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Doc. No. 1632
25th April 2016
Petrovaradin

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION OF "BAČKO PODUNAVLJE" UNESCO/MAB BIOSPHERE RESERVE

We believe that the establishment of the "Bačko Podunavlje" Biosphere Reserve, as one of the last remaining pristine riverine ecosystems along the river Danube, would in the best way represent our region among other UNESCO/MAB globally important areas. The Biosphere Reserve, which integrates cultural and biological diversity, encourages cooperation and involvement of local communities, as a way forward to achieving the sustainable development principles.

Despite the intensive preparatory process of Serbian nomination of the "Bačko Podunavlje" Biosphere Reserve which Public Enterprise "Vojvodinašume" was active member, we need to emphasize several important objections of the nomination preparation process and nomination itself:

- PE "Vojvodinašume" challenges offered zoning solution - even we found common acceptable solution for questionable issues at the end they haven't be incorporated in final nomination version. This calls into question purpose/intent of public participation process.
- Absence of appropriate and common national public hearing of the final nomination proposal e.g. absence of the consistent view of all interested groups (stakeholders).
- Proposed zoning solution doesn't provide sustainable forest and hunting management.

Despite above named arguable issues we would like to inform you that the Public Enterprise "Vojvodinašume" generally supports the establishment of "Bačko Podunavlje" Biosphere Reserve in the Republic of Serbia.

Yours sincerely,

Marta Takač
Director of PE "Vojvodinašume"

