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Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

after the Forum on macro-regional cooperation, attended also by the Vice President of the Zlin Region as Czech speaker, the debate on the Danube Strategy is raising of importance.

Recently, at the last "Danube conference" organized in Bulgaria on the 10th of May, even the new EC Commissioner for Regional Policy, Mr. Hahn expressed his point of view. Now, opinions are on the table and we can start study them.

For sure, we can say that we agree on the approach proposed by the European Commission. It is an approach that appears to be coherent with the present economic scenario and fitting with the aims of the Zlin Region. In addition, it seems to be an approach that best responds to the principles of trans-national territorial integration, cohesion and inclusiveness.

We can also say that we agree on the three "nos" upon which an EU macro-region strategy should be built: no new funds, no new legislation, and no new institutions.

The basic objectives of the new Strategy should in fact be a better coordination of resources, more coherent implementation of regulations and laws, and appropriate use of existing structures. We do not need more bureaucracy, just the efficient engagement of available resources.

A good example that could be followed is the one of the Baltic Sea macro-region that is already well on-track and almost in the implementation phase. Of course, the debate for the definition of the Danube Strategy has to be further deepened because there are still several points (and projects) that have to be examined and assessed, but what is crucial is the common political willingness to continue in the direction that can be shared by all involved Regions and Institutions.

Our activities in that field has thus to continue, with specific attention to the project dossiers that are of direct interest for our Region.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlin Region in Brussels

Conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



A two day international conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube region took place from 10th to 11th May in the city of Ruse, Bulgaria. Conference was organised by European Commission, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in Bulgaria, Municipality of Ruse (BG) and Municipality of Giurgiu (RO).

The objective of this conference was to discuss the governance of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. It gathered key stakeholders in the process to examine ways in which the strategy will be implemented and monitored after adoption in 2011.

The audience of the conference was made up of representatives of authorities at EU, national and regional level, including structural funds managers, as well as a number of Danube region institutions and organisations which are involved in transnational projects and actions. Through the discussions possible implementation mechanisms were explored and noted by the European Commission.

Themes of the event:

- Implementing the Danube Strategy – macro-regional mechanisms and structures for implementation and monitoring
- Mobilisation of resources to implement the Danube Strategy, its actions and projects, including the contribution of Cohesion Policy to the Strategy
- Capacity-building and institutional cooperation for the further development and integration of the Danube macro-region

Projects presented

Bulgarian 's Regional Development Minister Rossen has announced , that projects for two more bridges over the Danube River, linking Oryahovo-Bechet and Silistra-Kalarash, are likely to be funded by European Union funds under the Danube strategy.

At the moment, the only bridge on the 610km Danube section of the Bulgarian-Romanian border, links Russe in Bulgaria and Giurgiu in Romania by road and rail.

The 2km Danube bridge II, which is a key element of a European transport corridor connecting the German city of Dresden with Istanbul in Turkey, is designed to span over the river connecting Bulgaria's Vidin and Romania's Kalafat.

For more information, please, visit:

General information about the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/index_en.htm

Conference on EU strategy on Danube region

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/conference/ruse_en.htm

Bulgaria Relies on EU Funds for Two More Danube Bridges

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=116039

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/events_en.htm

EU Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn said at the conference...



"We see this today in the financial crisis, and the recent sobering events in Greece. Such challenges are a litmus test for Europe as a whole. But what we see are serious efforts to work together in order to overcome problems. This is what Europe is all about."

EU Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn started the conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in Bulgaria: *"Simply creating a macro region here will not automatically solve our problems, as we can see in Greece now. We constantly have to work on our common European house to improve and adapt it in order to be able to tackle the challenges of our time. I want a Danube strategy that delivers results because it has found a new way of working to unlock new forms of co operation. The energy will come from you: the strategy can only provide the framework for your efforts."*

"In the Danube basin we have €100 billion for regional development. This money is not lying in a bank, but already bringing about many projects underway," said EU Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn.

Commissioner said: *"The Danube strategy is a strategy of the European Union. While it is obviously of prime concern to those states whose territory lies in the Danube region, it is of legitimate interest to all member states and the governance structure must recognise this."*

"That means that no exclusive groups of member states should be established. At the same time, the Danube strategy should be designed to be driven from the bottom up – so that it responds directly to the wishes and needs of the region. That's why we need to establish a management system to marry political coordination at a European level to implementation at a local level."

According to him a mere 3 to 6% of the transport capacity of the Danube River is used and the European Commission is seeking ways to sharply increase this indicator.

"Just as Europe is not a magic cure for its members' ills, simply creating a macro region here will not automatically solve our problems.... I want a Danube strategy that delivers results because it has found a new way of working to unlock new forms of co operation."

