Carpathians Area - connecting Baltic and Danube macroregions

Dr. Zinoviy S. Broyde
zinoviy.broyde@gmail.com
+38-050-5128698
2. TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND MOBILITY IN THE CARPATHIANS
BRUSSELS DECLARATION ON VIA CARPATHIA

We, the undersigned, consider the Via Carpathia Road to be of crucial importance to the European Union. The Road plays a vital role in stimulating growth in the Eastern regions of the Union which often suffer from socio-economic difficulties. Via Carpathia and its maintenance, modernisation and development are also essential for strengthening economic and social relations with the EU neighbouring countries, especially in the context of future EU enlargement towards the East.

Therefore, we call on the EU institutions, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council in particular, to reflect Via Carpathia’s importance in the future EU transport policy and include the whole Road in the TEN-T core network.

On our side we commit ourselves to pursue the following objectives regarding future development and modernisation of the Via Carpathia Road:

1. ensure proper maintenance, modernisation and development of the Via Carpathia Road,
2. carry out a coordinated strategy aiming to make the Via Carpathia Road a project of common interest for the EU as a whole,
3. guarantee proper financing for maintenance, modernisation and development of the Via Carpathia Road,
4. coordinate our national strategies in order to maintain, modernise and develop the Via Carpathia Road.

Signed at Brussels, 2 October 2012
TRANSREGIONAL ALPINE-CARPATHIAN DIMENSION OF DANUBE STRATEGY

Consultation on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Partner States, their regions, geo-landscapes and habitats. This disparity can be perceived in social, economic and spatial conditions, mentalities/traditions, approaches and accessibility to resources, energy, education, mobility, information and other “creature comforts”.

Such “patchwise cohort” has, first of all, to find common fields of interests on the way to joint systemic solutions to prevent further face-off barriers for macro-regional Sustainable Development. An imminent Danube Strategy (EUSDR) establishment can be qualified by term “betweeness” as “a place or a state where differences and borders are redefining themselves” (D. Sibony).

This betweeness overcoming opportunity was formulated by EU Commissioner O.Rehn: “Borders are restrictive. Borders limit our minds, chain actions, and reduce our influence. Frontiers are restrictive. Frontiers free our minds, stimulate action, and increase our influence. Frontiers are more complex, substantive and functional – even mental – than geographic”. From such point of view, successful start up of EUSDR embodiment should be conform to the principle proclaimed by the EU-Axis of the ENPI: “Community assistance may be used for common benefit of Member States, one- or two- countries and their regions, for the purpose of promoting cross-border and transregional cooperation through different EU Programs and other tools.

Further development of this EU approach was formulated in the ENPI-Fund Regional Program Strategy Paper 2007 – 2013: “seems that the most successful projects have been those which from the outset have benefited from a sustained high level political support provided by institutional framework. By contrast, projects that have been implemented through a “top-down approach, i.e. as a result of demand from individual partner countries, rather than with newly defined political multi-lateral framework, have tended to remain isolated, even when successful, and in general have not succeeded in fostering a genuine regional spin-off”.

The “natural” challenge of Climate Change in Danube basin will have to receive “anthropogenic” answer through Sustainable Development mechanisms. Use experience of “Industrial Metabolism Refinement” in Rhine basin we can act “Implementing our climate and energy package showing how tackling climate change is a dynamic element in a strategy for growing jobs and boosting energy security under the Europe 2020 approach”, how it was proposed by President Barroso to EU Heads of State and Government after Copenhagen.

Water is the general common Resource in Danube basin. It’s evident that EUSDR will concert those activities, which are realized immediately: flood space, e.g. navigation, or hydro-technological processes in the river basin (irrigation, recreation, flood exploitation and mining water pumping, river beds regulation, dredging, sand/ gravel mining in the river banks etc.).

In parallel should be revised all other anthropogenic activities impacting river basin both on more or less constant value and long-term risks generation (probable accidents). For instance in the industrial sphere they are: production, cleaning and arranging, chemical, forestry-wood-cellulose, all kinds of food, construction materials, technic and machine building sectors etc. And especial attention will be paid to hazardous and polluters, waters polluters and potentially danger manufactures.

But the most general threat to EU-EPA concerns Clean Water Sources in Alps and Carpathians. Under Climate Change this problem very soon will become more then obvious.

Taking into account actual Alpine and Carpathian Conventions - their last years collaboration should become a “Common Generator” for further EUSDR project’s topics. It means utilisation of common and individual achievements and agreements of these Conventions for Sustainable Development of Transport, Energy, Water, Forests, Agriculture and other sectors. As well as both Conventions also foresee intercultural and interethnic reciprocal actions aimed to augment common heritage.

For instance nowadays Alpine and Carpathian Forestry
Alpine experience along the old “Silk Way”, for macro-regional needs and accordingly to the Alpine Convention Transport Protocol
was summarised in number of European, CEI and Carpathian projects and especially discussed through 4 CEI – Bukovina Workshops in 2006 – 2010 and allows to formulate
Carpathian and Alpine Mobility Conformity
Council conclusions on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

3083rd GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 13 April 2011

12. STRESSES that the application of existing funds and financial instruments supporting the involvement of third countries participating in the implementation of the Strategy should be fully aligned with relevant external EU strategies and policies which also determine the relevant external lending mandates of the European Investment Bank.

13. STRESSES the importance of due involvement of all EU Member States and all interested stakeholders on transnational, regional and local level, as appropriate, in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

14. While stressing the primarily internal character of the strategy and the necessity to preserve the integrity of the EU decision making, ACKNOWLEDGES that the inclusion and participation of third countries is crucial if the desired objectives of the strategy are to be achieved.

18. INVITES the Member States concerned and the Commission to explore the possible interconnections and synergies between the two existing macro-regional strategies, namely the EU Strategies for the Baltic Sea Region and the Danube Region, CALLS ON the European Commission to ensure on this basis the coherent development of both macro-regions, including infrastructural connections between them.