



Transboundary Cooperation in the Sava River Basin

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General Info on the SRB

Parameter	Quantity	Comparison with other tributaries in the Danube River Basin
River length	940 km *	The third largest tributary, after the Tisza and the Drava rivers
Basin area	95 720 km ²	The second largest tributary, after the Tisza basin
Flow rate	1722 m ³ /s **	The largest tributary

* 586 km were navigable before the war

** The average flow rate at the mouth

General Info on the SRB

Country	Share of the basin (%)	Part of the territory within the basin (%)
Albania	0.1	0.5
Bosnia & Herzegovina	40	76
Croatia	26	45
Montenegro	7.5	52
Serbia	15.4	17
Slovenia	11	53

General Info on the SRB



The Sava River Initiative

- **Launch of the Initiative:** June 2001
- **Signing the Letter of Intent on cooperation in the SRB:** November 29, 2001
- **Signing the FASRB:** Kranjska Gora (Slovenia), December 3, 2002
- **Establishment of the Interim Sava Commission:** Brussels (Belgium), March 12, 2003
- **Ratification of the FASRB:** December 29, 2004
- **Establishment of the Sava Commission:** Zagreb (Croatia), June 27-29, 2005
- **Establishment of the ISRBC Secretariat:** Zagreb, January 9, 2006

FASRB

- **The first multilateral agreement** in the region signed after the Dayton Peace Agreement (1995)
- **Regulates** Transboundary Cooperation in the Sava River Basin
- **Signed** in December 2002, **entered into force** in December 2004
- **Parties:** Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia (Montenegro to express the interest)
- Implemented by the **Sava Commission**, with the **Secretariat** as its executive and administrative body

FASRB

□ General objective:

**Transboundary cooperation
for sustainable development of the region**

- Issues of **sustainability**
(Improvement of water quality, Protection of aquatic ecosystem)
- **Development** activities
(All kinds of water use, Protection against the harmful effects of water)

□ Particular objectives:

- To establish an international regime of **navigation**
- To establish a sustainable **water management**
- To prevent / limit **hazards** (floods, droughts, ice, accidents) and eliminate / reduce the **consequences**