"The energy will come from you: the strategy can only provide the framework for your efforts," Commissioner Hahn told the participants in the conference. He pointed out that the Danube region already has a tradition of cooperation, but work has often been stymied by lack of funds or political will. Continued: *"Our task is to find a structure that overcomes such problems. Emerging from the consultations is the idea that, working with existing organisations, the EU can provide a framework to reinforce commitments, and help provide instruments and funding to attain your chosen goals."*

"Our task is to find a structure that overcomes such problems.... We need not start from scratch. The Baltic Sea Strategy is pioneering ways of working at macro regional level. It is early days, but so far the model of governance that they are road-testing is working," the Commissioner said.

Commissioner pointed, this is the second macro region after the Baltic Sea and complimented EU Regional Policy: *"It is through Regional Policy that the European Union is most visible to our citizens. In more than 2 million projects people can see the EU at work bringing real benefits close to their concerns."*

Now we have a new opportunity to show that the EU can do even more to bring advantages to those who live in the Danube region."

We will all have a duty to ensure that we operate efficiently and accountably. The Danube Strategy will be only the second macro region, and the responsibility is ours to show the value added of this new approach."

Before the end of the year, I will publish the Commission's proposal for the Strategy. But even then it will be work in progress, constantly updated to keep pace with political and economic changes as they occur."

I am convinced that the Danube Strategy will contribute to spreading security and prosperity to Europeans wherever they live in the Danube region."

In this regard he stressed the importance of establishing a structure that ensures ownership of those involved, without losing sight of European wide coherence and accountability.

Commissioner´s Hahn whole speech at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/227&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

"National leaders failed at Copenhagen: local leaders must not": CoR launches unique database of local climate action



A new initiative from the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will help signatories of the Covenant of Mayors turn their commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions into a concrete reality, as local leaders push ahead with plans to tackle climate change despite the failure of Copenhagen.

Speaking at the Covenant of Mayors signing ceremony in the European Parliament on 4 May, CoR First Vice-President **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso** said: "National leaders failed at Copenhagen: local leaders must not. We have today launched [a survey on sustainable energy policies](#) in regions and cities as the first phase of our initiative to collect and disseminate best practice in tackling climate change. I invite all signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, and all local and regional authorities, to participate. This is not simply a question of collecting information about who is doing what – it is also an opportunity to see how they are doing it, why they are doing it and how they could do it better by working together with others."

Building on the expertise of its [Europe2020 Monitoring Platform](#), enlarged to include contributions from Covenant of Mayors members, the CoR will compile a unique database of action being carried out at the local level to combat global warming. The data will then be shared with all the members of the platform and Covenant of Mayors signatories to allow them to learn from their peers about how best to meet their obligations to cut emissions. The results will also form part of the Committee of the Regions' contributions to the new EU Energy Action Plan, which will set the framework for European energy policy to 2020, and to the special session of the European Council devoted to energy policy in May 2011.

The data collected by the survey will constitute a significant source of ideas for local and regional authorities looking to tackle energy issues, but information alone is not enough to achieve concrete results, Vice-President Valcárcel stressed.

"Learning how others are coping with the climate challenge is only part of the story: many cities and towns lack the resources to face these issues on their own, and financial and administrative support on the ground is vital if they are to succeed. That is why the role of regions as supporting structures within the Covenant of Mayors is so important. The Committee of the Regions will focus its efforts on encouraging more of these important stakeholders to take the Covenant of Mayors pledge."

The CoR will also continue to play its part in defining the role of local and regional authorities in the wider EU efforts to protect the environment. The CoR's commission for the environment, energy and climate change (ENVE) is preparing two flagship opinions in this area: an outlook opinion on the role of local and regional authorities in future environmental policy, by **Paula Baker** (UK/ALDE), requested by the Spanish EU Presidency; and an opinion on fighting climate change post-Copenhagen, by **Nicola Beer** (DE/ALDE).

The Study in all languages can be found on the [website of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform](#)

Visit the CoR's website: www.cor.europa.eu

Background: the Covenant of Mayors

The European Union (EU) is leading the global fight against climate change, and has made it a top priority. Its ambitious targets are spelt out in the EU [Climate Action and Energy Package](#), which commits Member States to curb their CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020. Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors contribute to these policy objectives through a formal commitment to go beyond this target through the implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

Partners of the Baltic Adriatic Corridor met at Styria Office

The meeting was called specifically to make the point on the situation of the transport dossier within the EU Institutions.



On the 5th of May 2010, the Representatives of the Regions involved in the initiative for the promotion of the Baltic Adriatic Corridor met at the Styria Office in Brussels.

During the meeting, partners examined the position of the European Commission in the process for the revision of TEN-T schemes as well as the works of the European Parliament for the approval of the new regulation on railway priority corridors. Both the points represent the main EU priorities in the field of transport infrastructures for 2010.

