



EUSDR 8th Annual Forum

Bucharest, 27-28 June 2019

BUILDING COHESION FOR A SHARED PROSPERITY IN THE DANUBE REGION



2019 Annual Forum of the European Union. Strategy for the Danube Region

Date: 27-28 June 2019,

Venue: Bucharest, Palace of the Parliament, Conference Halls “Cuza”, “Bălcescu” and “Iorga”,
<http://cic.cdep.ro/en>

Accreditation: [Online registration website](#)

Expected number of participants: 800 persons

Participants: EU officials, ministers, high-level political representatives of EUSDR members, National Coordinators, Priority Areas Coordinators, representatives of national, regional and local level administration, Association of the Municipalities, Employers and Trade Unions, representatives of SMEs, clusters, industry, NGOs, academic and scientific organisations/institutions and other stakeholders from the Danube Region countries.

Short description and format: As a key event of the 2019 EUSDR Presidency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, the European Commission and the Danube Transnational Programme are jointly organizing the 8th Annual Forum on the 27th – 28th June 2019 in Bucharest (Palace of Parliament), under the motto: “Building cohesion for a shared prosperity in the Danube Region”. The event will be organized with the technical support of the Danube Strategy Point. The 2019 EUSDR Annual Forum agenda will focus on competitiveness, connectivity and regional mobility, as well as on links between MSR and cohesion and also on the possibilities of creating synergies that can result in a better embedment of EUSDR into future EU programs and policies. *For more information, please check the Concept-Note and Practical Information Note (PIN).*

AGENDA

Thursday, the 27th of June

1st Day focus: “Cohesion-building: Increasing economic cohesion, regional connectivity and mobility”

08:00 – 12:00 Registration of participants and welcome coffee/lunch

09:00 – 12:00 **Informal Meeting of the Ministers** in charge of Economy and Business Environment from the EUSDR countries, on: **“The role of SMEs and business support structures as instruments for regional development in the framework of the post 2020 Cohesion Policy”**
Event organized by the Ministry for Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of European Affairs and European Commission

Venue: Palace of Parliament, Conference Hall UNIREA

9:00 – 12:00

Public Hearings workshop on the Revision Process of the Action Plan (*Event organized by DSP and EUSDR Presidency*)

Venue: Palace of Parliament, Bălcescu Conference Hall

12:00 – 13:00

OPENING SESSION OF THE 8TH ANNUAL FORUM

Opening remarks:

Delegate Minister for European Affairs of Romania

Welcome Remarks:

- **Prime Minister of Romania**
- **European Commission Official**

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch (*Receptions Ballroom/Salon*)

Press - Conference (13:00 -13:20)

Prime Minister of Romania will invite EC Commissioner and Ministers in charge of Economy to a Press conference (*N.Iorga Conference Hall*)

14:30 - 16:00 Parallel Thematic Sessions

THEMATIC SESSION 1:
Increasing European convergence and competitiveness through EUSDR
(*Conference room A.I. Cuza*)

Moderator: Dr Ulla Engelmann,

Head of Unit for Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) of the European Commission

Keynote speaker:

H.E. Mr. Ștefan-Radu OPREA, Minister of Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship/RO

Reporting from the Informal Ministerial Meeting: ***“Role of SMEs and business support structures as instruments for regional development in the framework of the post 2020 Cohesion Policy”.***

Panellists:

- Mr. Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, President of the Committee of Regions or Mr. Dainis TURLAIS, Rapporteur
- Mr. Luca JAHIER, President of the European Economic and Social Committee or Mr. Dimitris DIMITRIADIS, Questor, Rapporteur
- Mrs. Friedlinde Gurr-Hirsch, State Secretary, Ministry of Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Bianca DRAGOMIR, European Cluster Manager of the Year, Member of the European High-Level Industrial Roundtable 'Industry 2030'
- Kostadin KOSTADINOV, Advisor to the Minister of Education and Science for Science & Innovation of Bulgaria

Contributors:

- Daniel COSNIȚĂ, President of CLUSTERO Association
- Sinisa TESIC, Project Manager, Cluster of Social Entrepreneurship Cluster Association (*tbc*)

Q & A SESSION

**THEMATIC SESSION 2:
Promoting connectivity
for improving European regional mobility throughout EUSDR**

**Moderator:
Representative of the Ministry of Transport of Romania (TBC)**

Keynote speaker:

Mr. Alain BARON, Transport Community Treaty, DG MOVE - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Panellists:

- Mrs. Audrone PERKAUSKIENE, Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service
- Mrs. Irene LUCIUS, Regional Director for Conservation, WWF DCP
- Mr. Gert-Jan MUIJLIERMAN, Dr. Gert-Jan Muilerman, Austrian Waterway Management and Development Company, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology
- Mr. Manfred Seitz, Director, Pro-Danube International, Austria

Contributors:

- Mr. Sorin DUMITRESCU, Senior Researcher, Electronic Solutions Ltd.
 - Dr. Petra Püchner, Commissioner for Europe Ministry for Economy, Employment and Housing of Baden Württemberg land of Germany
- Q & A SESSION

16:30 - COFFE BREAK

16:30 -18:00 - PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

**THEMATIC SESSION 3:
*Developing joint strategic projects:
Fusing transportation and digitalization***

Moderator: Mr. Anthony Whelan, Director, DG CONNECT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Keynote Speaker:

Mrs. Charlina VITCHEVA, Deputy Director-General, JRC

Panellists:

- Mr. Michael LUDWIG, Mayor of Vienna (*tbc*)
- Audrone PERKAUSKIENE, Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service
- Mrs. Blanka BELOSEVIC, Croatia
- Mr. Karl MCFAUL, Expert – High-Level Group on the Impact of the Digital Transformation on EU Labour Markets
- Mr. Luvben KANCHEV, Deputy Ministry, Ministry of Tourism, Bulgaria

Contributors:

- Prof. Dr.Ing. Cristiana SÎRBU, Foundation Group for Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development, Danube Entrepreneurship Forum
- Mrs. Karla PEIJS, European Coordinator for the TEN-T Rhine-Danube Corridor (*tbc*)

Q & A SESSION

THEMATIC SESSION 4:

Boosting efficiency in connecting EUSDR key stakeholders and the civil society in the Process of revising the EUSDR Action Plan

MODERATOR: Mr. Rudolf Schicker, EUSDR DSP Coordinator

Keynote speaker:

Mrs. Lena ANDERSSON PENCH, Director, DG REGIO – European Commission

Panellists:

- Mr. Anders BERGSTROM, EUSBSR– Horizontal Action Capacity (*tbc*)
- Mr. Stefan LÜTGENAU - President of the Danube Civil Society Forum Austria
- Mr. Miklos BARABAS, Director, European House, Hungary
- Mrs. Liliana IVANOVA, Director, Odessa Regional State Administration Danube Center for Sustainable Development
- Mr. Costin LINU, Pro-Rector, EUSDR Advisory Council Secretariat from –Romania, Spiru Haret University

Contributors:

- Mrs. Nadja Beglerovic, International University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (*tbc*)

Q & A SESSION

18:30 – RECEPTION (*offered by the Romanian Delegate Minister for European Affairs*)
(*CULTURAL PROGRAM -TBA*)

Friday, the 28th of June

2nd Day focus: "Ensuring synergies, results and sustainability: Macro-Regional Strategies"

8:00 – Welcome Coffee

9:00 - 11:00 **THEMATIC SESSION 5:**
***The present and future roles of the Danube Transnational Programme in
the Danube region
(organized by the DTP)***

Facilitator: Ms. Gomez Giron Eloy, DTP Joint Secretariat

Keynote speaker:

Mr. Matyas JASCHITZ, Director, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)

09:25 – Overview of DTP project results

10:45 – Conclusion remarks

- DTP Managing Authority

11:00 – Coffee Break

11:30 – PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

THEMATIC SESSION 6:
***ESIF PROGRAMMES AND EUSDR OBJECTIVES
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW COHESION POLICY***

MODERATOR: Ms. Baiba Liepa, INTERACT representative

Keynote speaker:

Erich UNTERWURZACHER, Director, DG REGIO-European Commission

- Panellists:**
- Mrs. Mihaela TOADER, State Secretary, Representative of the Ministry of European Funds in Romania
 - Mr. Bojan SUVOROV- Government Office for Development and European Cohesion, Slovenia
 - Mr. Miroslav Vescovic, Joint Research Center, European Commission
 - Mrs. Denitsa NIKOLOVA, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works - Bulgarian EUSDR NC (tbc)
- Contributors:**

Q & A SESSION

THEMATIC SESSION 7:

The future of EU macro-regional strategies in the post-2020 framework

MODERATOR:

**Ms. Melania-Gabriela Ciot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
(on behalf of RO Presidency)**

Key-Speaker:

Mr. Alexander SCHALLENBERG, General Director, Federal Chancellery of Austria

Panellists:

- Mr. Jean-Pierre HALKIN, Head of Unit DG REGIO – European Commission DG REGIO representative
- Mrs. Andreja JERINA, National Coordinator, EUSDR, EUSAIR and EUSALP National Coordinator, Slovenia
- Mrs. Zeljka BARIC, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, EUSDR National Coordinator (tbc)
- Mrs. Franziska SIELKER (Academia), Germany

Contributors:

Q & A SESSION

13.00 – CLOSING SESSION

Formal Closing Remarks:

- Summary of the Danube Participation Days
- Preliminary results of the Public Hearings on the Revision of the Action Plan
- Presentation of the 8th Annual Forum results

Moderator: Mrs. Melania Gabriela Ciot, State Secretary for European Affairs, MFA of Romania

14:00 Farewell lunch (Palace of Parliament)

15:00 *Side events to be continued*