



Cooperation Agreement for the establishment of the Danube-Black Sea (DBS) Gateway Region's Cooperation Platform

Introduction

From time immemorial, the Danube has been a transport and trade route, a border and a bond uniting nations, a place of encounter and a fateful river at the same time. Although the Danube region is full of contrasts and has a past historically rich in conflict, the river has always struck a balance between the different nations, religions and cultures. Particularly after the shift of power in Europe, the collapse of the Iron Curtain and finally the enlargement of the European Union, the Danube has become a uniting bond joining cities and regions in an area with a population of more than 200 million, stretching far beyond today's EU borders. At the same time economic development and the emergence of new markets lead to raising transport flows that are not equally balanced between the modes. However, high traffic volumes not only restrain economic development again, but also have negative effects on the regions.

Thus, it is important to support the riparian Danube and the Black Sea regions to become an attractive gateway for maritime and inland waterway transport between Central Europe and the Black Sea, the Caspian region and the Far East by facilitating the cooperation between regions, ports and their hinterland and other key actors and stakeholders. The joint effort shall improve accessibility and economic development of the regions and strengthen interoperability between maritime and inland waterways as well as with their hinterland.

Background

The DBS Gateway Region initiative aims at supporting the Danube-Black Sea region to become an attractive gateway region for maritime and inland waterway transport between Central Europe and the Black Sea, the Caspian region and the Far East by facilitating increased intensity and quality of cooperation between ports, regions and other key actors.

The joint effort shall improve accessibility of both the ports and the region and strengthen interoperability between maritime and inland waterway transport as well as the connection with the hinterland. Together with raising the awareness of the possibilities of intermodal transport, this will lead to shifting existing and attracting new cargo flows to environmental-friendly modes of transport and supporting the development of the regions.

The elaborated Joint Vision 2040 is a description of what the DBS Gateway Region would like to accomplish in the mid- and long-term future. It gives a jointly agreed direction and serves as guide for choosing current and future action in commonly defined fields of intervention. The strategic and operational objectives aim to support the development towards a transnational multiport gateway region. With the Roadmap (with its ten Regional Action Plans and Cooperation Action Plan) at hand, a clear path is drawn to reach the Joint Vision's objectives.

Establishment of the “DBS Gateway Region” Cooperation Platform

The signatories commit themselves to the objectives of the Joint Vision 2040:

- **Strengthening the DBS Gateway Region**
The DBS Gateway Region competes successfully at the international freight transport market by using the strength of a joint voice and international visibility of a common brand and marketing strategy. The region has high potential for economic development due to the Danube River as the backbone for environmental-friendly waterborne freight transport.
- **Strengthening the Regions**
DBS Gateway Region is an economically prosperous region supported by competent, efficient and reliable logistic services along the whole transport chain.
- **Strengthening the Ports**
DBS Gateway Region is an attractive gateway for maritime and inland waterway transport within Central Europe and the Western Black Sea Region and towards Western Europe, the entire Black Sea region, the Caspian region and the Far East with ports serving as modern intermodal nodes.

In order to continue joint efforts towards meeting the objectives of the Joint Vision and to guarantee the durability of the project's outputs, the signatories agree on the establishment of the “DBS Gateway Region Cooperation Platform”. The Cooperation Platform's agenda is laid down in the Cooperation Action Plan and the Cooperation Strategy.

The Working Community of the Danube Regions will host the Cooperation Platform. It will provide the network and existing structures for the operation of the Cooperation Platform. The Working Group “Economy, tourism and transport” will serve as vehicle for the members to meet and to promote the activities done by the Cooperation Platform. The management of the Working Group shall carry on the Cooperation Platform in the sense of joint operation. This informal and loose organisational form shall last until 30 June 2022. It may end before this date in case of establishing a more formal organisation with a higher level of cooperation, which meets the objectives of the Cooperation Action Plan.

