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Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

After a long period of consultation among the Member States, exams at the European Parliament and democratic votes, the new European Commission has started to work for its mandate of 5 years.

What is waiting for the 26 Members of the Commission and their President is not an easy job.

Actually, when Mr. Barroso was named for the first time as EC President – five years ago – the scenario was totally different. The economic situation was quite good, employment was high and perspectives of growth were positive. Today, we are all plunged in one of the worst financial crisis and economic recession of the last decades, and the future is still uncertain.

Priority is thus for securing job and restoring the conditions for a generalized recovery.

Moreover, this executive is the first one called to work under the Lisbon Treaty, originally designed to facilitate EU decision-making and strengthen the EU position on the international markets. Acting as the "Guardian of EU Treaties", the new EC must ensure the Member States and their citizens that the reform charter is implemented – and this is another tough task, as the changes touch on nearly every EU institution.

Reforms include also the Commission itself. The new rules introduced a high representative of foreign affairs, a position created by the Treaty, and the international challenges are wide and varied.

Global warming was another major issue during the President's first term, and is still a key-point. The EU has to work for a resumption of international talks to finish up where the Copenhagen climate conference left off.

All those tasks are clearly fundamental for the future of Europe and we wait to see how the EC will be capable to manage them.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlín Region in Brussels



Macroregional Strategy for the Danube Region officially launched

On February 2nd 2010, the Zlin Region in Brussels was present to the event formally inaugurating the formulation process of a new strategy in the area of territorial cohesion for Central Europe. The idea of

promoting forms of macro-regional cooperation in the field of cohesion policy was introduced by the European Commission already in 2008 and the first positive example came from the Baltic Sea area.

Now, experts and representatives from EU Institutions and Regions join their efforts and share their visions focusing on the Danube area, acting with the support by the governments of Romania, Austria and Baden-Württemberg in Germany. During the conference held in Ulm on the 1-2 February 2010, around 400 participants from 19 countries discussed the domains where EU financing could be more effective, namely transport, local development and energy. The conference represented the first public appointment out of a series of meetings that will put together the European Commission and groups of experts, stakeholders, governmental, regional and non-governmental representations.

We have already informed you about the potential of macro-regional strategies for the future of Cohesion Policy in the last edition. Now, we are presenting the first steps that were made for the evolution of the EU Strategy for Danube Region and an overview of main priorities which will be discussed in the framework of its preparation.

The European Commission made the first step for the definition of an institutional strategy on the future perspectives of the Danube Region in June 2009, following a request of the European Council. The strategy should be finalized by the end of 2010 and officially introduced during the Hungarian Presidency in the beginning of 2011. By that time, the Action Plan by the European Commission will be prepared in the form of Communication with a specific scope and a list of connected priority projects and initiatives.

Main thematic issues

The Conference in Ulm was dedicated to a general introduction to the Strategy as it appears now. It was highlighted that the Conference opens a one-year-cycle of activities dedicated to the Strategy formulation. The main speakers resumed the main points that should be addressed during the preparations of the macro-regional strategy:

governance: strengthening of local self-government representations
bottom-up building of Europe
local democratic linkages for cooperation

transport: better railway access
restoration of the river Danube as an inland waterway and water basin
restoration of a side path all the way from Danube to Black Sea
Danube as a cornerstone of EU traffic and water development
support for multi-modal projects

water policy: Danube as the largest water reservoir for the EU
realization of ambitious projects with the most modern technologies
waste-management institutions
satellite based flood prediction systems
linkages to EU water framework directives

research: cross-border clusters and mutual exchange of technologies

environment: ecological projects for cities and regions along Danube as an absolute prerequisite for cultural and nature tourism
protection from effects of climate change

civil society: strong and stable, future oriented civil society
equal opportunities in labour access, education opportunities
ethnic conflict and tension as a challenge

- education:* educational projects for young people who create the future potential for the Region
 harmonization of vocational trainings and qualification programs
 cross-border young qualified workforce
 educated young generations as a prerequisite for investments into the Region
 collaboration among universities
- social policy:* elimination of social injustice, strengthening of social structures and welfare
- energy:* small decentralized power plants
 promotion of renewable energies (biomass, solar, water and wind power)
- culture:* creation of common cultural networks along Danube
 diversification of the economies in the Region
- tourism:* increasing attractiveness of regions and cities along Danube

Those issues should become part of the Strategy in order to promote the development of the Danube Region as a whole and transform it from a border, under-developed area into a pillar of the EU, characterized by **strong connections with the EU Member States and neighbouring countries to the Union at east**. During the presentations, **interconnectivity** across Europe has been identified as a core added-value of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Mr. Paweł Samecki, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, highlighted that the Action Plan expected by the European Commission for the end of 2010 should be based on two main points:



- offer a framework for the Danube macro-cooperation, together with a priority-list for the distribution of available resources
- specify the matching between all sources of Structural Funds and the projects under preparation

Intense consultations with different actors, stakeholders and potential members within private sector and civil society are thus needed. P. Samecki also stressed that the Strategy should not imply additional administrative burdens, or the creation of new bureaucratic structures. Finally, he underlined that for the moment there will be no additional financial resources available for the Strategy, apart from those

allocated for the ongoing budgetary period of 2007-2013, which correspond to an amount of €95 billions. These three preconditions highly increase **the overall added value of the Strategy**.

The main outcomes and conclusions of the Conference will be further elaborated on the 2nd Conference scheduled in Budapest for the 25-26 of February 2010. Main issues in the agenda will be:

- The socio-economic aspects of the Danube strategy
- Prosperity and cultural identity of the Danube region

For more information about the registration and programme visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/events_en.htm

Further information and additional sources to the Strategy can be provided also by the Zlin Region in Brussels.



Regional Policy - Inforegio

The new Czech Delegation launches activities within the EU Local and Regional Committee

For the upcoming five years twelve elected representatives will express the interests of Czech Regions and Cities in Brussels. On 9th February they launched activities as members of the Committee of Regions (CoR), the EU Committee for regional and local representatives and appointed MD. Pavel Bem, Mayor of the capital city of Prague, vice-president of the Committee of Regions and leader of the national delegation.

At the meeting in Brussels, on the occasion of constituent plenary session of the Committee of Regions in the functional period of 2010-2015, representatives of local and regional authorities expressed their determination to make the best of newly acquired powers that were introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in order to get closer to the citizens of EU. Apart from extended consultation powers during adoption of new EU legislation, the CoR also gained a right to make a complaint to the European Court of Justice in the frame of defending powers of European Regions and Cities.

The overview of Czech Representatives in the Committee of Regions for 2010–2015

MUDr. Pavel BEM - EPP Mayor of the capital city of Prague	Paed.Dr. Josef NOVOTNY - PES Governor of the Karlovarsky region
RNDr. Jiri BYTEL – non-attached Mayor of Velka Hledsebe	Ing. Petr OSVALD - PES Representative of Plzen
Ing. Stanislav EICHLER - PES Governor of the Liberec Region	Ing. Jaroslav PALAS - PES Governor of the Moravian Silesian Region
Mgr. Jan KUBATA - EPP Mayor of Usti nad Labem	Mgr. Juraj THOMA - EPP Mayor of Ceske Budejovice
Helena LANGSADLOVA - ELS Vice-mayor of Cernosice	Jana VANHOVA - PES Governor of the Usti Region
Ing. Roman LINEK - EPP Deputy Governor of the Pardubicky Region	Mgr. Jiri ZIMOLA - PES Governor of the South Bohemian Region

Who can become a member of the Committee of the Regions?

According to the Treaty of EU a precondition for membership in the CoR is a mandate obtained in the elections to local / regional authority or a political responsibility to the elected committee.

334 members of the Committee and the same number of representatives appointed by the Council of Ministers for the period of five years without a possibility for a re-election. Membership in the CoR automatically expires when local or regional mandate – the basis on which the member was appointed to the CoR - is completed or terminated. The alternate member is appointed until the mandate expires. The membership in the Committee of Regions is not compatible with the membership in the European Parliament.

How are the members of CoR appointed in the Czech Republic?

The Czech Ministry for Regional Development asks the Czech Association of Regions and Municipalities to nominate the same number of members and alternate members from local and regional organs. Territorial and political aspects are taken into consideration in the process of nominating the Czech delegation.

The Czech government adopts a decision and sends the approved list to the Council of EU which appoints them members of the CoR.

For more information about activities of the Committee of Regions: www.cor.eu

EVROPSKÁ UNIE



Výbor regionů

Open Days 2010: Regions of Baltic-Adriatic Corridor

In the frame of monitoring possibilities to create partnership and define a common programme framework for activities, the Zlin Region in Brussels organized a meeting in its Office in Brussels on 2nd February 2010.

The following Regions confirmed their willingness to form the team for the Open Days 2010 (from north to south): Pomorskie Region (PL), Lodz Region (PL), Silesia Region (PL), Zlin Region (CZ), Trencin Region (SK), Carinthia Region (AUT), Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT).

