

Dr. Fritz Holzwarth

- Deputy Director-General -

FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
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to whom it may concern

The Petersberg Process (Phase II) / Athens Declaration Process

International Roundtable

Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin (South-Eastern Europe)

15 – 17 November 2006, Croatia

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am very pleased to inform you that the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is jointly organizing with the Sava River Basin Commission the International Roundtable on Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin in South-Eastern Europe, 15 - 17 November 2006 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The Roundtable is part of the activities within the Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process coordinated by the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank, supported by GEF IW:LEARN and GWP-med aiming to build capacity and share experience on integrated management of shared water bodies.

The focus of this process lies particularly on identifying the needs for a) institutional strengthening and capacity building as a basic condition for effective cooperation on trans-boundary water resources management issues and b) for improving the conditions for investments to support cooperative water resources management in Southeastern Europe.

In pursuing these objectives the roundtable on multipurpose water management will address the following major thematic blocks: aquatic and environmental ecosystems, flood mitigation, navigation, hydropower as well as multipurpose water management.

It is our sincere hope that this International Roundtable will deliver strong and future oriented messages and encourage concrete action for the further multipurpose water management of trans-boundary waters in South-Eastern Europe of in the light of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

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Participants in the International Roundtable of Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin will be representatives from governments with responsibilities in water management as well as in infrastructure investment planning and financing, representatives from regional and / or local authorities as well as stakeholder representatives from various international organizations and financial institutions active in the region.

As you may recall the Petersberg Round Tables are informal policy dialogues on transboundary water cooperation. They bring together experts and decision-makers in the water sector and provide fora for addressing current challenges and lessons learned in this field. Transboundary water cooperation in South-Eastern Europe has made remarkable progress in the recent years. The upcoming roundtable will focus on the multipurpose water management of the Sava River Basin.

Attached you will find for your consideration a draft agenda for this meeting, the outcome paper on the last workshop in December 2005, as well as some technical information on the meeting (travel arrangements, accommodation etc.).

A confirmation of your participation by 20 October 2006 would be appreciated (Fax +49-228-305-2396, email: Elfriede.ArizayRamos@bmu.bund.de).

Looking forward to meeting you in Zagreb

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fritz Holzwarth', with a small dot at the end.

(Fritz Holzwarth)

For the Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety