



Kai Frobel, representative of BUND, appealed to the Macedonian Environmental Minister Ademi, who had opened the conference, to conserve nature in the Mavrovo National Park. To produce electricity from renewable sources Macedonia with its sunny climate should turn to photovoltaic solutions and not hydro-power in National Parks and other sensitive areas.

As organizers of the 6th Pan-European Green Belt Conference, the Conservation Foundation EuroNatur and BUND (German Association for Environment and Nature Conservation), draw a positive conclusion. The conference is a milestone on the path to further development of a powerful movement to protect the Green Belt in Europe. The conference was supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Security. Dr Uwe Riecken, the Head of the relevant Department at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, stressed the present Federal Government's support for the Green Belt initiative: "In the current coalition agreement, the goal has been explicitly formulated to strengthen the European initiative alongside securing protection of the German Green Belt. This gives the European Green Belt powerful political backing."

One area to be highlighted is the new development in the northernmost section of the European Green Belt. The governments of Finland, Russia and Norway have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which they make a commitment to work together in the protection of the European Green Belt. This agreement can be regarded as a model for the other sections of the European Green Belt.

The European Green Belt Initiative can also celebrate a major success in the southernmost end of the European Green Belt, in Bulgaria. Protests by citizens there and the intensive involvement and commitment of our Bulgarian partner organisation, the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation have achieved the demolition of an illegally built hotel, directly on the Black Sea in the Strandja Nature Park.

Details of the agreements reached by the conference participants:

Up to now the European Green Belt has been divided into three sections. The conference has confirmed that in future there will be four sections:

a) Fenno-scandinavian Green Belt (the northern part with Norway, Finland and Russia)

b) Baltic Green belt (the area(om)-6articipan 12 >>a(v)9(i)-8(ded i)3(nt)-7(o)10n belhas >>BDC T* ()T

