

**EUSDR Priority area 1b:
To improve mobility and multimodality: rail, road and air transport**

MINUTES
of the TENTH STEERING GROUP meeting
Wednesday, 1 July 2015 and Thursday, 2 July 2015
Ljubljana / Slovenia

Participants: AT, BG, CRO, DE, HU, RO, SRB, SK, SI, WWF; See list of participants.

Non-participating / Absent: B&H, CZ, MD, ME, UA, CION

Chairman: Mr Franc Žepič, PAC 1b, Slovenia

Co-chairman: Mr Miodrag Poledica, PAC 1b, Serbia

Item 1: Welcome and introductory remarks

Chairman, Mr. Franc Žepič and co-chairman Mr. Miodrag Poledica welcomed the participants to the 10th meeting of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 1b Steering Group (PA1b SG). SG members were informed that the Commission (DG REGIO and DG MOVE) representatives excused themselves, so that their contribution to the content of meeting has to be postponed until next SG meeting.

Item 2: Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the 9th SG meeting

The Chairman explained the agenda that has main focus on Action plan (targets, actions, roadmaps) and on projects. Next the Chairman made an overview of 9th SG meeting conclusions. No comments were introduced.

Conclusion: The Agenda for the 10th SG PA1b meeting is unanimously approved. The Minutes of the ninth meeting held in Belgrade on 10 and 11 September 2014 are unanimously adopted.

Item 3 - 4: Progress made, main achievements in the last year

First: The Chairman briefly explained outcome of the three stakeholder conferences organized by Pa1b. These are:

- Third Stakeholder conference entitled "The Danube Region Transport Days 2014: From concepts to projects" was organized on 21-22 October in Ljubljana. The Stakeholder Conference was excellent opportunity to gather together project leaders, authorities, regional organizations and the European Commission to discuss the progress of the priority area, as well as challenges for the implementation of projects and last but not least overall status of the Danube Strategy. Distinguished speakers deliver valuable information on state-of-play and views on future transport needs in the macro-region. Over 100 participants were attending the event. Their discussion gave an important

added value to the speeches and presentations. Second conference day was dedicated to workshop with content that brings added value to the whole macro-region.

- The first conference on "Road safety in the Danube region" was organized in Ljubljana on 20 May 2015. Outputs and outcomes from this event were according to defined targets mainly oriented towards exchange of best practices and coordination efforts to improve road safety in the Danube region. Over 100 participants were attending the event. Speakers were from the Danube region and the EU. An important input was made by the European Parliament.
- 2nd Business Conference "Transport & Logistics of South East Europe and the Danube Region – TIL 2015" took place in Belgrade on the 26th March 2015. Over 400 participants were present: senior representatives of relevant government institutions and professional associations in South-Eastern Europe and the Danube region, EU, Turkey, Russia and even China. International experts in the field of sustainable development and operations in freight forwarding, transportation and logistics, decision makers from leading companies in the field of freight forwarding, logistics and road, rail, air and water transport, representatives of financial institutions and associations, insurance companies, media representatives have been an exceptional event.

The chairman noted that most of the PA1b SG members are not attending stakeholder conferences and invited SG members to make active role at future events.

Second: Cooperation with other Priority areas was presented. It was concluded that so far it was relatively weak and limited to the support for several proposal initiatives, in particular in the field of environment, tourism and competitiveness.

Item 5 - 6: Targets and actions

Targets: Pa1b has only three exemplary targets which are linked to railways. However the PA1b is responsible also for road and air links. Need for updated targets became a challenge also in light of linking the targets to the newly established Danube transnational program (DTP). What project proposals are to be eligible for the DTP financing?

During discussion it was agreed that targets should be modified (some only reviewed, while others changed, some newly written). Opinion on targets differed. Several opinions were expressed. The need for targets on ITS, road safety and urban transport was specifically mentioned.

Finally it was agreed that targets should be specific and concrete. They should be also measurable and should as much as possible follow the actions.

