one is the Meeting of the Parties.

The International Sava River Basin Commission is the joint institution established with the international legal capacity, which is necessary for exercising its functions, e.g. implementation of the FASRB. It is consisted of two representatives of each Party to the FASRB, namely one member and one deputy member of each Party, having just one vote in the Sava Commission. The List of the Sava Commission members and deputy members with key notes from their biographies is attached as Annex I to the Report.

The Seat of the Sava Commission is Zagreb, Republic of Croatia.

The Secretariat of the Sava Commission is originally consisted of 12 officials, but only 6 officials were employed by the end of the reporting period. Namely, these are:

- ❖ Secretary;
- ❖ Deputy Secretary for navigation;
- ❖ Special Advisor for legal and general affairs;
- ❖ Special Advisor for economic and financial affairs;
- ❖ Advisor for technical issues of navigation;
- ❖ Advisor for navigation safety.

Organizational structure of the Secretariat is presented in Annex II to the Report.

Meeting of the Parties – In accordance with the Article 14 paragraph 1 of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, the First Meeting of the Parties should have been convened not later than one year as of the date of the entry into force of the Agreement. However, to date due to certain organizational reasons, the First Meeting of the Parties wasn't yet held nor in Republic of Slovenia neither in Bosnia and Herzegovina as reconsidered and agreed preliminary.

IV The most important dates

The most important dates in establishment of the International Sava River Basin Commission are:

- November 29 2001 – Signing of the “Letter of Intent” in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) under the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe;
- October 23, 2002 – Initialization of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin in Brčko (Bosnia and Herzegovina) when the Agreed Minutes of finalization of Negotiations were signed;
- December 03, 2002 – Signing of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and Protocol on Navigation Regime to the FASRB at Kranjska Gora (Slovenia);
- March 12 2003 – Meeting of the Interested Parties held in Brussels when the Interim Sava Commission was formed;
- January 12 2004 – Agreement on amendments to the FASRB in Zagreb (Croatia);
- December 29 2004 – the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and Protocol on Navigation Regime to the FASRB entered into force;
- June 27-29 2005 – establishment of the permanent International Sava River Basin Commission;
- July 05 2005 – Conferring of the Premises of the Secretariat under the ceremonial part of the First Regular Session of the International Sava River Basin Commission;
- November 02 2005 – Signing of the “Seat Agreement” with the Government of Republic of Croatia in Zagreb (Croatia);
- January 09 2006 – Establishment of the Secretariat of the International Sava River Basin Commission;
- April 06 2006 – The “Seat Agreement” entered into force¹;
- April 21 2006 – The Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin was registered at United Nations².

¹ Although this date is not within the reporting period, it was involved due to the importance of the issue.

² This date also exceeds the reporting period, but it was specified due to the significance of registration at the United Nations.

V Activities and other issues in context of implementation of the FASRB

Activities, performed by the Sava Commission and the Secretariat within the reporting period, can be divided into following four categories:

1. Establishment of the working infrastructure and working environment necessary for implementation of the FASRB

- a. nomination of national institutions responsible for realization of the FASRB on the part of the Sava River within their territory has been initiated;
- b. establishment of the Sava Commission expert groups has been launched;
- c. the ISRBC web-site has been created;
- d. internal legal documents were passed, as well as the criteria and procedure for obtaining the observer status in the Sava Commission;
- e. procedure of completion of the Secretariat staff has been performed; during the process, an expert associate has been engaged;
- f. furniture, as well as the computer and other equipment, have been purchased;
- g. “*know-how*” transfer and the takeover of documents between the interim and the permanent Secretariat of the Sava Commission has taken place.

2. Representation and cooperation

- a. Participation in workshops, meetings, conferences:
 - GIS Forum (20 January 2006, Zagreb) - participation in the meeting and presentation of the ISRBC;
 - GIS Workshop Danube - 4 (15-17 February 2006, Belgrade) – participation in the workshop and presentation of the ISRBC;
 - 19th Meeting of the ICPDR RBM Expert Group (16-17 February 2006, Budapest) – participation in the workshop and presentation of the ISRBC;
 - UNECE workshop “Trans-boundary water management in SEE: The role of the EU WFD and the UNECE Water Convention” (02-03 March 2006, Belgrade) – participation in the workshop and presentation of the ISRBC;
 - Special session of the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport (15-16 March 2006, Geneva) – active participation in drafting the Resolution 61 – Recommendation on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels, presentation of the ISRBC;
 - Press-conference on the occasion of the World Water Day (22 March 2006, Sava Commission premises) – presentation of the ISRBC and the Secretariat;
- b. Contacts with international organizations:

