

2ND ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE **DANUBE REGION**

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA | **28-29 OCTOBER 2013**

MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2013

12:00	Opening of the registration desk
12:30 – 14:00	Networking lunch
14:00-15.00	Opening of the Conference Welcome and keynote addresses. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valeriu Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania• Victor Ponta, Prime Minister, Romania• Johannes Hahn, Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional Policy Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Danube countries. Results and outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Titus Corlăţean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania• Michael Spindelegger, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Austria
15.00-16:00	PLENARY SESSION 1 “Stronger in the world. The Danube Strategy as driver for growth, jobs and global impact” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• János Martonyi*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary• Peter Friedrich, Minister for Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)• Maia Sandu*, Minister of Education, Moldova• Mercedes Bresso, First Vice-President, Committee of the Regions• Wolfgang Hesoun*, CEO, Siemens Central and Eastern Europe• Jiří Balík, Rector of the University of Life Sciences Prague, President of the Danube Rectors Conference
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:00	PLENARY SESSION 2 “Stronger together. The Danube Strategy balancing economy and ecology” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rovana Plumb*, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Romania• Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid*, Member of the European Parliament• Jerzy Bogdan Plewa*, Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission• Dominique Ristori*, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission• Péter Kovács*, Secretary of State for Water, Hungary• Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to the Director-General, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission• Madlen Serban*, Director, European Training Foundation
19:00-22:00	Gala event at the Palace of Parliament

Venue: International Conference Centre Bucharest / Palace of the Parliament, Strada Izvor 2-4, Bucharest 050563
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TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2013

9:00-9:30

Keynote speech on the State of the Danube Region
Introduction to the thematic workshops

9:45-12:15

PARALLEL THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

1. [Connected Danube Region](#)
2. [Green Danube Region](#)
3. [Smart and inclusive Danube Region](#)
4. [Effective, attractive and safe Danube Region](#)

12:15-13:30

Lunch

13:30-14:00

Workshops wrap-up

14:00-15:00

PLENARY SESSION 3

“Financing the Danube Region”

- **Liviu-Nicolae Dragnea**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania
- **Dessislava Terzieva***, Minister of Regional Development, Bulgaria
- **Ján Počiatek***, Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Slovakia
- **Branko Ruzic***, Minister without portfolio responsible for European integration, Serbia
- **Werner Hoyer***, President, European Investment Bank

15:00-15:45

Closure

- **Johannes Hahn***, Member of the European Commission responsible for Regional Policy
- **Michael Häupl**, Mayor and Governor, City of Vienna (Austria)
- **Titus Corlăţean**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania

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PARALLEL THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1 *CONNECTED DANUBE REGION*

Key policy-makers and project promoters look at progress to date, and what the future holds.

- What are the main macro-regional actions and initiatives in the fields of transport and energy efficiency that improve connectivity in the Danube Region?
- What is the benefit of a region-wide approach for mobility and energy efficiency in the Danube region? What more needs to be done?
- How can Danube-wide projects be promoted across different countries, programmes and funds?
- How policy and project people work better together in the Danube Region (across programmes, funds, countries)?
- What are the funding sources? How do you access them?

Facilitator:

Ms. Ivana Lazic, INTERACT Point Vienna

Speakers:

Priority Area Coordinators 1a | Mobility - Waterways | Mr. Reinhard Vorderwinkler/ Ms. Monica Patrichi
Priority Area Coordinators 1b | Mobility Rail-Road-Air | Mr. Franc Zepic and Mr. Miodrag Poedica
Priority Area Coordinators 2 | Energy | Mr. Istvan Joo (representing PAC2 Ms. Anita Orban)

Mr. Victor Parlicov, Director General of the National Energy Regulatory Agency of the Republic of Moldova (ANRE)
Mr. Alexandru Capatu, Pro Danube International, Romania
Mr. David Pelech, Budapest Danube Contact Point, Hungary
Mr. Nenad Nikolic, South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO), General Manager (tbc)

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WORKSHOP 2 *GREEN DANUBE REGION*

Key planners and project people discuss progress to date, as well as bottlenecks and what needs to speed up.

