

**International Roundtable on  
“Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe“  
Slovenia, 14-16 November 2007**

**Joint Statement**

**of the representatives of the Governments of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin**

- *Mr. Janez Podobnik, Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia*
- *Mr. Sasa Dragin, Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia*
- *Ms. Ruzica Drmic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Croatia*
- *Mr. Nikola Ruzinski, State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection Physical Planning and Construction, Croatia*
- *Mr. Senad Oprasic, Head of environmental protection department, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia & Herzegovina*

The Joint Statement was presented by *Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, Secretariat of International Sava River Basin Commission*

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Recognizing the importance of protection of groundwater for human lives, social welfare, and economic prosperity, as well as for preservation of environmental values,

We, the representatives of the Governments of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin,

In the frame of the International Roundtable on „Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe“ and following the concept of joint action in the field of shared groundwaters in Southeastern Europe, as well as principles of cooperation in the region stipulated in the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, agreed in this context as follows:

1. The Parties support further development of cooperation in the field of shared groundwaters in Southeastern Europe, especially sustainable management of groundwater in the Sava River Basin where the institutional mechanism of cooperation is already established and being progressively improved.
2. Therefore, the Parties further encourage all efforts and actions aimed to the implementation of development oriented projects and to enhance the implementation of the principles of the Water Framework Directive, taking into account measures for flood protection, mitigation of droughts and water scarcity, and use of renewable energy.
3. Comprehensive scientific research is welcomed to establish a set of hydrogeological, bio-chemical and socio-economic criteria for sustainable

management of groundwater resources in the Sava River Basin and to present these criteria as guidelines to practitioners for their effective application, taking into account the importance of karst groundwater bodies.

4. The Parties reaffirm advantages of taking coordinated steps to implement the joint actions under the umbrella of the International Sava River Basin Commission.
5. Appreciating the efforts and work undertaken in the framework of the Petersberg Process Phase II/Athens Declaration Process, the Parties agreed to explore ways and means for further promoting cooperation in the field of shared groundwater management.