- UNECE – ISRBC has been included in the work of the UNECE on the same basis as other intergovernmental organizations;
 - Danube Commission (DC) – the process of gaining the observer status in the DC has started;
 - World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – meeting with Mr. Dušan Hrček, Representative of the World Meteorological Organization for Europe (20 January 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb);
 - Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process – communication with the Federal Ministry of environment, nature protection and the nuclear safety of Germany, and starting the process of cooperation;
- c. Contacts with national organizations of the Parties:
- National Hydro-Meteorological Service of Croatia – two meetings with the management (20 January 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb; 10 February 2006, NHMS of Croatia, Zagreb);
- d. Contacts with participants in relevant on-going projects:
- “Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava River” (CARDS) – meetings with the project team leader, Mr. Senad Pločo, and the local key experts (22 February 2006, “Croatian Waters”, Zagreb; 23 March 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb) and meeting with the monitor of the project, Mr. Laurence Sewell (23 February 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb);
 - “Pragmatic Sava RBM Plan” (UNDP/GEF – DRP) – participation in the Inception Workshop (22 February 2006, “Croatian Waters”, Zagreb);
 - “Sava River Basin: Sustainable Use, Management and Protection of Resources” (SARIB) – meeting with a participant, Ms. Biserka Raspor of the “Rudjer Boskovic” Institute, Zagreb (29 March 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb);
 - “Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in the Sava River Basin” – meeting with the representatives of the NGO “Green Action” Croatia (24 February 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb);
 - „Enhancing Integrated Trans-boundary River Management of the Sava River“ – meeting with the project team leader, Mr. H. Zingstra of the IAC Wageningen, and a participant, Mr. Neven Trenc of the National Institute for Nature Conservation of Croatia (24 March 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb);
- e. Contacts with financial institutions / potential donors:
- OSCE – a memo related to equipping the Secretariat (08 Feb 2006);
 - USAID – a meeting with the USAID representatives on possibilities of a technical assistance to the Sava Commission Secretariat and/or assistance in finding or providing a financial support, necessary for realization of the projects related to navigation and flood protection (01 February 2006, Sava Commission premises, Zagreb).

3. Planning

- a. Drafting Plan of Work for 2006 and Tentative Plan of Work for 2007 and 2008, in the field of navigation;
- b. Drafting Plan of Work for 2006, in the field of integrated river basin management;
- c. Drafting Proposal on the Budget for 2006 and a non-binding outline Budget for 2007 and 2008.

4. Other activities

- a. Drafting Terms of Reference and Program of Work for the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation;
- b. Drafting ToR for “Study on Waterway Traffic on the Sava River”;
- c. Coordination of activities following the Joint Statement of the Ministers of Transport of the Parties, signed in Brčko – communication with the ministries of transport of the Parties, in order to provide financial support for “Study on the Waterway Traffic on the Sava River”.

In context of implementation of the FASRB, the above mentioned activities generally present the initial actions towards the achievement of the principal goals stated in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the FASRB. For instance, the activities 3a, 4a, 4b, 4c refer to the establishment of the international regime of navigation on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries (Article 2, paragraph 1a), according to the scope of work as specified in Article 10. Additionally, the activities 2d, 3b from the list above relate to the creation of joint plans and development programs of the Sava River Basin (Article 2, paragraph 2), such as the Sava River Basin Management Plan (Article 12), while the activities 2e aim at finding the external financial support for realization of priority projects and studies considered as a basis for development of the river basin action plans.

The activities 2c and 2d-iii present the initial steps towards the networking of national organizations for exchange of data and information, as one of the basic principles of cooperation of the Parties (Article 4). The activities 2a, 2b and 2c appear to be different examples of cooperation with international organizations (as defined in Article 5), and of cooperation with national organizations (Article 6), respectively.

Finally, all activities performed will serve as grounds for future actions in the fields of cooperation as described in Articles 10-13 of the FASRB, as well as for the performance of tasks as specified in Article 4 of Annex I to the FASRB (i.e. Statute of the ISRBC).