In addition whenever possible targets should be connected to other macro-regional strategies e.g. EUSAIR. It was observed that Serbia could act as contact point for EUSAIR and EUSDR in the field of infrastructure because of transport coordinating role in the both Strategies.

PACs will prepare a draft list of targets and members will review them so that targets could be submitted to DG REGIO by not later than 15 November 2015. Modified targets of all PAs will be approved by NCs (High level group). Deadline is

important also in connection with the Danube transnational programs calls (1st call 23 September – 4 November, 2nd call 1 April 2016).

CONCLUSION: PACs will prepare proposals for new targets to be reviewed by the SG members and by 15 November 2015 will be forwarded to the European Commission. Targets will be modified in the sense that they are more specific and concrete taking into account all three transport modes (road, rail and aviation).

Actions: PA1b is responsible for 7 actions. No discussion took place and no proposals for modification of actions were presented.

Item 7 - 8. Roadmaps

(7) The chairman made brief overview of existing roadmaps and stressed that they represent a huge workload that PA1b SG is not capable to cope with.

(8) New ITS Roadmap for the Danube region (proposal) was, in agreement with PACs, prepared by Austriatech. Mr Martin Russ and Ms Bettina Neuhauser (both Austriatech) presented work carried out so far. A stakeholder survey was launched in November 2014 to allow a prioritisation of ITS topics by all Danube Region countries. The objective was to *capture the opinion of the ITS community in the Danube Region* countries. Representatives from public administration, authorities (like Ministries), public transport operators or associations, motorway, road or railway operators, transport related service providers and ITS associations (e.g. ITS Nationals) have been addressed. They were asked to assess a set of ITS services/measures according to the national plans and strategies. In total 8 (SI, AT, CZ, DE, MD, RO, HR, HU) of the 14 EUSDR countries participated in the stakeholder survey. The results of the survey are the basis of the EUSDR ITS roadmap, which is intended to support the Action No. 7 of the EUSDR Action Plan through tangible ITS deployment topics that are agreed with a wide range of stakeholders in the EUSDR countries.

Setting priorities was achieved by means of a standardised questionnaire. The survey participants assessed the priority and deployment risk for each of the ITS services/measures. In order to get a national perspective a priority-risk analysis was conducted country-wise. The common ITS roadmap is then derived from the priority-risk classifications per country. The ranking of the ITS services/measures is done according to the frequency of the priority-risk classes. Therefore the ranking shows the degree of consensus of the prioritisation in the countries.

The following priority areas include ITS services/measures that are assessed by the majority of the countries with high priority and define therefore the most important deployment topics for the Danube Region.

The chairman thanked Austriatech for their efforts and support in relation to this important roadmap on ITS.

Item 9 - 10: New governance body and financing

Chairman gave brief information on newly established Danube Strategy Point (DSP) and Danube Transnational Programme (DTP). Representatives of both institutions

were invited to the meeting but unable to attend. Chairman promised that efforts will be made that detailed presentation about the DSP and the DTP will be carried out at next SG meeting.

Item 11 - 17: Projects

(12) Project proposal "The Academy for Sustainable Mobility" was presented by Mr. Johannes Behrens and Ms Udval Hatanbaatar (DE, Baden-Wuerttemberg). Academy should act as a centre for each Danube region country for the exchange of best practices, training and knowledge on sustainable mobility. Promote sustainable mobility implementation and awareness in the Danube region.

The project proposal is under preparation to be submitted for the Danube transnational programme. Expected results are workshops and seminars within thematic clusters, multiplication through Danube region conferences and a Political Advisory Board. Finally new local/transnational/transborder projects implemented

Conclusion: The SG supports the Academy.

(13) TRANSGREEN – Green infrastructure in the Danube region. Project proposal was presented by Ms Irine Lucius (WWF). She explained the project which aim is preserving ecological corridors that are even more important in the mountainous regions. Ms Lucius is sure that better connectivity (by means of rail and road) could be achieved in the Carpathian area and other mountainous regions of the Danube Basin by improving planning frameworks, developing concrete environmentally-friendly road and rail transport solutions, and sharing experience and knowledge. The focus will be on ecological corridors along EU TEN-T road and rail projects located in the Carpathians and other mountain ranges in the Danube Basin. The project has been submitted to the PA6 (to preserve biodiversity) for obtaining support for its implementation.

