

Opening address
by Mr Dejan Komatina, Executive Secretary of the ISRBC, Zagreb

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, friends,

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the Sava Commission, at this Workshop, which is organized jointly by the ICPDR and the Sava Commission within the PLATINA Project.

It is known to many of you that the integrative nature of the *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin* makes the Sava Commission responsible for:

- both the establishment of the international regime of navigation on the Sava river and its navigable tributaries,
- and the establishment of sustainable water management in the Sava river basin, where both social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability are involved.

In other words, the objectives of the Sava Commission include not only:

- rehabilitation and development of the Sava river waterway, along with the re-establishment of the waterway marking system,
- development of rules related to technical issues of navigation, and the improvement of navigation safety,
- and the implementation of River Information Services on the Sava river,

but the objectives also include:

- development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan, in accordance with the EU WFD and the Flood Risk Management Plan, in accordance with the EU Flood Directive,
- as well as the establishment of accompanying monitoring and warning systems for the whole Sava basin.

On the other hand, the Sava river basin is a relevant Danube sub-basin, due to:

- its size, location and natural connection to the Danube and European inland waterway networks,
- and to its high environmental value and flood retention potential.

Given this framework, considerable efforts of the Sava Commission have been directed to a continued improvement of cooperation with:

- the European Commission,
- the ICPDR,
- and the Danube Commission.

This cooperation has so far been focused on the process of development and implementation of the *Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin*, and, since recently, it is also focused on the PLATINA Project itself, as a follow-up to the implementation of the *Joint Statement*.

As for the dedication of the Sava Commission to the implementation of the *Joint Statement* and to the application of the integrated approach, let me inform you that the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB was held last week, on the 1st of June, in Belgrade.

At this high-level meeting, where European Commission, the ICPDR and the Danube Commission were represented as well, the special importance of sustainable and environmentally friendly development of navigation on the Sava River, and the promotion of the principles of the *Joint Statement*, were recalled in the Declaration, which was adopted at the meeting.

Additionally, one of the main results of the meeting was the signing of the *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB*.

The PLATINA Project and this particular Workshop are perceived by the Sava Commission as a new step forward in the context of implementation of the *Joint Statement*, providing a variety of interesting topics, such as the *Danube Hydromorphology Study*, the *Manual on good practices in sustainable waterway planning*, and a number of good practice examples.

From the viewpoint of the Sava Commission, the Workshop is also important as an opportunity for us to present, and discuss with you, the planned Inland Waterway Development Project for the Sava river, which is coordinated by the Sava Commission. We hope to receive from you an additional and valuable input for our next steps in this regard.

Finally, dear colleagues, I hope you will have a good time during these days, and let me wish all of us fruitful discussions and a successful Workshop!

Thank you for your attention!