VI Financial contribution and budgetary arrangements

1. Status of the First Regular Budget for the Financial Year 2005

At the 1st Regular Session held in Zagreb, June 27 – 29, 2005, the Decision on the Budget of the Sava Commission for the period from the first regular session till March 31st was adopted in amount of Eur 315.600,00 (i.e. 78.900 EUR per country). The Sava Commission established that the Financial Year would last from April 1st till March 31st. By the end of Financial Year 2005, the status of received contributions was in total Eur 157.800,00, and the total Incomes were Eur 191.800,00. The whole contribution from Serbia & Montenegro of 78.900,00 Eur was outstanding at 31st March 2006. In order to speed up the payment of the contribution by Serbia & Montenegro, a letter of the Chairman of the Sava Commission was sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia & Montenegro. However, the payment did not take place within the reporting period. Slovenia transferred the donation of 34.000,00 Eur with purpose to equip the Secretariat and did not pay contribution of 78.900,00 Eur till 31st March 2006. The status of the payment (i.e. donation or contribution) was not clear at the beginning, but finally, it was confirmed the status of donation. Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia have contributed with the whole amount of annual contribution till 31st March 2006.

2. Realisation of the Budget for the Financial Year 2005

The Secretariat of the ISRBC started with its working activities on 9th January 2006. It should be noted that the purchase of equipment, necessary for start of operational work of the Secretariat, has not been envisaged in the Budget for the year 2005, as it was planned to be provided from donations. Accordingly, the purchase of equipment was primarily realized from the Slovenian donation and from Petty cash sources.

A lot of changes and revisions were made to the budget, as the Secretariat started to work later than was planned and only six employees were employed there during the reporting period. Also a budget form slightly changed through the Sava Commission decisions from the form which was accepted in June 2005.

Expenditures by main Budget Chapters

The detailed expenditures of the year 2005 are shown below and they are divided into five main categories (in 0,00 Eur):

(1) Staff salaries and allowances	44.695,58
(2) Current Costs	20.859,18
(3) Travel expenses	2.920,35
(4) Operational Costs	/
(5) Equipment ¹	34.288,52

Note: The last category was not shown as the part of the First budget which was accepted, as it was planned to be a donation of around 143.000,00 Eur

As the Secretariat started to work later than originally planned and only six employees were employed at first period, the Staff salaries and allowances costs were lower than planned. Also all other Budget categories reflected the above mentioned situation and all costs were lower than the planned when first Budget was accepted in June 2005.

Balance of Financial Year 2005/06

So, on 31st March 2006, there is a debt (unpaid contributions) of Slovenia and Serbia & Montenegro in amount of 157.800 EUR. The total income is 191.800 EUR and the total expenditures, 102.764,63 EUR. The total expenditures in Financial Year 2005 compared to the approved Budget result in a surplus of Eur 89.035,37, which the Secretariat officially transferred to Reserve Fund for the Year 2005, but in reality use for normal work as in that period the new budget was not accepted yet by the Sava Commission.

3. The Main problems of the Realization of the First Regular Budget

The main problem of the Realization of the First Regular Budget within the reporting period is associated with an uncertainty of the Income side of the Budget, i.e. an inflow of the Contributions. Some of the Parties, as mentioned above, did not pay either the amount which was accepted by the Sava Commission Budget, nor in time which was agreed by all the Parties at the time when they accepted the First Regular Budget and when the Secretariat started to work. For this reason, as well as for a lack of subsidiary financial rules, there were difficulties in financial transactions of the Secretariat.

VII Sessions of the Sava Commission³

The following section of the Report covers very active and dynamic period of 9 months as of the establishment of the Sava Commission (namely its First Session held on June 27-29 2005) till March 31 2006.

This transitional period requested the Sava Commission to engage increased amount of activities, high level of coordination of all key players, and all necessary efforts in order to organize work of the newly established Secretariat of the Sava Commission. Namely, as of that point the Sava Commission began and completed the complex procedure on employment of the most of the Officials to the Secretariat, as well as the activities on equipping of the premises of the Secretariat.

Within the reporting period, the Sava Commission held seven Sessions – the first one was the Regular Session and all others were Special Sessions.

First Session of the international Sava River Basin Commission Zagreb, June 27–29, 2005

The First Session of the Sava Commission was held in Zagreb on June 27-29, 2005, during which the Interim Secretariat (REC CO Banjaluka) was involved in all preparatory activities.

The most important result of the I Session was that the Sava Commission was established in its full capacity in accordance with the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin. The Interim Secretariat, as authorized by the Interim Commission, presented Final Report of the Interim Commission.

The Sava Commission adopted the following internal documents, which were previously prepared by the Group of legal experts and the Interim Secretariat:

1. “Rules of Procedure”;
2. “Staff Regulations of the Secretariat of the Sava Commission”;
3. “Main Functions, Structure of the Secretariat and Job Description”;
4. “Financial Rules”.

Besides the above-specified internal legal documents, the Sava Commission adopted the draft Seat Agreement, as the basis for further negotiations with the Government of Republic of Croatia.

Other issues agreed on the Session are the following:

- Adoption of Work Plan for the First Year of the Sava Commission;
- Draft Decision on Budget of the Sava Commission;

³ Pictures from the Sessions are enclosed as Annex III to the Report.

- Issuing of the “Vacancy Notice for the position of Secretary to the Sava Commission”;
- Issuing of the “Vacancy Notice for the Officials to the Secretariat”;
- Nomination of the Screening Committee pursuant to the Article 13 of the “Staff Regulations”;
- Request for office equipment addressed to OSCE;
- Request to the Government of USA for continuation of financial support for technical services of the Interim Secretariat;
- Request to all international partners and supporters for providing all other ways of assistance including contributions to the budget for purpose of better functioning of the Sava Commission and its bodies;
- Recommendation on organization of the Meeting of the Parties.

Report and all materials produced on the First Session of the Sava Commission were distributed to the national representatives, as well as to international partners.

Special Sessions of the Sava Commission

During the reporting period, the Sava Commission held 6 Special Sessions in the following order:

- I Special Session held on August 30-31 2005, and continued on September 15-16, 2005;
- II Special Session held on October 18-19, 2005;
- III Special Session held on November 14-15, 2005;
- IV Special Session held on December 21-22, 2005;
- V Special Session held on January 20, 2006;
- VI Special Session held on March 31, 2006 (later on, continued on April 20 2006).

○ **August 29 2005 - Screening Committee Meeting**

A day before the I Special Session, on August 29 2005, in accordance with the Decision of the Sava Commission adopted on its I Session held in Zagreb on June 27-29, 2005, the Screening Committee held its Meeting in Zagreb.

Main purpose of the Meeting was to screen all applications submitted in regard to the Vacancy Notice Announcements of the following 8 positions at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission:

1. Secretary;
2. Deputy Secretary for navigation;
3. Deputy Secretary for integrated river basin management (RBM) and water planning;
4. Deputy Secretary for protection of waters and aquatic eco-systems;
5. Special Advisor for legal and general affairs;
6. Special Advisor for economic and financial affairs;
7. Advisor for technical issues of navigation;

8. Advisor for navigation safety.

❖ ***I Special Session held on August 30-31 2005, and continued on September 15-16, 2005***

August 30-31, 2005 - I Part of the Session

Brief overview of the Session:

- Determination of the Working Team for negotiations on the Seat Agreement with the Government of Republic of Croatia;
- Information referring to confirmation of the Budget by all the four Parties;
- Report on Meeting of the Screening Committee;
- Issue related to organization of the Meeting of the Parties;
- Opening of the Sava Commission bank account;
- Organization of interviews with candidates for the announced positions at the Secretariat and accompanying procedures;
- Discussion on the FASRB implementation Strategy and the Sava Commission Work Program;
- Discussion related to equipment needed for operational work of the Secretariat;
- Other issues;
- Date and place of the continuation of the Session.

September 15-16, 2005 - Continuation of the Session

Brief overview of the Session:

- Interview with the candidates for the announced positions within the Secretariat, which was held in private;
- Decision on appointment of Officials to the Secretariat - only 7 positions at the Secretariat were filled, and therefore, it was decided to announce the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Deputy Secretary for protection of waters and aquatic eco-systems once again, but only in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Discussion on ratification procedure of the FASRB;
- Discussion related to purchase of the office equipment for the Secretariat;
- Issues related to negotiations on the Seat Agreement;
- Other issues;
- Date and place of the next Session.

❖ **II Special Session held on October 18-19, 2005**

○ **October 18 2005 - Screening Committee Meeting - Morning Session**

In accordance with the amendment of the Decision of the Sava Commission on Screening Committee adopted by written voting on October 11, the Screening Committee held its Meeting in Zagreb, on October 18, 2005.