Conclusion: The SG welcomed information on project of another PA and supports it.

(14) TAF-DRP supported projects:

To bring project proposals for funding seed money is needed and four (4) projects have been successfully submitted for TAF-DRP support. Projects selected during the first call are WBC (lead Slovenia) and DRIS (lead Serbia) and in second call DAirNet (lead Serbia) and DanubeMobility (lead Austria). Consultants selected by Managing Authority (PA10 – City of Vienna) worked on above mentioned projects in close cooperation with applicants and occasionally informing PACs.

"Western Balkan Corridor" (WBC): Presentation on progress made for the WBC was made by Mr. Matjaž Vrčko (Slovenia). He stressed that the WBC is an important multimodal corridor that would better link Alps and Balkans with origin/destination in two strong economic areas i.e. Bayern (München) and Turkey (Istanbul). He explained that Letter of Intent for rail freight part of the corridor is prepared and efforts are made to be signed as soon as possible.

Conclusion: WBC has been already supported by the SG for over two years and efforts to get all needed political support continue.

START supported projects:

Two PA1b projects are receiving also seed money from START programme managed by PA10. In the first call selected project proposals are: RADAR (Risk Assessment on Danube Area Roads) and TLC_VUKA (Transport Logistic Centre "VUKA"). It is expected that another two transport projects will be selected for START Call 2¹.

RADAR: project proposal was presented to the participants by Ms Olivera Đordjević (EuroRAP). Introducing the project proposal Ms Đordjević said that death rates on Danube Region roads are typically higher than elsewhere in Europe. Then she explained that RADAR adopts and develops the innovative iRAP-EuroRAP (International and European Road Assessment Programme) methods and protocols to assess roads and propose designs to the iRAP 3-star minimum safety rating. Envisaged results are data to guide ranking to improve to strategic national/regional plans and benchmarking of road safety performance within Danube region; data to support road safety management; improvements to innovative tools and awareness raising.

Outputs include: a) maps communicating safety and death reduction opportunities; b) applications from an innovative road investment planning tool adapted to individual Danube countries; c) investment plans for Regional Road Safety strategy input; d) training; e) integration of "what" and "where" to spend on infrastructure into day-day work in road authorities and f) pilot designs for engineering countermeasures.

Conclusion: RADAR project is an important contribution to improve road safety on the Danube region roads.

TLC VUKA: Mr. Zvonimir Čordašić (Croatia) gave a presentation on TLC VUKA project. Although the main objective of the entire project is development of the logistics sector of Vukovar-Srijem County and the wider region and the specific objective is the formation of modern intermodal logistics centre. Through "START" support project gets its visibility and is able to be prepared for further funding. In preliminary phase of START support several important questions are addressed, such as:

1. What are the basis (economic analysis/overview) of possible future functioning of TLC Vuka (Transport-Logistic Centre on DANUBE)?
2. Basic architectural conceptual design,
3. What are the market segments? Who are the potential partners / investors? What are expectations from future transport-logistic centre of Vukovar-Srijem County?

It is trusted by project promoters that the construction of the TLC "Vuka" will launch many new related activities, attracting investment that will contribute to

¹ The second call for proposals of "START – Danube Region Project Fund" is closed on July 8th 2015.

increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy and the wider region as a whole.

Other initiatives:

“Black Sea – North Adriatic Sea Rail Corridor”:

The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Valentin Berca (Romania). He repeated the aim and importance of the corridor as it was presented and discussed at 9th SG meeting in Ljubljana.

Conclusions: The SG continue to support the corridor proposal and will follow next steps of the corridor promoters and assist when possible.

(16) Support for “SAVA Krško - Zagreb” project entitled “Multipurpose project on lower Sava River” was presented by Mr. Cveto Kosec (Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure; PA2 SG member). Objectives of the project are regulation, protection and utilization of Sava River in connection with connectivity and intermodality from Krško (Slovenia) to Zagreb (Croatia). Project that has been submitted to PA2 seeks support also from other relevant Pas.