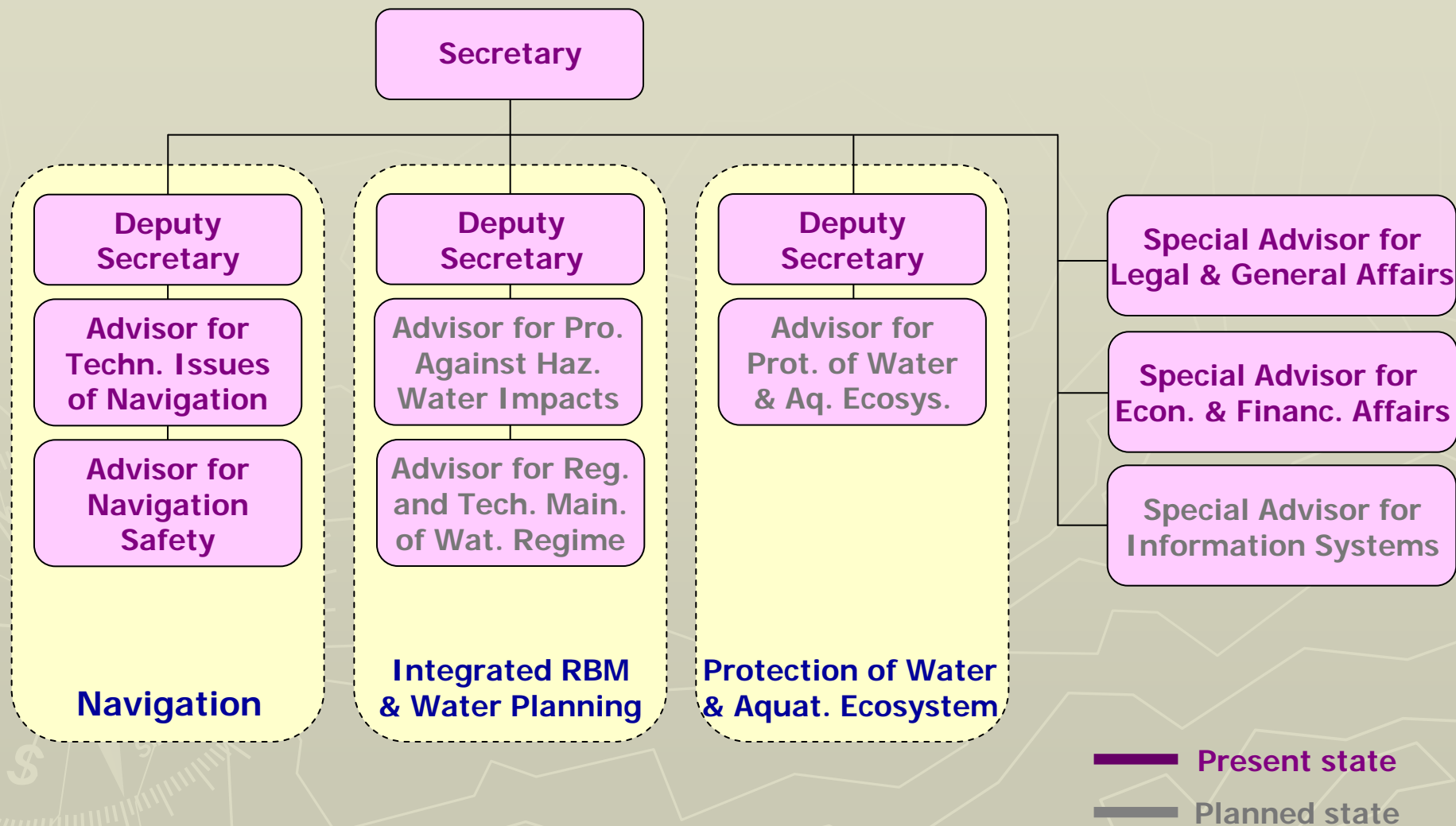
ISRBC

- Established **for implementation** of the FASRB
- Given the international **legal capacity**, for:
 - Making decisions in the field of Navigation
 - Providing recommendations on all other issues (i.e. Water Management)
- Composed of **8 representatives** of the 4 Parties (Member and Deputy Member) nominated by the governments
- **Chaired** by:
 - Mr. Kemal Karkin (B&H), the Chairman, or
 - Mr. Branko Bačić (HR), the Vice-Chairman
- **Financed** through regular annual contributions of the Parties from their budgets

ISRBC Secretariat

- **Executive** and **administrative** body of the ISRBC
- **Established** in January 2006, **seated** in Zagreb (Croatia)
- Composed of **8 experts** of the Parties, covering:
 - Navigation
 - Integrated RBM and Water Planning
 - Protection of Water and Aquatic Ecosystem
 - Legal and General Affairs
 - Economic and Financial Affairs

ISRBC Secretariat



Principles of cooperation

- Cooperation **in accordance with the EU WFD**
- Regular **exchange of information** within the basin
- Cooperation with **international organizations**
- Securing **integrity** of the water regime in the basin
- Reduction of **transboundary impacts** caused by economic and other activities

Mechanism of cooperation

- **Sava Commission (ISRBC) / Secretariat**
- **National institutions**
- **Expert Groups** of the ISRBC
- **Local actors, NGOs** and other institutions

Forms of cooperation

- Creation and realization of **joint plans** of the SRB
- Establishment of **integrated systems** for the SRB
- Preparation of **development programs** of the SRB
- Harmonization of **legislation** (national → EU)
- Creation of additional **protocols** to the FASRB

Summary

Key features of the approach:

- ❑ **Cohesive** (promoting cooperation of the countries after conflict)
- ❑ **Integrated** (whole basin, sustainability, development)
- ❑ **Transparent** (public participation)
- ❑ **Aligned with EU directives** (WFD, Floods Directive,...)
- ❑ **Subregional** (complementary to the regional one)
- ❑ **Pragmatic and practical** (offering, to the Sava countries, “products” such as joint plans, development programs, protocols, harmonized regulation, integrated systems)

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