Namely, the Vacancy Notice for the position of the Deputy Secretary for protection of waters and aquatic eco-systems was published only in Bosnia and Herzegovina on September 28, in three different daily newspapers, based on the previously agreed text of the vacancy notice and October 17, 2005 was set as a deadline for submission of applications. However, only one application was received.

October 18 2005 - Afternoon Session, and October 19 2005

Brief overview of the Session:

- Discussion related to Summary Report of the previous Session;
- Discussion on the FASRB Implementation Strategy and the mid-term Sava Commission Work Program - produced material was "Elements for the FASRB Implementation Strategy";
- Determination of the ad hoc expert group which would work on further development of the "Elements for the FASRB Implementation Strategy";
- Financial issues: donation of the Republic of Slovenia, procedure on opening of the bank account, regular financial contributions of the Parties;
- Issues referring to negotiations on the Seat Agreement;
- Report of the Screening Committee on applicants for officials to the Secretariat of the Sava Commission - one candidate was to be interviewed;
- Personal issues: Draft Contract on Appointment, Salaries of staff members;
- Purchase of the office equipment;
- Organization of the First Meeting of the Parties;
- Other issues;
- Date and place of the next Session.

❖ **III Special Session held on November 14-15, 2005**

Brief overview of the Session:

- Interview with the candidate for the position of the Deputy Secretary for protection of waters and aquatic eco-systems at the Secretariat, which was held in private;

- Decision on Appointment - the interviewed candidate did not satisfy the required criteria;
 - Discussion related to Summary Report of the previous Session and adopted decisions;
 - The Ceremony of Signing of the Seat Agreement between Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Sava Commission was held on November 02 2005, in Zagreb;
 - Discussion related to contacts in regard to four ongoing projects, UNDP/GEF project, International Agriculture Centre (IAC), CARDS Regional Project, SARIB;
 - Organization of the meeting of ministries related to transportation initiated by the Ministry for Communication and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss navigation on the Sava River: Joint contacts towards international organizations interested in navigation, Request for financial support from international organizations, A statement on preparedness of the countries to look for loans aimed at improving navigation on the Sava River;
 - Opening of the Secretariat: personal issues, draft contract on employment, purchase of office equipment;
 - Discussion on the FASRB Implementation Strategy and the mid-term Sava Commission Work Program: nomination of the *ad hoc* expert group, organization of their meeting, facilitation;
 - Organization of the First Meeting of the Parties;
 - Financial issues;
 - Other issues;
 - Date and place of the next Session.
- ***Meeting of the Ad hoc Expert Group for preparation of the FASRB Implementation Strategy and selected candidates to the positions at the Secretariat
Banjaluka, November 22-24, 2005***

On November 22-24 2005, the Interim Secretariat, in coordination with the Sava Commission organized a three-day Workshop in Banjaluka by joining the *ad hoc* expert group for preparation of the FASRB Implementation Strategy and selected candidates to the positions at the Secretariat.

The Workshop was a good opportunity to involve the selected officials of the Secretariat in the work of the Sava Commission, specifically in regard to the FASRB Implementation Strategy, which would be the axis of the Secretariat's work.

Conclusions of the Workshop are:

1. Proposal of the Draft Strategy on FASRB Implementation is prepared and should be delivered to all participants;
2. The Interim Secretariat should deliver this material after its revision to the Sava Commission for further procedure;

3. Expert group consisted of:
- Mr. Željko Ostojić
 - Mr. Dejan Komatina
 - Ms. Melita Žižanović-Dakić
 - Mr. Željko Milković

will do the final revision of the proposed Draft Strategy based on the remarks and comments which should be sent to the Interim Secretariat by Monday, November 28 2005 at latest. The expert group should deliver the revised draft of the Strategy to the Interim Secretariat for further distribution to the Sava Commission members, members of the expert group and selected candidates for the positions at the Secretariat.

4. The Workshop participants stressed a need to organize the meeting of the Sava Commission as soon as possible, and suggested possible dates - December 01 or 02 2005, and, if these are not realistic, then December 20 - 21 2005 at latest. Due to urgency of the various outstanding issues that need to be resolved, it would be good to have this meeting as soon as possible and to decide upon this issue by written voting.