CONCLUSION: PA1b can support the project proposal.

(17) List of PA1b projects: Chairman repeated known fact that a large number (160) of projects has been received from ten countries of the Region i.e. Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. All the received projects are grouped in order to estimate the need for support by SG. It is the opinion of SG that all these projects contribute to the improvement of the connectivity and mobility in the Region and hence, wider, in EU.

It is very important to underline a very wide diversity of received projects as: a) they are representing three transport modes (road, rail and air), b) some projects are of very high value while others of relatively low value, c) some projects are soft and many others are infrastructure projects, d) projects are national, cross-border and transnational, e) projects are ongoing, prepared, planned or represent a project idea and e) involvement in projects and support for projects could be seen from many stakeholders.

A total of 34 projects received the official SG Letter of Recommendation (LoR): Romania for 6 projects, Serbia for 2 projects, Slovakia for 7 projects, Croatia for 17 and Ukraine received LoR for 2 projects. No new proposals for LoR were received by PACs in 2014 and 2015. Projects which received Letter of Recommendation (LoR) need regular reporting and feedback. Discussion showed that in reality none of the projects supported by the LoR received financial support so far.

The Chairman stated that more work should be done in order to keep projects database updated and properly monitored. In particular attention should be paid to finished projects and those that need to be added to the present list.

Conclusion: It was stressed that more work in updating the projects database should be done by all SG members.

Item 18: Planned main events

Chairman briefly explained that PACs are planning to organise and support events, among others at least one more SG meeting. It is important that SG members take part at all events organized by PA1b. Unfortunately so far this was not a case!

The co-chairman informed the participants that annual event "The Danube region Transport Days" that should be organised this year in Serbia is still under consideration.

Second stakeholder conference "Transport & Research in the Danube region" will be organized on 20-21 October 2015 at Čatež near Brežice, Slovenia. Invitations will be sent to researchers in all 14 Danube countries.

In order to exchange best practices on maintenance of roads and learn about new paving tecnics the first conference on "Development and Maintenance of Road surfaces in the Danube region" will be organised on 25 November 2015 at Bled, Slovenia. Preparations are well under way and it is expected that around 100 experts and interested stakeholders will take part.

In relation to PA1b activities during the 4th EUSDR Annual Forum which is to be held on 29-30 October 2015 in Ulm, Germany a Workshop on Sustainable mobility in the Danube region will be organized. The workshop is to be organized by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Baden-Württemberg with PACs support.

Item 19: Information, news

Ms Bojana Cipot (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia) gave an overview of the 4th PAC/NC meeting (Bratislava-Vienna floating conference) that took place on 24-25 June 2015. None of the PA1b PACs were able to attend.

Chairman informed on the last TEN-T Days in Riga (22-23 June 2015). He focused on Ministerial meeting with Western Balkan ministers and corridor meetings chaired by EU TEN-T Core Corridor coordinators.

TEN-T Days were attended by transport Ministers from 12 European Member States, CEOs and over 1000 transport stakeholders joined the high-level transport conference 'TEN-T Days' in Riga, organised by the European Commission, in cooperation with the Latvian Presidency.

Item 20: AOB

No additional topic was discussed.

13. Closure of the meeting

The Chairman thanked participants for contributions and active participation. Next SG meeting is tentatively planned before the end of the year in Serbia.

The 10th SG meeting started at 12.00 on 1st July 2015 and ended at 13.00 on 2nd July 2015.

Place, Date

Ljubljana, 2 July 2015

Chairman:

Franč Žepič, PAC 1b

Annex:

- List of participants

EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)
PRIORITY AREA 1b: rail, road and air transport

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
of the 8st Steering Group Meeting
1 and 2 April 2014
Ljubljana/Slovenia

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<p>ABSENT: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova, Ukraine, The European Commission (DG REGIO, DG MOVE)</p>				