



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Statement

by the participants at the workshop on forest fires in South Eastern Europe  
October 29, 2015  
Budapest, Hungary

On the occasion of the closing of the project “Addressing the Risks of Forest Fires in South Eastern Europe”, implemented under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), a workshop was held in Budapest, Hungary, on October 29, 2015, with the participation of representatives from the national authorities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Acknowledging the discussions that took place during the workshop, the participants:

- 1) State that the project outcomes are welcome and express their gratitude to the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) for the financial support under the ENVSEC Initiative and for cooperation with ADA (Austrian Development Agency).
- 2) Agree with the roadmap of forest management recommendations produced by the project.
- 3) Are aware of the importance of good forest governance and recognise the importance of the European Union’s forestry-related legislation and policies.
- 4) Are aware that the insufficient level of financial and human resources allocated to institutions responsible for forest disaster management and forest fire prevention is a major obstacle to better forest governance.
- 5) Recognise that the exchange of best practices, experiences and lessons learnt with other countries, institutions, and international players is a valuable resource for building additional institutional capacity.
- 6) Recognise that cooperation with each other and with international partners, including ENVSEC, the Global and Regional Fire Monitoring Centers, the Regional Environmental Center and the Themis Network is of immediate value in light of point 5).
- 7) Agree to support the Regional Environmental Center in its work to improve the long-term sustainability of the project results, and understand that the Regional Environmental Center will therefore seek to implement follow-up activities and secure the necessary funding for them.
- 8) Agree to officially present this statement and the roadmap addressing the risks of forest fires in SEE at the next regional ENVSEC coordination meeting.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.