❖ ***IV Special Session held on December 21-22, 2005***

Brief overview of the Session:

- Discussion related to Summary Report of the previous Session and adopted decisions;
- Information on the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport held in Brčko;
- Contact with international bodies;
- Opening of the Secretariat: personal issues, draft contract on employment, purchase of office equipment;
- Discussion on the FASRB Implementation Strategy and the mid-term Sava Commission Work Program: Info on the Workshop held in Banjaluka on November 22-24 2005, revision of the Preliminary Strategy, further work on the prepared material;
- Organization of the First Meeting of the Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the responsibility for organization;
- Financial issues: donation of the Republic of Slovenia, procedure on opening of the bank account, info on status of regular financial contributions of the Parties;
- Other issues;
- Date and place of the next Session.

❖ ***V Special Session held on January 20, 2006***

Brief overview of the Session:

- Discussion related to Summary Report of the previous Session and adopted decisions;
- Discussion related to Joint Statement of the Ministers of transport;

- Info on Meeting with representatives of UNDP/GEF project “Pragmatic River Basin Management Plan Project”;
- Financial issues;
- Start of operational work of the Secretariat: operation issues, recruitment of officials, Overlapping of the Secretariat and Interim Secretariat – transfer of “know-how”;
- Visit of the USG delegation;
- Other issues;
- Date and place of the next Session.

○ ***Meeting with the USG Representatives
February 01 2006, at the Secretariat of the Sava Commission***

The USG Representatives initiated Meeting with the Secretariat's staff in order to discuss possible modalities of further collaboration of the US Government and its Agencies with the Sava Commission.

❖ ***VI Special Session held on March 31, 2006***

Brief overview of the Session:

- Discussion related to Summary Report of the previous Session and adopted decisions;
- Appointment of Officials to the Secretariat;
- Establishment of permanent expert groups;
- Other issues;
- Date and place of the continuation of the Session.

ANNEX I

List of the Sava Commission members and deputy members

Kemal Karkin, Chairman

Member to the Sava Commission from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Born in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on November 20 1948, Mr. Kemal Karkin holds a B.Sc. in Traffic Engineering obtained at the Faculty of Transport in Belgrade (Serbia).

His professional career in the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina began in 1992, firstly as the Associate Specialist, and afterwards as the Assistant Minister (1993 – 1996) and the Director of the Project Implementation Directorate (1996 – 2003).

As of December 2003 (to date) he holds a position of the Head of the Project Implementation Unit at the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His main fields of work refer to the organization management, project management, identification of projects and programs for reconstruction and construction, preparation of legislative and other regulations, preparation of bilateral agreements and negotiations, B&H accession to international organization membership and accession to international conventions, etc.

Goran Šukalo

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Born in Banjaluka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on October 12 1964, Mr. Goran Šukalo holds a holds a Degree of Engineer for Maritime Transport (ISCD level 5A) obtained at the Military Navy Academy in Split.

He began his professional career in year 1989 at the Navigation department of the Military Navy, Lora - Split, Croatia, and Tivat – Montenegro as the Master of the Submarine.

In 2001, he began his professional career at the Ministry of Traffic and Communications of Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as the Expert Associate for Water Traffic. As of the year 2005 he was the Senior Associate for Inland Waterways and Ports at the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His main fields of work refer to the preparation and implementation of the laws and bylaws, inland navigation, implementation of the related projects, conventions and protocols referring to water traffic, organization of ports, etc.

Branko Bačić, Deputy Chairman
Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Croatia

Born in Dubrovnik (Croatia), on June 07 1959, Mr. Branko Bačić holds a B.Sc. in Geodesy obtained at the Faculty of Geodesy in Zagreb.

He began his professional career in year 1982 at the Administration for cadastre and geodesy of the Municipality Korčula (Croatia), where he became the General Director in 1986. He continued his career as the Mayor of the Municipality Blato (1993 – 2003), and, afterwards, as the Member of the Croatian Parliament (2003 – 2004).

As of 2004, he holds a position of the State Secretary at the Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of Republic of Croatia.

His main fields of work refer to maritime affairs, ports, transport, navigation, related regulations, documents and projects, regional and international cooperation, etc.

Željko Ostojić
Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Croatia

Born in Nova Gradiška (Croatia), on April 21 1945, Mr. Željko Ostojić holds a B.Sc. in Geodesy obtained at the Faculty of Geodesy in Zagreb (Croatia).

