

STATEMENT

of Mr. Radovan TAVZES, State Secretary in the Ministry for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy of Slovenia on the 3rd Meeting of the Parties of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Cavtat, Croatia, June 2004)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context is an important tool and a basis for sustainable development. Slovenia is well aware of the importance of the Espoo convention and we strongly support the enforcement of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment at earliest possible convenience. We believe that this protocol paves the path for those forms of the development which enable further protection of natural resources and values.

Let me draw your attention to the linkage of the Espoo convention and its »strategic« protocol to some other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives. In the framework of the trilateral Slovene – Croatian – Italian Commission for the Protection of Adriatic Sea, significant efforts have been done to draft a Subregional Contingency Plan for Northern Adriatic. Now the document has been prepared and we hope that Croatia will soon be ready to sign the Agreement for its implementation.

This act is in line with the decision for the implementation of Adriatic Action Plan, met by the Adriatic Ionian Initiative, in Zadar, Croatia in June 2003, »to adopt a Joint Plan of Adriatic countries for accident situations to establish sub-regional co-operation concerning accidental marine pollution primarily caused by oil spills and hazardous substances releases and preventive activities to address the ballast water problem employing the mechanism of Strategic Environmental Assessment.«

According to the conclusions of the trilateral commission for the Adriatic Sea, Slovenia is organizing a meeting of the sub-commission for ballast waters within few days, on 9 June 2004 in Portorož. Water body of the Adriatic is shared by seven countries and is typical case where common approach is necessary for sustainable development. Management plan for the ballast waters in the Adriatic is in the core of the implementation of the Espoo convention on the subregional level. We believe we shall have a fruitful meeting with our Croatian and Italian Colleagues and we shall prove on the spot how the spirit of the Espoo convention is being implemented in the field.

Thank you for your attention.