

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

• INTERNATIONAL BODIES

United Nations

The **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** called **Rio+20** organised in Rio de Janeiro has been the most significant international event. The conference took place on June 20 – 22, 2012 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit (UN Conference on the environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, 1992). The Rio+20 conference hosted a meeting of the heads of states and governments, representatives from public and public sectors including business enterprises, non-government organisations, and civic associations. SR was represented by a delegation lead by the Minister of Environment, Peter Žiga. The Conference's outcome was a final document adopted as a political declaration called: "**The Future We Want**". The Declaration gave rise to international processes leading to the strengthening of the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), founding of the high-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, drafting sustainable development targets, as well as outlining the possibilities for an effective financial strategy of sustainable development.

• EUROPEAN UNION

On January, 19 – 20, 2012, Slovakia hosted the **European Commissioner** for the Environment, Januz Potočník who held sessions with a number of resorts. During his visit, Mr. Potočník met also with the Environment Minister, József Nagy. Discussed topics included the issues of nature protection, waste management and air protection, such as EN strategy in the area of biodiversity, funding of protected areas within the NATURA 2000 system, accession of the EU into the Carpathian Convention, effective use of resources, Strategy of Reduction of Work Particles in Slovakia.

Council of the EU Ministers of the Environment adopted Council outcomes accompanying the Notice of the Commission to the European Parliament, Council, European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions: **A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources**. This strategy includes measures to secure sufficient volumes of good-quality drinking water for all legitimate ends within the EU with the goal to cope with water stress, shortage of water and the long-term sustainability of our water ecosystems.

In terms of the environmental strategy, continuing efforts in adopting the **7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP)** were very significant. Slovakia supported this activity. EAP is to provide an overall strategic framework for the environmental strategy in the EU.

The agency continued to meet the selected tasks of the EU strategy called "**Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020**" also in 2012. It carried out preparation of the revised National Strategy of Biodiversity for the years 2012 - 2020. This document was assessed

as the strategic document for the environmental impact assessment and the comments were taken into consideration in its further revision.

Slovakia also took part in negotiations about the drafted EU Parliament and Council Regulation on **Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization**, which will lead to the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol within the EU. In order to implement the EU targets, it is important to comply with the strategy of the green growth in individual sectoral strategies and to adequately consider the aspect of biodiversity within the funding priorities for the programming period of 2014 - 2020.

The priority shared commonly by the EU and Slovakia is to ensure continuity and reach an agreement about the continuation of the **Kyoto Protocol** for the second compulsory period after 2012, including the possibility to use flexible compliance mechanisms.

Slovakia took an active part in 2012 at negotiations about new drafted legislation for the area of **climate change**. The most important drafted documents included a regulation about the greenhouse gases emissions monitoring mechanism that is to supersede the current effective legislation.

• COOPERATION WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

On March 1 - 2, 2012, the Slovak Ministry of Environment hosted the Minister of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Branka Djurič and the Minister of Physical Planning, Construction Engineering and Ecology of the Serbian Republic, Srebrenka Golič. The Ministers showed interests mainly in Slovakia's pre-accession EU funds, the area of the Slovak development cooperation, and the topics of recycling, separation, and reclamation of various waste categories.

Vietnam delegation comprising the representatives of the Ministry of natural resources and environment headed by the Ministry's Secretary, visited the Slovak Ministry of Environment on July 27, 2012. Negotiations addressed the possibilities for cooperation between Vietnam and the Slovak Republic, specifically in the areas of water management, waste, environmental impact assessment, and mineral exploitation including the subsequent reclamation of the territory after the mining activities.

• INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS

In the area of agreements and treaties, Government of the Slovak Republic in its Resolution No. 582 of 24.10.2012 and the subsequent NR SR Resolution No. 380 of 18.12.2012 agreed to the **Annex to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** (Water Convention). The mentioned Annex regulates the articles 25 and 26 of the Convention and its ratification by the EEC UN member states allows for accession to the Convention also by those countries outside the EEC UN arena who want to address their trans-boundary issues on the basis of a proven international convention despite the fact that they are not members of the EEC UN.

Agreement between the Slovak Government and the Czech Government on the temporary use of the parts of the Slovak national territory and capital for the construction and operation of a construction project called: "Enlargement of the commercially used Otrokovice - Rohatec water route" on the border water course of Radějovka within the municipal administrative areas of Sudoměřice, Rohatec, and Skalica.