He began his professional career in year 1972 at the Communal Enterprise “Varkom” in Varaždin (Croatia) as the manager of the construction site of plumbing and sewerage system in Varaždin. He continued his career as the chief planner for water management installations at the “Hidrotehnika” Čakovec (1976 – 1977), and, afterwards, at the “Medical Center” in Varaždin (1977 – 1980).

In 1980, he started working at the State Administration for Water Management in Zagreb, firstly as the expert associate and then as the advisor. Currently, he holds the position of the Head of the Department for International Cooperation at the Administration for Water Management.

His main fields of work refer to water management, water protection, preparation of the water related legislation, development of international regulations related to water area, civil protection, international cooperation, etc.

Nikola Marjanović

Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Serbia

Born in Novi Sad (Serbia), on February 15 1948, Mr. Nikola Marjanović holds a Ph.D. in Hydraulic Engineering obtained at the University of California in Davis (USA).

He began his professional career in year 1975 at the Water Management Institute “Jaroslav Černi” in Belgrade (Serbia) as the Assistant at the Department for Water Regime. He continued his career at the Faculty of civil engineering of the University of California in Davis (1980 – 1986), Water Management Institute “Jaroslav Černi” in Belgrade (1986 – 1989), Company “ENERGOPROJEKT HIDROINŽENJERING” in Belgrade (1990 – 1994; 1995), Faculty of Civil Engineering in Subotica (1996; 1998 – 1999), OXFAM Belgrade (1999 – 2001), and CHF Belgrade (2001 – 2004).

As of the year 2004, he holds a position of the Director at the Republic Water Directorate of the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of Republic of Serbia.

His main fields of work refer to water supply systems, environmental impact assessment, protection against floods, hydrological analyses, protection and management of water quality, planning the installations for processing the drinking water, and installations for treatment of waste waters, etc.

Miroslav Nikčević

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Serbia

Born in Šabac (Serbia) in 1959, Mr. Miroslav Nikčević holds a M.Sc. in Biology obtained at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Biology.

He began his professional career in year 1986 as the researcher at the Laboratory for Aqua-culture “Anstalt Helgoland” in Hamburg (Germany). He continued his career as Associate Researcher at the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies of the Belgrade University (1987 – 1999), the Director of project “Mladica (*hucho hucho*) – protection and cultivation” (1995 – 1997), and as the Assistant to the Federal Secretary for Labor, Health, Social Welfare – head of the Sector for Environment (2001 - 2003).

As of the year 2004, he holds a position of the Director at the Administration for Environmental Protection of the Ministry of science and environmental protection of Republic of Serbia.

His main fields of work refer to environmental protection, environmental impact assessment, environmental legislation, environmental strategies and policies, nature protection, international cooperation, etc.

Mitja Bricelj

Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Slovenia

Born in Ljubljana (Slovenia), on April 04 1959, Mr. Mitja Bricelj holds a M.Sc. in Geography obtained at the Ljubljana University, Faculty of Geography.

He began his professional career in year 1984 as the journalist in Newspapers "Delo" in Ljubljana. He continued his career as the Researcher at the Institute for Geography of the Ljubljana (1986 – 1990).

In 1990, he continued his professional career in the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Slovenia, where he currently holds the position of the Deputy Secretary.

His main fields of work refer to water resources management and protection, coastal protection and management, eco-systems protection, implementation of respective legislation, conventions and protocols, development strategies and policies, international cooperation, project management and coordination, etc.

Aleksander Čičerov

Deputy Member to the Sava Commission from Republic of Slovenia

Born in Ljubljana (Slovenia), on May 15 1949, Mr. Aleksander Čičerov holds a M.Sc. in International Law obtained at the Ljubljana University, Faculty of Law.

He began his professional career in year 1974 as the Head of the Sector for International Law at the Secretariat for International Involvement of Republic of Slovenia. He continued his career at the Assembly of SR Slovenia (1983 – 1991), Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs of Republic of Slovenia (1991 – 1993), Administration for Air Traffic of Republic of Slovenia (1993 - 1997), Ministry of Transport and Communications of Republic of Slovenia (1997 – 2000), .

