

***Ministry of Environment  
of the Slovak Republic***



***STATE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT REPORT  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
2010***



***Slovak Environmental Agency***

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Major initiative in the area of **bilateral cooperation** in 2010 pointed toward a cooperation with the neighbouring countries in the interest of stimulating trans-boundary and Euro-regional cooperation with the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Ukraine, and Hungary. The core topics of these meetings and projects with the neighbouring countries included intensification of the cooperation leading mainly to the development of the border regions.

Special attention is given to negotiations with the neighbouring countries - Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Ukraine in the area of discussing project drafts with the possible trans-boundary impact on the environment. Project discussion phase has been implemented in compliance with the obligations set forth by the EEC UN Convention on environmental trans-boundary impact assessment.

The Slovak Ministry of Environment in 2010 supervised the signing of an international treaty - Supplement no.2 to "Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)" (Bristol 24.-26., July 2000), acceptance document on Slovakia's acceptance was stored on 26.02.2010.

As part of the multi-factorial cooperation, representatives of the ministry took an active part in workshops at multilateral conventions in the area of the environment that bind the Slovak Republic; special attention can be given in this respect to the meeting of the signatories to the UN Framework Convention on climate change that took place in Cancun in December 2010. Slovakia has taken an active part in the preparation of the EU Strategy for the lower Danubian region that in its position of horizontal strategy reaches into a number of areas. The strategy is expected to create a mechanism of joint responsibility of countries within the Danube region for the economic and social development of their territories and preserving their natural and cultural heritage.

### • UP-TO-DATE OVERVIEW OF SLOVAKIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

#### Conventions in the area of air protection

- **Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution, the so-called "Geneva Convention"** (Geneva, 13/11/1979, ČSFR acceded in 1984, succeeded by Slovakia on 28/05/1993)
  - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (Geneva, 28/09/1984, Slovakia succeeded on 28/05/1993)
  - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30% (Helsinki, 18/07/1985, Slovakia succeeded on 28/05/1993)
  - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30% (Helsinki, 31/10/1988, Slovakia succeeded on 28/05/1993)

- Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (Oslo, 14/06/1994, signed on 14/06/1994, ratified on 15/01/1998, in effect since 05/08/1998)
- Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on Heavy Metals (Aarhus, 24/06/1998, signed on 24/06/1998, adopted on 30/12/ 2002)
- Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Aarhus, 24/06/1998, signed on 24/06/1998, adopted on 30/12/ 2002)
- Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Geneva, 18/11/1991, Slovakia succeeded on 15/12/1999)
- Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Trans-Boundary air pollution to abate acidification, on Reducing Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Göteborg, 30.11.1999, SR signed on 1.12.1999, SR ratified on 28.4.2005)
- **UN Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC0)** (New York, 09/05/1992, signed 19/05/1993, ratified 25/08/1994, in effect since 23/11/1994)
  - Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 11/12/1997, signed 26/02/1999, ratified 31/05/2002)
- **Convention on the Ozone Layer Protection, the so-called "Vienna Convention"** (Vienna, 22/03/1985, ČSFR acceded in 1990, succeeded by Slovakia on 28/05/1993)
  - Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Montreal, 16/09/1987, ČSFR acceded in 1990, succeeded by Slovakia on 28/05/1993).
  - Montreal supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Montreal, 17/09/1997, approved by the SR on 03/11/1999)
  - London supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (approved by the SR on 15/04/1994)
  - Copenhagen supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (approved by the SR on 08/01/1998, effective since 07/04/1998)
  - Montreal supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Beijing, 03/12/1999, approved by the SR on 22/05/2002)
- **Stockholm Convention on persistent organic compounds** (Stockholm, 22/05/2001, ratified by the SR on 05/08/2002)

### Conventions in the area of water protection

- **Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes** (Helsinki, 17.03.1992, SR acceded on 07.07.1999)
  - Protocol on water and health (London, May 1999)
- **Convention on cooperation and sustainable use of the River Danube, so-called Danube Convention** (Sophia, 29/06/1994, signed by the SR on 29/06/1994, ratified by the SR on 02/10/1997)

## Conventions in the area of nature protection

- **Convention on biodiversity** (Rio de Janeiro, 05/06/1992, signed 19/05/1993, Slovak President signed ratification document on 23/08/1994, ratified 25/08/1994, effective since 24/11/1994)
  - Cartagena Protocol on biodiversity (Montreal, 29/01/2000, SR signed: Kenya, 24.5.2000, ratified on 24/11/2003)
- **Convention on the protection of free living organisms and natural habitats, so-called Bern Convention** (Bern, 19/09/1979, signed by the SR on 28/04/1994, ratified 23/09/1996, effective since 01/01/1997)
- **Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially as aquatic birds habitats, so-called Ramsar Convention** (ČSFR acceded 02/07/1990, effective since 02/07/1990, SR succeeded on 31/03/1993)
- **Convention on the Conservation of Migratorz Species of Wild Animals, so-called Bonn Convention** (Bonn, 23/06/1979, SR acceded 14/12/1994, effective since 01/03/1995)
  - Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe of 04/12/1991 (SR acceded on 09/07/1998)
    - Supplement no. 2 to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats (Bristol, 24 - 26 July 2000), document on approval by the SR was stored on 26/02/2010.
  - Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian species of migrating waterfowl (Haag, 15/08/1996, document on accession with condition stored 13/04/2001)
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, so-called Washington Convention - CITES** (ČSFR acceded on 28/02/1992, effective since 28/05/1992, succeeded by SR in 1993)
- **Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage** (ČSFR acceded on 15/11/1990, effective since 15/02/1991, succeeded by SR in 1993)
- **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling** (Washington, 2.12.1946), and **Protocol of Amendment** (Washington, 19.11.1956) Document on the SR accession stored on 22/03/2005)
- **European Landscape Convention** (Florence, 20.10.2000, SR ratification protocol stored on 9.8.2005)

## Cross-sectional Conventions

- **UN ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context** (Espoo 25/02/1991, ČSFR signed 25/02/1991, succeeded by the SR in 1993, ratified by the SR on 18/11/1999)
 

**Supplement 1** and **supplement 2** to the convention (document on approval by the SR on 29/05/2008)

  - Protocol on strategic environmental assessment (Kiev, 21/05/2003, signed by the SR on 19/12/2003, ratified by the SR on 29/05/2008)

- **Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, so-called Basel Convention** (Basel, 22/03/1989, ČSFR acceded in 1991, succeeded by the SR on 28/05/1993, adoption of Supplement to Convention on 11/09/1998) **Supplement** to the Basel Convention (New York 22/09/1995, document on adoption by the SR stored 11/09/1998)
- **Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents** - (Helsinki, 17/03/1992, document on accession of the SR on 09/09/2003)
- **Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Carpathians - Carpathian Convention** (Kiev, adopted 22/05/2003, document on approval stored 06/05/2004)
  - Protocol on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Carpathians
- **Convention on Access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters – Aarhus Convention** (Aarhus, 25/06/1998, SR accession document stored on 05/12/2005)
 

**Changes and amendments** to the Convention (Almaty, 27/05/2005, document on ratification by the SR stored on 01/04/2008)

  - Protocol on the register of release of polluting substances and their fluxes (PRTR Protocol) (Kiev, 22/05/2003, document on accession by the SR stored on 01/04/2008)
- **Convention for the establishment of a European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)** (Geneva, May 24, 1983, document on the accession of Slovakia registered on January 3, 2006)
- **Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)** (Darmstadt, June 5, 1986, document on the accession of Slovakia stored on January 24, 2006)