



Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

DECISION COP4/2 Spatial development Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reiterates* its call upon spatial planning/development local and regional authorities of the Carpathian countries to continue the cooperation on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region, in particular on coordinating spatial and management planning in bordering areas (CC Art. 5.2; Art. 5.3; Art. 9.2), promoting transboundary cooperation on sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians (CC Protocol on Sustainable Tourism Art. 20), consultation, harmonization and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas for the conservation of the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians (Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity Art. 16), including inputs and support to the development and implementation of relevant projects;

2. *Recognizes* the crucial role of local and regional administration and their spatial planning/development authorities in the successful implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols and invites them to pursue and strengthen their efforts and to cooperate among each other;

3. *Invites* the Parties to inform the Secretariat on the administrative units within which they plan to implement the Convention and its Protocols;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of spatial planning for allocation of the development activities – namely, the keeping the empty flood prone areas for the possibility natural retention areas and the elimination/decreasing of flood effects and underground water effects in the urban areas and, in particular, restoration of river beds and flood plains as much as possible to original/natural state;

5. *Encourages* the Parties and the Secretariat to update the Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area and its priority actions for the Carpathians, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, in accordance with the new EU Territorial Cooperation Instruments for the period 2014 - 2020, with a view of promoting it in relevant meetings at EU and international level;

6. *Encourages* the Parties to actively participate in the implementation of the already existing EU macroregional strategies, which are relevant for the Carpathians, the European Union Strategies for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and for the Baltic Region (EUSBSR), including by using the Carpathian Convention as a strategic tool to link and complement the relevant strategies;

7. *Mandates* the Secretariat to continue to promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Programme and Central Europe Programme, as well as – to the limited extend - Baltic Sea Region Programme) for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of full involvement of and strong support to the above mentioned processes by all relevant stakeholders, in particular the competent national authorities, regional and local authorities as well as civil society and private sector;



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9. *Invites* the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and the Euroregions located in the Carpathians, to support the above mentioned processes;

10. *Appreciates* the support of the Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions and of the Association of European Border Regions in the above mentioned processes and *invites* their further cooperation;

11. *Takes into account* the outcomes of the Europe of the Carpathians Conferences held on 4 September 2013 in Krynica and on 23 February 2013 in Krasiczyn;

12. *Welcomes* the outcomes of two editions of the Alpine-Carpathian Forum of Cooperation held in Rzeszow in September 2012 and September 2013;

13. *Takes into account* the results of the Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region” held on 28 May 2013 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels;

14. *Welcomes* outcomes of the joint meeting on macroregional strategies with the Alpine Convention, held on 16 – 17 June 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia and *calls* for mutual support of Alpine and Carpathian Conventions Parties to ensure the consideration of European mountain regions within the implementation of existing EU macroregional strategies;

15. *Takes into account* the results of the Workshop “Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”, held on 27 June 2014 within the 3rd Annual Forum EUSDR 2014 in Vienna.