Resolution on the Sustainable Development of the Dinaric Arc Region

Adopted at Brdo, 9 March 2011

We, the ministers and high representatives

participating in the Conference for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dinaric Arc Region

aware of the fact that the Dinaric Arc Region, with its natural, cultural and historical heritage constitutes a unique area in Europe and represents a specific zone in a wider regional sense

recognising the development potential of the Dinaric Arc Region

noting the importance of social and cultural identity for the population in and outside the Dinaric Arc Region

stressing the joint responsibility in nature protection and cultural heritage and sustainable management of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations

emphasising the need for an integrated approach in achieving sustainable development in the region

recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Human Environment (1972) and the United Nations Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

bearing in mind the opportunities offered by activities for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Goals

stressing the importance of mountain areas for sustainable development particularly underlined in Chapter 13 of the Agenda 21 ("Managing Fragile Mountain Ecosystems") and in individual paragraphs of the Johannesburg Implementation Programme

recognising the importance of full implementation of the relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for sustainable development of the Dinaric Arc Region

welcoming the achievements of the Mountain Partnership

recalling the commitments of the United Nations Forum of Forests (UNFF) and of the Pan-European process Forest Europe

being aware of the fact that efforts to protect, maintain and sustainably manage the natural resources of the Dinaric Arc Region can not be achieved by one country alone and require regional cooperation, and of the added value of transboundary cooperation

convinced of the need for adequate institutional arrangements and capacity building for sustainable development in the region

aware of the importance of existing partnership initiatives such as the Dinaric Arc Initiative and the commitments of the Joint Statement at the Big Win High level event (CBD COP9, 2008),

welcoming the work of UNEP on the preparation of the Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook, and the consultations exploring the potential of a legal framework for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in South Eastern Europe, showing the bottlenecks in cross-sectoral cooperation

stressing the importance of implementation of existing political and legal agreements on the international level, especially those adopted within the framework of Pan-European cooperation

Recognizing the crucial role and contribution which the examples of Alpine and Carpathian Conventions can make to the promotion and achievement of sustainable development, peace and stability in the region

hereby declare to strive to

pursue a common policy to ensure the sustainable development including ecological integrity and territorial cohesion in the Dinaric Arc Region

asses the development policies and programmes to oversee the inclusion of care for the environment with the intention to reduce and mitigate unsustainable effects of economic development and market-oriented measures on the territories and ecosystems of the Dinaric Arc Region

implement open and transparent integrated approach to ensuring sustainable development in the Dinaric Arc Region trough measures in *inter alia* spatial planning, nature conservation and environmental protection, water management, agriculture and rural development, cultural identity, energy, mountain forestry, tourism, sports and transport and regularly examine the effect of these activities in the region

support regional cooperation and concrete measures to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the need for a balanced relationship between people and nature, integrating and strengthening the participation of and dialogue between all actors

integrate the principles and obligations derived from existing multilateral environmental agreements in relevant national and regional strategies

promote regional cooperation and the transfer of knowledge and experience in research, monitoring, science and technology

mobilise resources to support the programmes and projects in specified cooperation areas in accordance with this resolution

develop a legal framework for the protection and sustainable development of the Dinaric Arc region trough a UNEP serviced process between the countries involved

ensure our Government's participation within available resources and call upon the EU, other donors and relevant international organizations, in particularly those already present in the region, to provide support to this process.

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