2019 Annual Forum of the European Union
Strategy for the Danube Region
Date: 27-28 June 2019

Venue: Bucharest, Palace of the Parliament (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, business support structures, industry, NGOs, academic institutions and other stakeholders from the Danube Region countries.

Short description and format: As a key event of the 2019 EUSDR Presidency, The 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 the beautiful 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. In the margin of the Annual Forum will take place an Informal Ministerial Meeting on Economic Affairs and an Exhibition organized by the Ministry for Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship and other 10 side events.

For more information, please check the updated agenda and Practical Information Note on http://suerd.gov.ro/en

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”
Venue: Palace of Parliament, “Dimitrie Cantemir” Conference Hall

9:00 – 12:00 Public Hearings workshop on the Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan (Event organized by DSP and EUSDR Presidency)

This Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.
OPENING SESSION OF THE 8TH ANNUAL FORUM

(Conference Hall “A.I. Cuza”)

Opening remarks:
Delegate Minister for European Affairs of Romania

Welcome Remarks:
Prime Minister of Romania
EU High Official

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch (Receptions Ballroom)

14:30 - 16:00 PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

THEMATIC SESSION 1:
Increasing European convergence and competitiveness through EUSDR

(Conference Hall “A.I. Cuza”)

Moderator:
Dr. Anna SOBCZAK, Policy Expert for Clusters and Emerging Industries, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Keynote speaker:
H.E. Mr. Ștefan–Radu OPREA, Minister of Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship of Romania

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. Dimitris DIMITRIADIS, Questor, Rapporteur - tbc
- Mr. Dainis TURLAIS, European Committee of Regions Rapporteur
- Dr. Petra PUCHNER, Commissioner for Europe of the Minister of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Mr. Kostadin KOSTADINOV, Advisor to the Minister of Education and Science for Science & Innovation of Bulgaria

Contributors:
- Mr. Daniel COSNITĂ, President of CLUSTERO Association, Romania
- Mr. Sinisa TESIC, Project Manager, Cluster of Social Entrepreneurship Cluster Association, Serbia

Q & A SESSION
THEMATIC SESSION 2:
Promoting connectivity for improving European regional mobility throughout EUSDR
(Conference Hall “N. Bălcescu”)

Moderator: Mrs. Cristina CUC, Deputy Coordinator (PA 1A) Ministry of Transport of Romania

Keynote speaker: Mr. Alain BARON, Transport Community Treaty, DG MOVE - European Commission

Panellists:
• Mr. Ionel MINEA, State Secretary, Ministry of Transport of Romania
• Representative of the European External Action Service (tbc)
• Mrs. Irene LUCIUS, Regional Director for Conservation, WWF DCP
• Mr. Gert-Jan MUILERMAN, Austrian Waterway Management and Development Company, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology

Contributor:
• Mr. Robert RAFAEL, General Secretary, Pro-Danube International, Austria
• Mr. Sorin DUMITRESCU, Senior Researcher, Electronic Solutions Ltd., Romania

Q & A SESSION

16:00 - COFFEE BREAK

16:30 - 18:00 - PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

THEMATIC SESSION 3:
Developing joint strategic projects: Fusing transportation and digitalization
(Conference Hall “A.I. Cuza”)

Moderator: Mr. Anthony WHELAN, Director, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Keynote Speaker: Mrs. Charlina VITCHEVA, Deputy Director-General, Joint Research Center

Panellists:
• Mr. Michael LUDWIG, Mayor of Vienna (tbc)
• Mr. Luvben KANCHEV, Deputy Ministry, Ministry of Tourism, Bulgaria
• Mr. Karl MCFAUL, Expert, High-Level Group on the Impact of the Digital Transformation on EU Labour Markets
• Prof. Dr.Ing. Cristiana SÎRBU, Foundation Group for Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development, Danube Entrepreneurship Forum, Romania

Contributor:
• Mrs. Blanka BELOSEVIC, Ministry of Tourism of Croatia, coordinator of Pillar 4:
Sustainable Tourism of EUSAIR (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

(Conference Hall "N. Bălcescu")

MODERATOR: Mr. Rudolf SCHICKER, EUSDR DSP Coordinator

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

Panellists:  
- Mr. Mikko LOHIKOSKI, Strategy Coordinator, Union of the Baltic Cities  
- 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, Ukraine  
- Mrs. Daniela JOVANOVIC, Vice President of the Danube Civil Society Forum, Serbia

Contributors:  
- Mr. Costin LIANU, Pro-Rector, EUSDR Advisory Council Secretariat from – Romania, Spiru Haret University, Romania  
- Mrs. Nadja BEGLEROVIC, International University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Q & A SESSION

18:30 – RECEPTION offered by the Romanian Minister Delegate for European Affairs
(Receptions Salon)  
(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
THEMATIC SESSION 5:
The present and future roles of the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) in the Danube region (organized by the DTP)
(Conference Hall “A.I. Cuza”)

Facilitator: Mr. Eloy GOMEZ GIRON, DTP Joint Secretariat

9:05 – 9:45 Keynote speeches

- Mr Matyas JASCHITZ, Director of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives
- Mr Imre CSALAGOVITS, Head of the DTP Managing Authority

9:45 – 10:55 Overview of DTP project results

Thematic Pole leaders of the DTP Capitalisation Strategy and DTP project representatives

10:55 – 11:00 Conclusion remarks

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
(Conference Hall “A.I. Cuza”)

Moderator: Ms. Baiba LIEPA, Programme Manager, INTERACT III Programme

Keynote speaker:
Mr. Erich UNTERWURZACHER, Director, DG REGIO - European Commission

Panellists:
- Mrs. Mihaela TOADER, State Secretary, Ministry of European Funds of Romania
- Mr. Miroslav VESKOVIC, Scientific Expert, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Mrs. Denitsa NIKOLOVA, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria, EUSDR NC
- Ms. Kadri JUSKIN, Ministry of Finance of Estonia/chair of the EUSBSR ERDF MA network (tbc)
**THEMATIC SESSION 7:**

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

*(Conference Hall "N.Bălcescu")*

**MODERATOR:**

Ms. Melania-Gabriela CIOT, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

**Key-Speaker:**

Mr. Alexander SCHALLENBERG, General Director, Federal Chancellery of Austria *(tbc)*

**Panellists:**

- Mr. Jean-Pierre HALKIN, Head of Unit DG REGIO – European Commission
- Mrs. Andreja JERINA, National Coordinator, EUSDR, EUSAIR and EUSALP National Coordinator, Slovenia
- Mr. Mislav KOVAC, Ministry of Regional Development and European Funds of Croatia
- Mrs. Franziska SIELKER, Senior Research Associate and Lecturer at the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge

**Contributors:**

- Mr. Johann SOLLGRUBER, Representation of the European Commission in Austria
- Mr. Iulian RUSU, Institute for European Policies and Reforms, Republic of Moldova

**Q & A SESSION**

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

**14:00**  
Farewell lunch *(Receptions Salon)*