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

Conventions in the area of air protection and chemical substances

- **Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, so-called Geneva Convention**
(Geneva, 13/11/1979, Slovakia joined on 22/03/1984)
 - 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 28/01/1988)
 - 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 02/09/1987)
 - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on the Reduction of Nitrogen Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes (Sophia, 31/10/1988, Slovakia succeeded on 14/02/1991)
 - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution of 1979, on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (Oslo, 14/06/1994, Slovakia succeeded on 05/08/1998)
 - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution, on Heavy Metals (Aarhus, 24/06/1998, Slovakia succeeded on 29/12/ 2003)
 - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution, on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Aarhus, 24/06/1998, Slovakia succeeded on 23/10/ 2003)
 - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary pollution, concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Geneva, 18/11/1991, Slovakia succeeded on 14/03/2000)
 - 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, Slovakia succeeded on 27/07/2005)
- **UN Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC)**
(New York, 09/05/1992, Slovakia succeeded on 23/11/1994)
 - Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 11/12/1997, Slovakia succeeded on 16/02/2005)
- **Convention on the Ozone Layer Protection, the so-called "Vienna Convention"**
(Vienna, 22/03/1985, succeeded by Slovakia on 28/05/1993)

- Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Montreal, 16/09/1987, succeeded by Slovakia on 28/05/1993).
- - Montreal supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Montreal, 17/09/1997, Slovakia succeeded on 01/02/2000)
- London supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (London, 29/06/1990)
- Copenhagen supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Copenhagen, 25/11/1992, Slovakia succeeded on 08/04/1998)
- Beijing supplement to Montreal Protocol on ozone layer depleting substances (Beijing, 03/12/1999, Slovakia succeeded on 20/08/2002)
- **Stockholm Convention on persistent organic compounds** (Stockholm, 22/05/2001, Slovakia succeeded on 17/05/2004)
- **Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade** (Rotterdam, 10/09/1998, Slovakia succeeded on 26/04/2007)

Conventions on water protection

- **Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes** (Helsinki, 17/03/1992, Slovakia succeeded on 05/10/1999)
 - Protocol on water and health (London, 17/06/1999, Slovakia succeeded on 04/08/2005)
- **Convention on cooperation and sustainable use of the River Danube, so-called Danube Convention** (Sophia, 29/06/1994, Slovakia succeeded on October 1998)

Conventions on nature and land protection

- **Convention on biodiversity** (Rio de Janeiro, 05/06/1992, Slovakia succeeded on 23/11/1994)
 - Cartagena Protocol on biodiversity (Montreal, 29/01/2000, Slovakia succeeded on 22/02/2004)
- **Convention on the protection of free living organisms and natural habitats, so-called Bern Convention** (Bern, 19/09/1979, Slovakia succeeded on 01/01/1997)
- **Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially as aquatic birds habitats, so-called Ramsar Convention** (Ramsar 02/02/1971, Slovakia succeeded on 02/07/1990)
- **Convention on the Conservation of Migratorz Species of Wild Animals, so-called Bonn Convention** (Bonn, 23/06/1979, Slovakia succeeded on 01/03/1995)
 - Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe of 04/12/1991 (London, 04/12/1991, Slovakia succeeded on 08/08/1998)
 - Supplement No. 2 to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats (Bristol, 26/07/2000, Slovakia succeeded on 28/03/2010)
 - Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian species of migrating waterfowl (Haag, 15/08/1996, Slovakia succeeded on 01/07/2001)

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, so-called Washington Convention - CITES** (Washington, 03/03/1973, Slovakia succeeded on 16/12/1992)
- **Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage** (Paris, 16/11/1972, Slovakia succeeded on 15/02/1991)
- **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling** (Washington, 02/12/1946, Slovakia succeeded on 22/03/2005), and **Protocol of Amendment** (Washington, 19/11/1956, Slovakia succeeded on 22/03/2005)
- **European Landscape Convention** (Florence, 20/10/2000, Slovakia succeeded on 01/12/2005)

Cross-sectional Conventions

- **UN ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context** (Espoo 25/02/1991, Slovakia succeeded on 17/02/2000)
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, Slovakia succeeded on 11/07/2010)
- **Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, so-called Basel Convention** (Basel, 22/03/1989, Slovakia succeeded on 24/07/1991)
Supplement to the Basel Convention (New York 22/09/1995, Slovakia succeeded on 06/11/1998)
- **Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents** (Helsinki, 17/03/1992, Slovakia succeeded on 08/12/2003)
- **Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Carpathians - Carpathian Convention** (Kiev, 22/05/2003, Slovakia succeeded on 04/01/2006)
 - 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 (Kiev, 19/06/2008, Slovakia succeeded on 03/08/2011)
- **Convention on Access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters – Aarhus Convention** (Aarhus, 25/06/1998, Slovakia succeeded on 05/3/2006)
Changes and amendments to the Convention (Almaty, 27/05/2005)
 - Protocol on the register of release of polluting substances and their fluxes (PRTR Protocol) (Kiev, 21/05/2003, Slovakia succeeded on 08/10/2009)
- **Convention for the establishment of a European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)** (Geneva, 24/05/1983, Slovakia succeeded on 03/01/2006)

- **Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)** (Darmstadt, 05/06/1986, Slovakia succeeded on 23/02/2006)
- **Agreement between EURCONTROL and the MoE of the SR on the access to data contained in the Emission Trading Scheme Support Facility - ETS-SF** (2011)