

Ninth Annual Stakeholders' Conference

THE DANUBE REGION TRANSPORT DAYS 2025**"Road & Rail – Working Together for a Better Connected Danube Region"**Tuesday & Wednesday, 9th and 10th December 2025

Ljubljana / Slovenia

Venue: Best Western Premier Hotel Slon, Slovenska cesta 34, 1000 Ljubljana

Draft A G E N D A**WHY THIS CONFERENCE? WHY ROAD & RAIL?**

The aim of the two-day event is to explore the challenges and opportunities in modern transport infrastructure and services while highlighting **the crucial, often misunderstood, complementary relationship** between road and rail.

A key challenge in promoting a truly integrated transport system is to go beyond protecting one mode "little garden" and to understand that power is in cooperation and co-action. **To advocate for cooperation over competition is crucial for a successful functioning of transport system.** A well-integrated system is fundamental to fostering sustainable growth, resilience, and cohesion across the Danube Region.

This event provides a platform to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and strengthen partnerships that support the region's long-term transport and development goals.

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TUESDAY, 9th December 2025**Day 1 Building a Balanced and Connected Transport System**10.00 - 12.00 **Site visit "Construction of Ljubljana passenger hub"**12.00 – 13.00 **Buffet lunch**12.30 – 13.15 **Registration****13.15 – 14.15 Welcome and Introductory Speeches**

- Mr. **Beno FEKONJA**, EUSDR Priority Area Coordinator, Ministry of infrastructure, Slovenia
- Mr. **Midhat DŽEMIĆ**, EUSDR Presidency 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. **Johan MAGNUSSON**, Team Leader, DG REGIO, the European Commission

Keynote Speeches:

- "Road and Rail Together: Unlocking Multimodal Potential"
- Mr. **Andrej RAJH**, State secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure, Slovenia
- "Bringing the Region Together: Serbia's Perspective on Road–Rail Cooperation"
- Ms. **Emeše LALIĆ URBAN**, State Secretary, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia
- "The Western Balkans-Eastern Mediterranean Corridor – implementation that matters!"
- Mr. **Marian-Jean MARINESCU**, European Coordinator, TEN-T WBEM ETC

14.20 – 14.35 **Mini-Session: “Ljubljana Passenger Hub as a Model for Road–Rail Integration”**

- “TEN-T Urban Nodes: Ljubljana Hub” – visual presentation
- Mr. **Goran Korošec**, Project Manager, DRSI (Slovenian Infrastructure Agency), Slovenija
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14.35 –15.00 *Coffee Break*

15.00 – 16.15 **Session 1: WHY ROAD AND RAIL MATTER – ENABLING THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM**

Moderator: Ms. Monika Pintar Mesarič, Director General, Ministry of Transport

Speakers:

- “Combined Transport: Turning Complementarity into Competitive Advantage
- Mr. **Ralf-Charley SCHULZE**, Director General, International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR)
 - “Bridging the Missing Links: The Regional Transport Agenda 2025–2030”
- Mr. **Matej Zakonjšek**, Director, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
 - “Rail: The Backbone of Sustainable Connectivity in the Danube Region”
- Mr. **Alberto Mazzola**, Executive Director, Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) – online
 - “Strengthening Road and Rail Links in the Danube Region: Hungary’s Priorities and Projects”
- Mr. **Marcell Gábor**, Ministry of Construction and Transport, Hungary
 - “TER and TEM Projects – regional collaboration for better Rail and Road Connectivity”
- Mr. **Nenad Nikolić**, UNECE Regional Advisor
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16.15 –17.30 **Session 2: STATE OF PLAY – TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DANUBE REGION**

Moderator: Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, Director, Transport Community

Speakers:

- “Danube Region Transport Networks – Progress and Gaps”
- Mr. **Franc Žepič**, Ministry of Infrastructure, Slovenia
 - “Building roads and railways for improved multimodality”
- Mr. **Marko Boban**, Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia
 - “Corridor Vc: Building the Backbone of Connectivity in South-East Europe”
- Mr. **Zoran ANDRIĆ**, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - “Serbia on the Move: Large-Scale Investments in Roads and Railways for a Connected Region”
- Mr. **Ana Radojičić**, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia (tbc)
 - “Unlocking New Possibilities with the Extended WBEM RFC”
- Ms. **Saša Jerele**, PMO AWB RFC, SŽ infrastructure, Slovenia
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17.30 – 17.40 **Closing Remarks & Key Takeaways »From Competition to Cooperation«**

A summary of the day's main points and a look ahead to future collaboration and action.