Outlook

The partners of the DBS Gateway Region project follow the aspirational goal to establish a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), acknowledging an EGTC as the legal form in order to best fulfil the tasks set in the Cooperation Action Plan. The establishment of the Cooperation Platform, as laid down above, is the first step in this itinerary.

Many of the partners of the DBS Gateway Project assume a new project within the framework of the Danube Transnational Programme of the European Union in order to take the next consequent steps.

All partners commit themselves to actively support all efforts towards the foundation of the EGTC for the benefit of the DBS Gateway Region.



Signature

Name of the person: **Ludwig Schleritzko**

Position of the person: **Member of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria responsible for Finance and Mobility**

Date: **Krems, 13. June 2019**

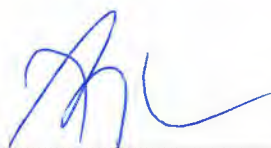
Name of the person: **Werner Pracherstorfer**

Position of the person: **Lead Partner, Legal Representative of Lower Austria**

Date: **Krems, 13. June 2019**



Signature



Name of the person: **Mag^a Maria Vassilakou**

Position of the person: **Deputy Mayor and Deputy Governor
Executive City Councillor for Urban Planning, Traffic & Transport, Climate
Protection, Energy Planning and Public Participation**

Date:



Signature



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Name of the person: Gabriel Szekeres, Ing.

Position of the person: Head of the Board

Name of the organisation: Public ports, JSC.

Date: 11. 06. 2019



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Name of the person: Jozef Bódi, Ing.

Position of the person: Member of the Board

Name of the organisation: Public ports, JSC.

Date: 11. 06. 2019



Signature



Name of the person: **Ottó Cseh**

Position of the person: **CEO**

Name of the organisation: **Freeport of Budapest Logistics Ltd**

Date: **13. Juni 2019**



Name of the person: **Zsolt Dr. Szabó**

Position of the person: **President**

Name of the organisation: **Freeport of Budapest Logistics Ltd**

Date: **13. Juni 2019**

Signature




Name of the person: Alen Jakumetović

Position of the person: Managing Director

Name of the organisation: Port Authority Vukovar

Date: 10.06.2019.



Signature


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Name of the person: **Anna Natova**

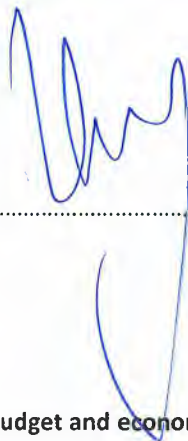
Position of the person: **Project manager**

Name of the organisation: **Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company**

Date: **13. Juni 2019**



Signature



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Name of the person: **Krasimir Stoychev**

Position of the person: **Deputy Mayor of finance, budget and economy**

Name of the organisation: **Burgas Municipality**

Date: **13. Juni 2019**





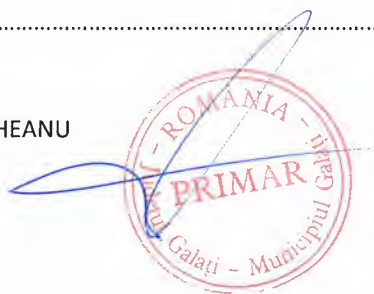
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Name of the person: Ionuț-Florin PUCHEANU

Position of the person: Mayor

Name of the organisation: Municipality of Galati

Date: 05.06.2019



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Name of the person: Ovidiu COSTEA

Position of the person: Project Manager, Deputy Member of the Steering Committee

Name of the organisation: Municipality of Galati

Date: 13.06.2019

Signature

Sanja Bojic

Name of the person: Dr Sanja Bojic

Position of the person: Associate Professor and Project Manager of the DBS Gateway Region project

Name of the organisation: Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad

Date: 13.06.2019.

Signature



Rade Doroslovacki

Name of the person: Prof. Dr Rade Doroslovacki

Position of the person: Dean

Name of the organisation: Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad

Date: 13.06.2019.



Signature


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Name of the person:

Simon Ortner

Position of the person:

Working Community of Danube Regions, General secretary

Date:

St. Pölten, 12 . June 2019