During the meeting, partners also agreed in naming the Zlin Region in Brussels as "Lead Office" and the Silesia Region as "Deputy Lead Office" for coordinating the activities of the team and acting as contact points of the Committee of the Regions.

The partnership of Baltic-Adriatic Corridor is planning to organize two events during the Open Days 2010:

Event 1, Debate

The discussion will be focused on the topic "transport policy and regional development"

Event 2, Workshop

The workshop will focus on trans-regional / trans-border cooperation experiences on-going or realized among the Regions of the BAC partnership.

Deadline for delivery of applications to the CoR for the Open Days 2010 is set for 22. 2. 2010.

For any additional information, please contact the Zlin Region in Brussels.

Malopolska Region Partner Search: Socially Responsible Regions

A Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis. The level of knowledge about the CSR among both public and private sector is unsatisfying. There are no tools used to implement the CSR strategy and develop CSR programmes. Therefore there is no multi-sectorial cooperation in this field.

The project aims at multi-sectorial cooperation in order to increase the level of awareness of and the level of knowledge in the field of the CSR among entrepreneurs, local society, scientific institutions and public administration. Project assumptions are:

- To create interactions among the following sectors: business, science, NGOs and public administration.
- To realize combined operations and to elaborate a strategic document dedicated to CSR in all sectors.

Potential partners of the project are from the sphere of national, regional and local public authorities, public equivalent bodies, private institutions, international institutions especially from Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia.

The deadline for applications is April/May 2010. Interested parties can contact us.

The project framework is planned from January 2011 till July 2013.

European Entrepreneurial Region Award at CoR

The ceremony hosted by the EU Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 11th February 2010 celebrated the conclusion of the European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) of the Years 2011-12.

The award is designed to identify and reward EU regions with outstanding entrepreneurial vision and to encourage local and regional authorities to do more to promote small business across Europe.

For 2011, three Regions have received the prestigious award: Kerry (Ireland), Brandenburg (Germany) and Murcia (Spain). For 2012, the international jury chaired by former President of CoR, Mr. Luc van Den Brande - who initiated the Award - named winners the Regions of Nitra (Slovak Republic), Helsinki (Finland) and Catalunya (Spain).

The Zlin Region in Brussels attended the event that was organised as part of the program of the 83rd Plenary Session of CoR.

Calls for proposals

Civil Protection Financial Instrument – Preparedness & Prevention

Civil SocietyDeadline: **31. 03. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:311:0024:0024:EN:PDF>

European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors

Civil SocietyDeadline: **12. 03. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:311:0021:0023:EN:PDF>

Europe for Citizens Program (call 2009)

Civil SocietyDeadline: **Various**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:311:0021:0023:EN:PDF>

Preparatory Action Media International

Media ProgramDeadline: **31. 03. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:033:0007:0008:EN:PDF>

Media Development, Distribution, Promotion and Training

Media ProgramDeadline: **09. 07. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:029:0006:0007:EN:PDF>

Erasmus Mundus II – Joint Programs and Partnerships

EducationDeadline: **Various**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:294:0018:0024:EN:PDF>

ICT Support Program (Competitiveness & Innovation Program)

ICT PSP – Call CIP-ICT PSP-2010-4

ICT policyDeadline: **01. 06. 2010**http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp

EU Cooperation in the field of Scientific & Technical Research (COST)

ResearchDeadline: **26. 03. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:021:0038:0039:EN:PDF>

EU fund for the integration of third-country nationals

JusticeDeadline: **03. 03. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:010:0025:0025:EN:PDF>



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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

22. 02. 2010

Committee of the Regions
Open Days 2010
Deadline for candidatures
Communication Unit
Brussels, Belgium

23. 02. 2010

ICT Conference on Energy
Efficiency
ICT4EE European awards
EC, Charlemagne Building
Brussels, Belgium

MARCH

01-05. 03. 2010

European e-Skills Week
Job opportunities, training &
promotion campaign
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

08-09. 03. 2010

European Parliament
Plenary Session
Strasbourg, France

Vacancies in Europe

European Central Bank

• Archives, Library and Records Division - Librarian

Vacancy notice: ECB/EXP/006/10

Short-term contract

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 02. 03. 2010

Info: <http://www.ecb.int/>

European Central Bank

• Administration – Principal Accounting Assistant

Vacancy notice: ECB/009/10

Contract agents

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 24. 02. 2010

Info: <http://www.ecb.int/>

European Central Bank

• Press & Info Unit – Principal Communication Assistant

Vacancy notice: ECB/103/09/I

Contract agents

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 02. 03. 2010

Info: <http://www.ecb.int/>



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Form closed:
17.02.2010

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