



8th meeting of PA 1a Steering Group of EUSDR



Petar Margić
Secretariat of the Danube Commission

Vukovar, October 29th, 2014

Development of a framework for cooperation between the Secretariat of the DC and DG MOVE

October 2013, High-level meeting at the DC with TEN-T coordinator K. Peijs

- based on the observation that after the signing of the LUX Declaration in June 2012 by the Danube Riparian Transport Ministers not very much progress was visible to overcome the most urgent infrastructural problems on the Danube
- a coordination process was started between EU officials and representatives of the DC Secretariat to start off again with more emphasis on approaching the necessary works in a better coordinated and common approach
- following a recent positive example in the European IWT at the CCNR premises in concluding an **Administrative Agreement(AA)** on working level, the DC Secretariat was offered by DG MOVE to conclude an AA similar to the CCNR example

What shall this AA content? What is it good for? Who is involved?

- The DC hopes by that to be able to solve fairway maintenance problems on the river in close collaboration with:

EC (DG MOVE, DG REGIO, TEN-T, etc.)

Member States (competent authorities, stakeholders, etc.)

- In a mechanism yet to be ultimately defined it is intended to commonly care for the implementation of the „EUSDR-Masterplan on Danube fairway maintenance“
- Several other areas of collaboration mainly in the infrastructural field are stipulated
- This AA represents a much welcomed opportunity to solve a number of infrastructural problems along the river on the basis of this masterplan, with a number of projects contributed via the Master Plan of the DC!

Who is going to finance the implementation?

- the activities and financing of the coordination of the implementation of the masterplan will be part of the AA.
- The individual infrastructural projects shall be financed from the EU- structural funds coordinated at DG REGIO within financing programs CEF (connecting Europe facility) and ESIF (European structure and investment funds).
Total amount needed 92,5 mio. EUR!
- However, nothing is for free in life! The riparian states will have to co- finance as a pre-condition to obtain funding from the EU.

Next steps:

- As the AA is currently under discussion and not yet finalised, it is widely presumed that a conclusion of the AA may be possible towards the end of this year - at the earliest!



Meeting on 2 Oct. between Representatives of the DC Secretariat and DG MOVE and DG REGIO in Brussels – latest informal version of AA presented by the DC Secretariat

AA discussed and agreed for the most part



Currently, feedback from the DG MOVE and DG REGIO sides is expected for



Discussion on DC WG for Legal and Finance (18-21 Nov.)

anticipated to be attended by Representative of EC



In the event of passing WGLF – AA adoption by the DC 83rd Plenary Session (10 Dec.)

Next steps:

- This timing would be in line with other activities of the EC to endorse the Masterplan on the occasion of the next EU transport minister's council session, scheduled for 3rd Dec. 2014 in Brussels, in the frame of a side event of the Danube ministers of transport.
- It is planned to create by this a follow-up to the 2012 Luxembourg Declaration and to adopt in this session the Masterplan designed by the EUSDR- Steering Group PA 1a
- ***In the best case** the coordinated implementation activities could start from 2015...*

A topographic map of Central Europe, showing the Danube river basin and surrounding countries. The map includes labels for countries in various languages: Československá republika (Czech Republic), Slovensko (Slovakia), Magyarország (Hungary), Slovenska (Slovenia), Bosna i Hercegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Българія (Bulgaria). The Danube river is highlighted in blue, flowing from the north towards the south. Major cities like Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, and Zagreb are marked. The Adriatic Sea is labeled as 'ADRIATISCHES MEER' and 'MER ADRIATIQUE'.

Thank you for your attention!

Petar Margić

Director-General

Secretariat of the Danube Commission

petar.margic@danubecom-intern.org

H-1068 Budapest

Benczur utca 25