Partners also agreed on the proposal from Styria Region for the finalisation of the common survey by a pool of specialised consultants – with no additional costs for associated Regions – and on the common participation to the events coordinated by the Zlin Region for the Open Days 2010 in the frame of the partnership named „Baltic Adriatic Corridor Regions“.

The meeting ended up with the choice of next appointment, scheduled for the 24th of June 2010.

Bilateral cooperation on a regional level



Representatives of the Zlin Region in Brussels met with Mr. Arnold Lampaert. The meeting took place in the Representation Office – the Rose House.

Mr. Lampaert, a Belgian researcher specialised in business management, is realizing a study on the entrepreneurial model of the Bata Company, since its origins up to present times. Mr. Lampaert, who in addition comes from a shoe family, is extremely interested in the historical example provided by Tomas Bata and his contribution to the history of Zlin and its Region.

In the frame of his scientific job, Mr. Lampaert has contacted the Representative Office of the Region in Brussels and asked for a meeting. He was actually looking for detailed information about the sources of precise information in the City of Zlin and its surroundings. The meeting occurred on the 7th of May 2010 at the Rose House, where representatives of the Zlin Region in Brussels provided him informative materials related to history of the City of Zlin and the Bata Company. Representatives briefed him also about the recent conference on the Bata heritage as well as on the cultural events that will take place in Zlin and in the Zlin Region.

Office representatives also arrange with the researcher for establishing contacts with the Tomas Bata Foundation that could get to Mr. Lampaert more specialized materials and the Tomas Bata University. Mr. Lampaert is planning to visit Zlin Region metropolis from 9th to 12th June.

The meeting ended up with the agreement that Mr. Lampaert will keep the Office informed about the evolution of his study.

Bilateral meeting at Carinthia Office

In the frame of the Baltic Adriatic Corridor initiative, the Zlin Region in Brussels organized a bilateral meeting with the partner Region of Carinthia.

As the representatives of the Carinthia Region could not attend the last meetings of the BAC initiative, the Zlin Region in Brussels – as Coordinator of the partnership for the Baltic Adriatic Regions at the Open Days 2010 – organized a bilateral meeting to brief the colleagues about recent developments.

Main points of discussion have been the program of the partners' event to be prepared for October, including a political initiative towards the EU Institutions.

Some options have been proposed and examined, in the perspective of their further evaluation in the plenary of the partner Regions. An element has been clearly approved; meaning the fact that the event organized by the partner Regions of the Open Days and coordinated by the Zlin Region in Brussels will be the main event of the BAC initiative for the autumn 2010. The meeting ended up with the arrangement for further contacts in the near future.

Calls for proposals

Media Program

Support for the Implementation of Pilot Projects

Deadline: **14. 06. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:073:0031:0032:EN:PDF>

Civil Society

Civil Protection – Exercises, Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Deadline: **30. 04. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:060:0014:0014:EN:PDF>

Civil Society

Multiannual Program for the Protection of Children using Internet

Deadline: **27. 05. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:048:0007:0012:EN:PDF>

Energy

Intelligent Energy for Europe Program – Call 2010

Deadline: **24. 06. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:078:0003:0003:EN:PDF>

Education

LifeLong Learning Program – Support to testing of ECVET systems

Deadline: **16. 07. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:085:0014:0016:EN:PDF>

Education

Erasmus – University Charter 2011

Deadline: **30. 06. 2010**<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:095:0007:0008:EN:PDF>

Environment

LIFE+ - Call 2010

Deadline: **01. 09. 2010**<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:114:0014:0017:EN:PDF>

Tourism

European Destinations of Excellence

Deadline: **21. 05. 2010**http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4152&lang=en

InnovationICT section of the Competitiveness and Innovation Program
Information and Communication TechnologiesDeadline: **01. 06. 2010**http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp



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CALENDAR

MAY

20. - 21. 5. 2010

Regions for economic change
"Building Sustainable Growth"
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

25. 5. – 1. 6. 2010

European SME Week 2010,
Brussels, Belgium

25. - 26. 5. 2010

Brussels Economic Forum
Debate on EU economic policy
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

27. – 28. 5. 2010

Forum for outermost Europe
2010
European Commission
Charlemagne building
Brussels, Belgium

Vacancies in Europe

European Central Bank

- **Trainers for Internal Auditing**

Vacancy notice: ECB/TR/029/10

Stagiaires

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 25. 05. 2010

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

European Investment Bank

- **Communication specialist**

Vacancy notice: ECB/008/10/I

Temporary agents

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 30. 05. 2010

European Central Bank

- **Traineeship – information systems**

Vacancy notice: ECB/TR/030/10

Stagiaires

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 09. 06. 2010

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



Year 7, no.09
May 2010

Form closed:
17. 5. 2010

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