

**Opening Statement by Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention. Bonn, 20-22 November 2006**

Mister Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank you, on behalf of the International Sava River Basin Commission, for the invitation to participate at this Meeting.

The Sava Commission is a new organization, established in June 2005, with the Secretariat, as the administrative and executive body of the Commission, established in January 2006. It is a peculiarity of the Sava Commission that it is dealing both with the environmental issues (such as protection and improvement of water and aquatic ecosystem) and the development activities (different kinds of water use, such as navigation, hydropower, irrigation, recreation, as well as protection against hazardous water impacts, such as floods, droughts, ice and accidents) on a transboundary level, involving four countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia, and Republic of Slovenia).

This is the very first attendance of a Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention by the Sava Commission. For this reason, especially, I would like to express our great interest in a future cooperation with you, and to invite all of you to visit the poster presentation of the Sava Commission during the poster session at this Meeting. Finally, let me greet you all and congratulate on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Water Convention!

Thank you once again!