- Has a region-wide approach improved the quality of water, soils, air in the larger Danube area?
- What can be done for environmental risks such as flooding?
- What is planned for the future? How can it be funded?

Facilitator:

Ms. Katrin Stockhammer, INTERACT Point Vienna

Speakers

Priority Area Coordinators 4 | Water Quality | Ms. Andrea Vranovska

Priority Area Coordinators 5 | Environmental Risks | Mr. Peter Bakonyi/Ms. Olimpia Negru

Priority Area Coordinators 6 | Biodiversity | Mr. Florian Ballnus/ PAC from Croatia

Mr. Raimund Mair, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Ms. Cristina Sandu, Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy

Ms. Marina Mader, PRISMA solution, Austria (tbc)

Representatives of the Directorate-Generals for Environment and Research, and the European Community Humanitarian Office of the European Commission (tbd)

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WORKSHOP 3- SMART AND INCLUSIVE DANUBE REGION

A region-wide approach has advanced the knowledge society (research, education, ICT), competitiveness of enterprises, as well as skill levels in the Danube Region. Concrete projects and actions will be highlighted. Much has worked to date, but much also needs attraction.

- How has the region-wide approach contributed? What has it changed?
- What are some the best projects in these fields? What challenges are still there?
- What is planned for the future? How can it be funded?

Facilitator:

Mr. Mauro Novello, INTERACT Point Vienna

Speakers

Priority Area Coordinators 7 | Knowledge Society | Mr. Štefan Chudoba/Mr. Miroslav Veskovíc

Priority Area Coordinators 8 | Competitiveness | Mr. Hans-Peter Herdlitschka/ Ms. Dragica Karajíc

Priority Area Coordinators 9 | People & Skills | Mr. Roland Hanak/Mr. Jürgen Schick/Mr. Vadim Pistrinciuć

Mr. Viorel Vulturescu, PA 7 Working Group Research & Innovation member, Romania (tbc)

Mr. Daniel Acs, Union of clusters, Slovakia (tbc)

Mr. Dragos Seuleanu, Foundation for Democracy Culture and Liberty

Ms. Gabriela Ciobanu, National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education Development (TVET), Romania

Ms. Katja Reppel, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Ms. Ann Branch, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission (tbc)

Mr. Stefan de Keersmaecker, Directorate-General for Employment (tbc)

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WORKSHOP 4 - EFFECTIVE, ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE DANUBE REGION

A region-wide approach makes a more effective, attractive and safe Danube Region. Key implementers of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) discuss achievements to date as well as bottlenecks and potential solutions. Various experts (e.g. political level, administration, tourism organisations, civil society) and the audience will explore how to do better (e.g. better cooperation, multi-level governance and capacity building).

- What is needed to make the Danube Region more effective, attractive and safe? How has a region-wide approach helped?
- How can stakeholders (local, regional, national, EU level) be better involved?
- How a project idea become bankable/fundable?
- How can good projects be promoted across different countries, programmes and funding sources?
- What is planned for the future?

Facilitator:

Ms. Aleksandra Rapp, INTERACT Point Vienna

Speakers

Priority Area Coordinators 3 | Culture & Tourism | Mr. Emanuel Cernat/Mr. Evgueni Spassov
Priority Area Coordinators 10 | Institutional capacity and cooperation | Mr. Kurt Puchinger/Ms. Irena Lukac
Priority Area Coordinators 11 | Security | Ms. Blaga Stancheva/ Ms. Milena Thaller

Dr. Ivo Gönner, Mayor of Ulm, Council of Danube Cities and Regions, Germany
Dr. Irina Zacharieva, Chief Executive Officer for Regional Affairs, Bulgaria (tbc)
Mr. Alexander Dragovski, Expert at International Projects Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Bulgaria
Mr. Christopher Imbsen, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Program for Europe, UN World Tourism Organisation
Dr. Stefan Lütgenau, Foster Europe, Danube Civil Society Forum, Austria
Ms. Kristina Kujundzic, Council of Europe Cultural Routes, Luxemburg
Ms. Elise Lindner, Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects, City of Vienna, Austria
Ms. Mónika Herczeg, Project "Setting up the Structure of a Danube River Forum", Ministry of Interior, Hungary

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