

CONFERENCE

icpdr iksd

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau

HYDROPOWER AND WATER MANAGEMENT



26-27 March 2013, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Programme and Agenda

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

The ICPDR is a transnational body established by the Danube River Protection Convention, comprising as contracting parties 14 Danube countries and the European Union. The ICPDR is charged with coordinating the trans-boundary aspects for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) as well as the EU Floods Directive (FD) in the Danube River Basin.

Background on the hydropower activity

The increased use of energy from renewable sources, together with energy savings and increased energy efficiency, constitute important steps towards meeting the need of reduced greenhouse gas emissions to comply with international climate protection agreements. The development of further renewable energy in line with the implementation of the EU Renewable Energy Directive represents a significant driver for the development of hydropower generation in the countries of the Danube River Basin. At the same time, Danube countries are committed to the implementation of water, climate, nature and other environmental legislation. Specifically the Water Framework Directive (WFD) plays a leading role and is the key tool for water policy in the Danube River Basin, specifying water protection targets in balance with economic interests.

Acknowledging the challenge of sustainable hydropower development in the frame of the existing legal and policy framework, the ICPDR was asked in the Danube Declaration 2010, “to organise in close cooperation with the hydropower sector and all relevant stakeholders a broad discussion process with the aim of developing guiding principles on integrating environmental aspects in the use of existing hydropower plants, including a possible increase of their efficiency, as well as in the planning and construction of new hydropower plants”. This activity is also included in the Action Plan of the EU Danube Strategy under Priority Area 2 “Energy”.

Steps taken

The three “Lead Countries” Austria, Romania and Slovenia were nominated to steer the process of the elaboration of the “Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development in the Danube Basin” within the frame of the ICPDR. In support of the development of the document, a broad participative process was set up with involvement of representatives from administrations (energy and environment), the hydropower sector, NGOs and the scientific community.

In the course of four meetings of this Team of Experts and a workshop, significant steps were taken towards a common understanding on the issue and a far advanced version of the Guiding Principles was elaborated.

Aim of the Conference

The aim of the Conference is to present and to discuss the results of the work undertaken in the frame of the activity and the draft content of the Guiding Principles with a broader audience, accompanied by presentations on inspiring practical examples for the application. The Conference marks an important step towards the finalization of the “Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development in the Danube Basin”.

PROGRAMME AND AGENDA

Venue: M Hotel Ljubljana, Derceva 4, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Start of registration: Tuesday, 26 March 2013, 09:30 o'clock

DAY 1 • 26 March 2013

Start: 10:30 o'clock

SESSION I: Setting the Scene

- 10:30 **Welcome address by the Host** – *Mitja Bricelj, Ministry for Agriculture and the Environment, Slovenia*
- 10:40 **Introductory remarks by the ICPDR President** - *Ermina Salkicevic-Dizdarevic, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- 10:50 **Introductory presentation – Background and framework** – *Aleš Bizjak, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia on behalf of the Lead Countries*
- 11:05 **Panel Discussion – What are the key elements for sustainable hydropower?**
Moderator: *Mitja Bricelj, Ministry for Agriculture and the Environment, Slovenia*
Participants:
- *Marta Moren-Abat, European Commission, DG Environment*
 - *Gabriela Cretu, Electricity and Renewable Energy Expert, Energy Community*
 - *Fritz Holzwarth, German Water Director*
 - *Matjaž Eberlinc, HSE Group, Slovenia*
 - *Sergiy Moroz, WWF Freshwater Policy Officer*

12:15 Lunch

SESSION II: Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development

Block 1 – General Issues and Considerations

Chair: *Gheorghe Constantin, Director, Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes*

- 13:15 Guiding Principles - General Issues and Considerations – *Graziella Jula, “Romanian Waters” National Administration*
- 13:30 Key elements of the Energy Community acquis related to sustainable development – *Gabriela Cretu, Electricity and Renewable Energy Expert, Energy Community*
- 13:45 Discussion

Block 2 – Technical upgrading of existing plants and ecological restoration

Chair: *Raimund Mair, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River*

- 14:15 Guiding Principles – Technical upgrading of existing plants and ecological restoration measures – *Edith Hödl-Kreuzbauer, Austrian Environment Agency*
- 14:30 Sustainable River management model on River Drava for the concessionaire DEM - *Igor Čuš, DEM, Maribor, Slovenia*
- 14:45 Technical upgrading of existing plants and ecological restoration measures – Strategy Upper Austria – *Franz Überwimmer, Office of the Regional Government of Upper Austria*
- 15:00 Discussion
- 15:30 Coffee break

Block 3 – Strategic planning approach for new hydropower development

Chair: *Karl Schwaiger, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*

- 16:00 Guiding Principles – Strategic planning approach for new hydropower development – *Jakob Schrittwieser, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*
- 16:15 Development of concrete methodology to support efficient hydropower implementation harmonized with environmental objectives - *Sašo Šantl, University of Ljubljana*
- 16:30 Strategy for hydropower development in Switzerland – Example Canton of Bern – *Heinz Habegger, Construction, Transport and Energy Directorate of the Canton Bern*
- 16:45 Strategic planning approach for new hydropower development in Norway - *Tor Simon Pedersen, Ministry of the Environment, Norway*
- 17:00 Impulse presentation – Sector’s view on strategic planning – *Otto Pirker, Verbund AHP*
- 17:05 Impulse presentation – NGO’s view on strategic planning – *Irene Lucius, WWF DCP*
- 17 :10 Discussion
- 18:00 End of Day 1
- 19:30 Joint dinner (Šestica Restaurant, Slovenska cesta 40, Ljubljana)

DAY 2 • 27 March 2013

Start: 09:00 o'clock

Block 4 - Mitigation measures for hydropower

Chair: *Aleš Bizjak, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia*

- 09:00 Guiding Principles – Mitigation measures for hydropower – *Petra Repnik Mah, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia*
- 09:15 ICPDR Technical paper on measures for ensuring fish migration at transversal structures – *Carina Mielach, BOKU University Vienna*
- 09:30 Ecological flow – *Nataša Smolar Žvanut, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia*
- 09:45 Towards practical guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a showcase - *Samo Grošelj, International Sava River Basin Commission*
- 10:00 Discussion

SESSION III: Key recommendations and Follow-up

Moderator: *Philip Weller, ICPDR Executive Secretary*

- 10:30 Guiding Principles – Key recommendations – *Raimund Mair, ICPDR*
- 10:45 Example from Inland Navigation and the Environment – *Markus Simoner, via donau and EU Danube Strategy Priority Area Coordinator for Priority Area 1a “Inland Navigation”*
- 11:00 Discussion
- 11:30 Coffee break

FINAL SESSION

Moderator: *Fritz Holzwarth, German Water Director*

- 11:45 Summary, final discussion and conclusions
- 12:30 End of the Conference
- Lunch