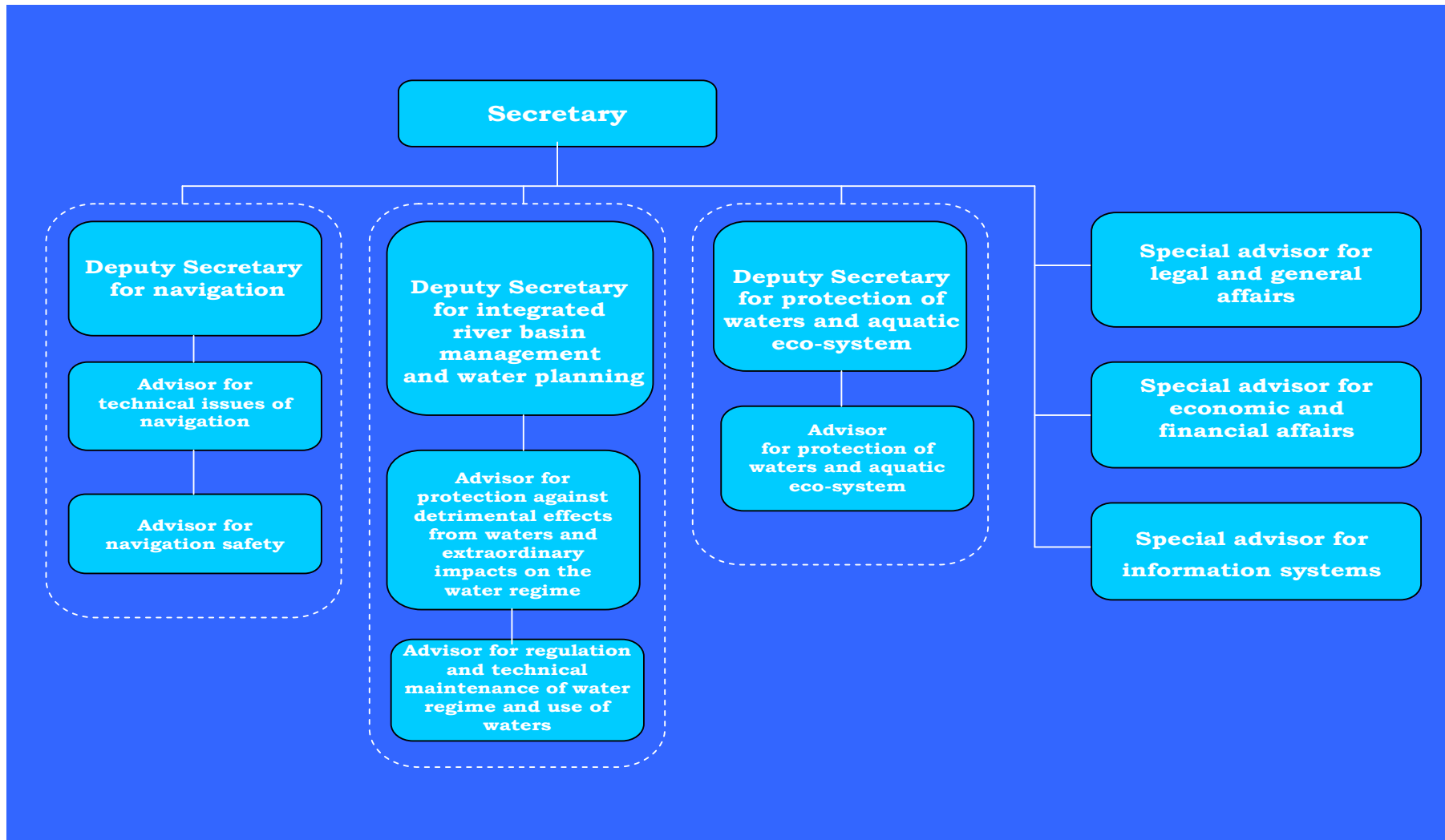
In 2000, he continued his professional career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Slovenia, where he currently holds the position of the Head of the Sector for International Public Law.

His main fields of work refer to international legal affairs, international law, political affairs, international cooperation, negotiations, development of respective legislation, documents, strategies and policies, etc.

ANNEX II

Organizational structure of the Secretariat

Organizational structure of the Secretariat is presented in the chart below.



ANNEX III

Pictures from the Sessions

First Session
Zagreb, June 27-29, 2005



Ceremonial Part of the First Session
July 05 2005





***Members and deputy members to the Sava Commission
who attended the First Session***



Kemal Karkin



Branko Bačić



Željko Ostojić



Mitja Bricelj



Aleksander Čičerov



Nikola Marjanović



Goran Šukalo

II Special Session
October 18-19, 2005





III Special Session
November 14-15, 2005





V Special Session
January 20, 2006

