

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region  
Priority Area 1b: To improve mobility and Multimodality – road, rail and air links

# Joint initiatives & cooperation



Co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA II)

**EUSDR**  
**18th PA1b SG meeting**  
26 March 2019 | Belgrade, Serbia

# 1) Joint PA1a and PA1b meeting

**When: Wednesday, 12 June 2019 (afternoon)**

**Where: Vienna**

**Why: to explore and cooperate on issues common to PA1a and PA1b  
remits**

Tentatively planned agenda.

1st session: Inland waterways

2nd session: Rail transport

3rd session: Road transport

4th session: Intermodal transport, hinterland connections to river and  
seaports

## 2) PA1b and UN ECE joint Workshop

**When:** June 2019 or the end of September/ beginning of October 2019

**Where:** Ljubljana or Belgrade

**Why:** To increase awareness on importance of better rail connectivity in the DR and to strengthen cooperation between the macro-regional transport stakeholders

**Who:** SG members, rail authorities, railway operators, infrastructure managers, academia, interested stakeholders

Agenda:

Tentatively planned agenda.

- Under preparation!

## 3) OECD ITF WG on strategic infrastructure planning

**Why:** To prepare report on best practices on strategic infrastructure planning

**Role of PA1b (Slovenia - PAC & Austria):** to contribute to cross-border  
Infrastructure planning

**WG members:** 34 (national authorities, experts)

### Planned meetings:

- ✓ 1st: 28.2.-1.3.2019, Paris
- 2nd: 25-26 June 2019, London
- 3rd: 20 – 21 November 2019, (venue: tbd)
- 4th: 2020, (date and venue: tbd)

Report before the end 2020.



## 4) PA1b and the Carpathian convention

The Carpathian Convention provides a legal framework for cooperation and multi-sectorial policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved – from the local community and various NGOs up to the regional and national Governments, institutions of the European Union and the United Nations.

Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) was signed by seven countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine) and entered into force in 2006.

### EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION AND CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

Synergy paper in view of the New EUSDR Action Plan (provided to the DSP in March 2019)

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#### 3. HOW TO REINFORCE SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION AND THE EUSDR

Cooperation between the EUSDR structures and those of the Carpathian Convention is already ongoing, also thanks to several Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) developed and signed with relevant EUSDR Priority Areas. Below the list of the MoC signed or endorsed:

- **The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR PA 1B “Mobility | Rail-Road-Air” (signed)**
- The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR PA 04 “Water Quality” (signed)
- The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR PA 02 “Energy” (signed)
- The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR PA 05 “Environmental Risks”(signed)
- The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR PA 06 “Biodiversity & Landscape” (endorsed)



## 4.1) PA1b and the Carpathian convention

Some EUSDR PAs decided to launch a written procedure for its signature, while with other PAs, the Carpathian Convention is still at an earlier stage of mutual consultation.

Cooperation should be further strengthened, inter alia, by firmly utilising the mandate, experience, past achievements and technical capacity of the Convention, its Protocols and relevant Working Groups on the one hand, and of the EUSDR and its various Priority Areas on the other hand, due also to the cross-sectoral nature of the Carpathian Convention.

Further maximising the synergies, is a key benefit that will be achieved at all levels of cooperation. The momentum created by EUSDR will significantly boost progress in relevant processes by creating added value for both the Carpathian Convention and the EUSDR also by making better use of measures available for macro-regional cooperation.

## 4.2) PA1b and the Carpathian convention

### CONCLUSION

It is expected that the cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR will contribute to the implementation of already existing approaches and collaboration mechanisms informally and formally established and will promote new practical elements for collaboration. This includes also better coordination in initiating and developing high quality project ideas to be submitted to the Interreg Danube or Central Europe and other relevant EU co-funded Programmes (e.g. H2020, LIFE, Cosme), bearing in mind that there is currently no territorial funding programme covering the entire Carpathians.

Macro-regional strategies should maximise the utilisation of regional organisations and multilateral agreements by strengthening synergies and complementarities, thus avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities. The Carpathian Convention, as an already existing legal framework of cooperation in the Danube Region on different EUSDR related Priority Areas, with experience and periodically updated political mandate, plays an important role in the Danube Area in its areas of competence.

The implementation of the cooperation activities between the Carpathian Convention and the EUSDR can be further promoted through the support of the Danube Strategy Point.

## 5) 3 SEAS INITIATIVE

**The Three Seas Initiative** is a flexible political platform at Presidential level, launched in 2015. The Initiative includes the 12 EU Member States located between the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Black seas: *Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia*. Up until today, three summits took place:

- Dubrovnik Summit in 2016 (<https://www.three.si/past-events>),
- Warsaw Summit in 2017 and
- Bucharest Summit in 2018 (<http://three-seas.eu/>).

**The 2019 Summit of the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) will be held in Slovenia (Ljubljana) on 5-6 June.**

<https://www.three.si/>

It is planned that, among others, **2019 STATUS REPORT** on the List of Priority Interconnection Projects (outcome of the third Three Seas Initiative Summit, Bucharest in 2018) will be prepared.