



## **Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention**

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians represent living and economic areas of particular European interest,

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians are characterised by a multifaceted nature, culture, history as well as a particular ecological sensitivity and, in particular through the EU enlargement, are coming closer in many fields,

Recalling the valuable example of the sharing of experience process between Alpine and Carpathian Countries since 2001,

In consideration of the fact that the Alpine States keep supporting the development of the Carpathian Convention<sup>1</sup> in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-ROE), and also appreciating the ongoing cooperation between the Alpine Convention<sup>2</sup> and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas with the Carpathian Convention in the field of conservation of biological and landscape diversity,

In consideration of the fact that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Carpathian Convention<sup>3</sup> requested "the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment (UNEP) to continue to service the Convention process, also through the provision of interim secretariat support",

In consideration of the fact that the VIIth Alpine Conference declared its readiness to further develop the existing mountain partnerships in the Carpathians, Caucasus and Central Asia and that the VIIIth Alpine Conference decided to include these mountain partnerships as a long-term key point in the multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Conference 2005 – 2010,

Noting the work of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in its function as environmental focal point in the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on sub-regional mountain cooperation worldwide in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, including the mountain regions of the Carpathians, of South Eastern Europe, of the Caucasus, and of the Himalaya – Karakoram – Hindukush,

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<sup>1</sup> Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians

<sup>2</sup> Convention on the protection of the Alps

<sup>3</sup> Kyiv, 22 May 2003

In consideration of the fact that, after the Carpathian Convention came into force on 4 January 2006, the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, is engaged to follow its implementation and to coordinate its operations with those of other competent international bodies and conventions,

In consideration of the fact that the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was requested by the VIIIth Alpine Conference to initiate collaborating with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention,

The Alpine Conference and the Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention acting through their Secretariats have reached the following understanding:

## **I – Duration**

This **Memorandum of Understanding<sup>4</sup> (MoU)** may be reviewed at any time in writing by mutual consent and may be cancelled by either side subject to six months notice in writing.

## **II – Goals**

Endeavouring the strengthening of cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions in fields of common interest, this MoU is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Bodies of the two Conventions in the field of information and experience exchange. Besides this, another objective is the development and implementation of common projects. The collaboration is aimed in the long term at strengthening the awareness of the significance of a sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe.

## **III – Collaboration fields**

Common activities should be developed in regular meetings between the Bodies of the two conventions and especially of their Secretariats, which should be held at least once a year. Collaboration should include all the issues examined by both Conventions and, especially, the following collaboration areas:

- Spatial planning and sustainable development
- Sustainable and integrated water and river basin management
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- Sustainable mountain agriculture
- Sustainable forestry in mountain areas
- Soil protection
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- Industry and energy
- Air pollution control

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<sup>4</sup> „Memorandum of Cooperation“ in UN terminology

- Waste management
- Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- Environmental assessment/information, monitoring and early warning
- Awareness raising, education and public participation

Due to the already existing collaboration, a significant role may be played especially by the following themes:

### **1. Work with the general public**

In the sense of an active information and communication policy, both Secretariats should harmonise their work with the general public with the aim of increasing the level of knowledge of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention at local, regional, national and European level, and should thereby promote a long-term stable balance between the protection of the environment and the social, cultural and economic development in both mountain areas within the context of European integration.

### **2. Collaboration in the field of protected areas**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention should continue with their efforts for enhancing networks of protected areas in the Alps (ALPARC) and in the Carpathians (CNPA) as well as the ecological linking-up between the two mountain ranges. They should work closely together on the issue of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.

### **3. Common activities in the framework of the Mountain Partnership**

Both sides should intensify their collaboration within the framework of the Mountain Partnership by presenting their collaboration as an example for other mountain regions. The implementation of specific common events may contribute to achieve this objective, also in the field of local collaboration and an agreed presence of the Secretariats at third party events.

## **IV – Commitment**

Both sides declare that within the scope of this collaboration they are ready to mutually inform each other of the work of the relevant Bodies of the convention in an appropriate way. The information exchange will take place through the respective Secretariats.

**V – Effectiveness**

This MoU will take effect at the day of the signature by both sides.

For the Carpathian Convention:

For the Alpine Convention:

<p>UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>The Presidency of the Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention</p> <p>The Presidency of the Alpine Conference</p>
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