

MESSAGES BY ICPDR OBSERVERS

The following messages were provided by ICPDR observer organisations for projection at the 3rd ICPDR Ministerial Meeting, held in Vienna on 9 February 2016.

UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme



Complex policy problems related to water call for a closer cooperation between scientists and policy makers. With its International Hydrological Programme, UNESCO intends to further develop its knowledge brokering action in the Danube River Basin, a process in which all stakeholders are working together to share information and co-create knowledge for a better understanding of ‘wicked’ problems and sound decisions.

Global Water Partnership



Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe welcomes the endorsement of both management plans. We look forward to working with the ICPDR in advancing the integrated management of water resources. Recent droughts showed that climate change adaptation is a challenge for the coming years. We also believe that awareness raising among young generation will bring positive future for the Danube.

Ramsar Convention



For the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, cooperation at river basin level is essential for sustainable development. With the new management plans for the Danube basin and its flood risks we have now clear guidance how to maintain the capacity of existing, and how to rehabilitate former natural floodplains. Once more, the Danube basin countries show the way forward.

International Association for Danube Research



IAD welcomes the achievements made since 2009 but stresses that future challenges need a more integrated approach of management and science, as multiple pressures and objectives are interacting. Sound scientific understanding is key for mastering the challenges ahead. We as an association of scientists are prepared to collaborate in work towards a sustainable future of the Danube region.

Black Sea Commission



The Black Sea Commission, as a strategic partner and closest neighbour, highly appreciates the efforts of ICPDR aimed at enforcement of existing river management

plans and contributing to the implementation of WFD and MSF Directive. We share our common goal – achieving and sustaining the good environmental status in the Danube-Black Sea Basin, we stand ready to further undertake joint actions in this direction.

European Barge Union



EBU welcomes the adoption of the Danube RBMP Update 2015 and the 1st Danube Flood Risk MP. In their implementation the successful “Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin” is expected to find the right balance between the protection of the ecosystem and economic importance of the River.

Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe



The implementation of measures from regional to local level; integration issues such as environmental protection and adaptation to climate change; public participation and raising awareness in topics such as IWRM and flood prevention are matching relevant areas of expertise of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

VGB PowerTec



As representatives of the energy sector and in particular of hydropower, VGB PowerTec is committed to the sustainable development of this resource. The “Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development in the Danube Basin” is a best practice outcome of a process conducted by the ICPDR. We appreciate that DRBM Plan and FRM Plan succeed in balancing interests of different sectors.

Naturefriends International



National and regional authorities are asked to take appropriate measures towards a sustainable development of the Danube basin. The protection of the high diversity of species and habitats – essential for a broad variety of ecosystem services, and attracting local people as well as visitors – which is closely linked to hydro-morphological dynamics and free flowing rivers will be of key importance.

WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme



Wetland restoration and sturgeon conservation - key objectives of WWF’s activities in the Danube basin - are strongly anchored in the ICPDR’s new management plans. WWF is thus looking forward to working with all parties on implementing respective measures!

Danube Environment Forum (DEF)



The Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) welcomes objectives and visions of the new ICPDR management plans. Integrating biodiversity and protecting the sturgeon species are important elements. In the next years we would like to have ambition, transparency and participation in the implementation process. Rivers should be protected from new dams. River corridors are green infrastructures for habitat continuity and flood management

Carpathian Convention



“We recognise that the cooperation of the Carpathian Convention with the ICPDR and its Tisza Group is relevant for integrating land and water use in the Carpathians, in particular in mountain river basins. These two international instruments need to streamline their efforts, also in the context of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, in order to achieve lasting results.”

Danube Competence Center



The rich cultural and natural heritage of the Danube Region faces growing interest of tourists and therefore creates new opportunities for improvement of the social and economic environment. Sustainable tourism development supports awareness raising of locals, authorities and the private sector on the protection of species and habitats as well as the related flood management.

European Angler's Alliance



Hydropower: Damages by hydropower are general knowledge now. Small plants are the worst. Hazardous Substances: The danger by endocrine disruptors is ignored in EU. Switzerland is upgrading the 100 biggest sewage plants. Invasive Alien Species: Black-Sea-Gobies are to wipe out native fish-stocks. Waves: Waves caused by navigation are destroying spawn and fish-fry. Speed-reduction in sensitive zones would be the solution.

Viadonau viadonau

Good ecological status and good navigation status are no contradiction. The ‘Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin’ and the updated Danube River Basin District Management Plan demonstrate that both are achievable as long as the dialogue continues.

International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area



Without good status of water we as Water Utility companies cannot provide citizens with clean and healthy water. The ICPDR's RBM Plan has provided the framework for the various actors, public and private, which influence and affect water, to act to ensure good status. We support the plan and our members will continue to be active in supporting measures needed."

Danubeparks



Protected Areas preserve the most valuable natural sites in the Danube Region. The ICPDR has actively supported DANUBEPARKS - The Danube River Network of Protected to develop the Danube Habitat Corridor. For us, the Danube River Basin Management Plan is a common frame to intensify cooperation for our joint Natural Heritage in the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube.

EWA (European Water Association)



Implementation of EU-Water Framework and EU-Flood Directive is one of the main challenges for the water sector in Europe. The Danube River Basin is the most international Basin worldwide covering countries with high variety in landscape and economic development. ICPDR succeed in managing the development of a well elaborated River Basin Management Plan, a lighthouse of European water policy.

International Sava River Basin Commission



A broad scope of the newly developed management plans for the Danube River Basin, and the measures contained therein, will certainly provide a valuable support to the efforts of the ISRBC in implementing the integrated management of water resources in the Sava River Basin, with the aim to provide conditions for sustainable development of the region within the basin.

The ICPDR thanks its 23 observers organisations for the excellent cooperation!