

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentleman,

Let me briefly inform you on the progress in the Sava River Basin.

As most of you know, the work of the Sava Commission is based on the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin. It is **this Agreement** which introduced the integrated approach of sustainable water management, making the Sava Commission responsible for both **navigation development** and **environmental protection** in the basin.

Therefore, the Joint Statement is perceived by the Sava Commission as an **additional confirmation of its integrated approach**, and also as an **excellent opportunity to contribute to the development of the Danube transport system and its ecosystem**, working on this issue jointly with the Danube Commission and the ICPDR.

Since the formal adoption of the Joint Statement by the Sava Commission in January 2008, several related activities have been performed:

- At first, there is an **ongoing planning process** for a capital project of **Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation on the Sava River**, which is coordinated by the Sava Commission and will be presented this afternoon in greater detail.
- A set of **rules related to the technical issues of navigation**, and the **rules aiming at the improvement of navigation safety**, have been adopted by the Sava Commission, all the rules being harmonized with those of the Danube Commission.
- A **new marking system** is being implemented on the Sava river waterway, so that the waterway will be completely marked by mid of this year.
- Preparatory activities for the **implementation of RIS** on the Sava river have been made, as well.
- **Additional protocols to the FASRB** are being developed, regulating the issues of:
 - o prevention of water pollution caused by navigation,
 - o emergency situations, including these originating in the navigation-related accidents,
 - o sediment management.

Finally, as a contribution to the implementation of the Joint Statement, the Sava Commission has organized a **Workshop on Environmentally Sustainable Management and Maintenance of Inland Waterways**, in October last year, in Belgrade. Majority of participants were **stakeholders from the Sava river basin**, but representatives of the **European Commission, ICPDR, Danube Commission, and other international and regional organizations and institutions** participated, as well.

The main objective of the workshop was **to introduce regional stakeholders** with the experience and best practices of development and maintenance of inland waterways from other regions. Additionally, **the Joint Statement was presented, for the very first time**, to a wide range of stakeholders from the Sava countries, and it was found to be a **solid framework** for future projects in the region, **especially for** the project of rehabilitation and development of the Sava waterway, that will be presented to you later today.

So, this was a brief information for you. Thank you for your attention.