18.30 – 21.00 *Networking DINNER*

Wednesday, 10th December 2025

DAY 2 From Vision to Action – Synergies, Projects and Next Steps

8.30 – 9.00 *Registration and Welcome Coffee*

9.00 – 10.30 **Session 3: INTERMODALITY IN MOTION - ROAD AND RAIL IN COACTION**

Moderator: Mr. Nenad Nikolić, Regional Advisor, UNECE

Speakers:

- “Connecting Modes, Moving Goods: Building Integrated Freight Services in the Danube Region”
- Mr. **Robert Sever**, Chamber of Commerce, Slovenia
 - “Smart Terminals and Efficient Corridors – The Adria Kombi Experience”
- Mr. **Janez Merlak**, CEO, Adria Kombi, Slovenia
 - “Integrating Motorway Operations into the Intermodal Chain: A Road Operator’s Perspective”
- Mr. **Ulrich Zorin**, DARS d.d. (Motorway Company), Slovenia
 - “The Next Generation View: How Young Professionals See the Future of Road-Rail Logistics”
- Ms. **Mia Poledica**, Junior Transport Associate, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia
 - “The Adriatic Gateway: How Ports Anchor Intermodality in the Danube Region”
- Mr. **Borut Čok** and Mr. **Roberto Richter**, Luka Koper, Slovenia (tbc)
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10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee Break*

11.00 – 12.15 **Session 4: DIGITAL INNOVATION & SAFETY – SMART SOLUTIONS FOR ROAD & RAIL**

Moderator: Mr. Igor Žula, President, Slovenian Logistic Association

Speakers:

- “Modern approaches to digital transformation of logistics sector”
- Mr. **Igor Žula**, President of Slovenian Logistic Association, Slovenia
 - “X4ITS: information exchange for improved cross-border traffic and transport”
- Mr. **Gerald Miklin**, Office of the Carinthian State Government, Austria
 - “The Crucial Element of TEN-T Connectivity in Central Europe”
- Mr. **Petr Košťák**, Projects’ Specialist, Správa železnic, státní organizace (SZCZ), Czech Republic
 - “Smart, Safe, Sustainable: Rail Cargo Group’s Digital Solutions for Rail Freight”
- Mr. **Marko Gršič**, Head of Intermodal, Rail Cargo, Austria
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12.15 – 13.30 *Buffet lunch*

13.30 – 15.00 **Session 5: PROJECTS THAT DELIVER TANGIBLE RESULTS**

Moderator: dr. Tomislav Letnik, Universe of Maribor

Speakers:

- “Delivering Major Infrastructure with Environmental Responsibility”
- Ms. **Nina Kolenc** and Mr. **Marko Brezigar**, 2nd Rail Line Koper–Divača, Slovenia
 - “Comprehensive solutions for logistics: moving extraordinary load”
- Ms. **Patricija Butala**, Comark Ltd., Slovenija
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- “Delivering Results: Efficient and Sustainable Intermodal Logistics in the Danube Region”
- Mr. **Jan Štefe**, CEO, Eurosender, Slovenia
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 - “REDU-CE-D: customized Environmental Management System (EMS) to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption of different transport modes in Central Europe”
- Mr. **Jernej Počivalnik** and Mr. **Domen Kuhar**, University of Maribor, Slovenia
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15.00 – 15.15 **Closing Keynote & Takeaways & Closing Remarks**

Aim: To summarise event outcomes and inspire stakeholders to move from vision to action.

- “The Future of Transport in the Danube Macro-Region – From Vision to Action”

Closing: Conference Chair / PA1b PAC

15.15 – 16.00 *Networking & Farewell Coffee*

Note: the draft agenda is subject to possible minor changes!

Conference language: *English. No interpretation available.*

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