MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE DANUBE COMMISSION

AND

THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE – EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION
(hereinafter “the MoU”)

between

the Secretariat of the Danube Commission, with a principal address at Benczúr utca 25, 1068 Budapest, Hungary,

and

the Central European Initiative – Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES), with a principal address at Via Genova 9, 34121 Trieste, Italy,

referred to individually as the “Partner” or jointly as the “Partners”.

The two Partners recall that the Danube Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “DC”) is an international intergovernmental organisation established by the Convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube signed in Belgrade on 18 August 1948, whose activities aim primarily to provide and develop free navigation on the Danube for commercial vessels flying the flags of all States in accordance with the interests and sovereign rights of the Member States of the aforementioned Convention of 18 August 1948, as well as to strengthen the economic and cultural relations between these States and those with other countries and to contribute to the creation of a unified navigation system of inland waterways in Europe. Taking due account of the aforementioned, the priority field of work of the DC focuses on unifying and providing mutual recognition of the most important regulatory documents required for navigation on the Danube and on the other sections of the unified navigation system, thus contributing to the improvement of navigation conditions and safety of navigation and generating requirements for the integration of the Danube into the European system as a significant transport corridor.

Furthermore, with a view to ensuring the aforementioned integration, the DC actively cooperates with the relevant international bodies involved in different aspects of inland waterway transport, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, the European Commission and others.

The two Partners recall that the Central European Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the “CEI”) was established in Budapest on 11 November 1989 as a regional intergovernmental forum for cooperation and consultation between its Member States

and that the strategic approach of the CEI to regional cooperation has the following objectives: to support CEI Member States on their path towards European integration, to promote the alignment of CEI Member States to EU standards, to implement small and medium-sized projects, to be open to converting constructive ideas into innovative results.
The two Partners take into account that the CEI in its efforts to make a significant contribution to European integration combines multilateral diplomacy and project management, both as donor and recipient, and in this way also serves as a bridge between European macro-regions

and that the CEI, as part of the European integration process, cooperates with European organisations and institutions, in particular with the European Union, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, as well as with other regional cooperation initiatives in areas of mutual interest,

and also that the CEI focuses its activities on the fields of: transport, climate and environment, energy efficiency and renewable energy, SMEs, research and innovation, education, information society, intercultural cooperation, as well as media and civil society and is thus geared towards the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The two Partners note that a number of the priority fields of the DC and the CEI as well as the geographical area of activity coincide.

They wish to ensure they have a mutually beneficial relationship by joining forces as well as by consolidating and enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

They have furthermore recognised that cooperation can offer benefits in the form of tangible effects and efficiency of their respective programmes and faster achievement of their common objectives.

The two Partners have thus come to the following understanding:

I. Purpose

The present MoU will provide a general framework for cooperation between the two Partners and for the strengthening of their relations in line with their strategic and statutory documents.

II. Modalities of Cooperation

In order to ensure smooth communication as well as continuous exchange of information on current and planned activities of common interest, envisaged meetings, publications and other issues relevant for regional cooperation in the interest of effective collaboration, the two Partners will designate a contact point.

Each Partner may submit to the other Partner a concrete proposal for cooperation. The two Partners are fully aware that the realisation of the cooperation depends on decisions taken in accordance with the internal rules and regulations of each of the Partners.

The following types of cooperation will be considered:

1. Mutual involvement of and interaction between experts participating in specific cooperation activities arising from this MoU in jointly agreed priority fields as well as in the promotion of regional programmes/activities/projects of common
interest through the join preparation and carrying out of activities, in particular
drawing up joint applications to EU programmes.

2. Mutual participation in events of common interest.

3. Secure visibility and provide public relations coverage of joint events and
activities using various media (for example, newsletters, websites etc.).

4. Other initiatives important for the optimum development of this cooperation.

III. Amendments

The provisions of the present MoU may be amended in writing at any time by mutual
agreement.

IV. Duration

This MoU will be applied upon signature by the two Partners and will be renewed each
year by tacit agreement unless either Partner advises otherwise in writing.


For the Secretariat of the Danube Commission

(signature)

PETAR MARGIC, DIRECTOR GENERAL

For the Central European Initiative – Executive Secretariat

(signature)

Amb. GIOVANNI CARACCIULO DI VETRI, SECRETARY GENERAL