



PRESS RELEASE

Participation of H.E. Ambassador Miklós Lengyel,
Vice-President of the Danube Commission
in the 11th Vienna Economic Forum
(Vienna, November 24, 2014)

On 24 November 2014 Miklós Lengyel, Vice-President of the Danube Commission participated in the work of the 11th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Summit 2014. The forum under the motto “Visions and responsibilities in a changing time” was officially opened by dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria.

After the main statement of the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Werner Faymann, contributions were made by high ranking foreign dignitaries including Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria Tomislav Donchev, Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Ambassador Dr. Margit Waestfelt, Alternate Secretary General of the Central European Initiative (CEI). Participants in the discussion exchanged views relating topics of the economy in Danube and the Black Sea region, the state of the Turkish economy, development, new ideas and further opportunities in the regional cooperation, the role information technology for common benefits of the region as well as the importance of energy efficiency.

Particularly interesting for the Danube Commission was the third session with the motto “As long as the Danube and the Black Sea connect us – responsibility for today and for the future. Cooperation is on demand!” The panel which was moderated by the President of Vienna Economic Forum Dr. Erhard Busek included panelists from different countries and international organizations. Among others presentations were made by Miklós Lengyel, Vice President of the Danube Commission, Mr. Alan Paic, Head of the Investment Compact for South East Europe, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Mr. Mihai Daraban, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, Member of the Committee of Presidents of the Economic Chambers of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Boris Vujcic, Governor of the National Bank of Croatia, Member of the Governors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum, Prof. Dr. Helmut Habersack, Universität für Bodenkultur, UNESCO Chair for “Integrated River Research and Management” and Dr. Strahil Karapchanski, Deputy Mayor of Russe. Interesting projects and ideas along the river Danube and in the Black Sea Region were raised. All participants agreed that more coordinated efforts as well as concrete projects are needed to better utilize the vast potentials of the region. To achieve tangible results it is inevitable to better cooperate not only on the level of the member countries’ governments but also among the related fields and institutions.

Vice-President of the Danube Commission in its statement emphasized that the Danube Commission is one of the oldest intergovernmental organizations in Europe dealing with the aspects of navigation on the Danube, the world's most international river basin, as it includes the territories of 19 countries, and the longest river for international navigation in Europe.

Among the latest initiatives reflecting the onset of new positive developments in the Danube region he underlined the "Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan: Danube and its navigable tributaries", drafted within the EUSDR which provides measures for ensuring harmonised waterway infrastructure parameters along the entire Danube and its navigable tributaries,

He drew attention to a very important line within the DC's cooperation network: negotiations with the DG MOVE on the Administrative Arrangement concerning a framework for cooperation between the Secretariat of the Danube Commission and the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission (DG MOVE). Under the Arrangement, among the priority areas of cooperation are technical requirements for infrastructure maintenance in the field of inland navigation and coordination of the implementation of a Master Plan for the maintenance of the Danube navigability and the improvement of comprehensive waterway management of the Danube river basin. The Arrangement and further cooperation on infrastructure projects and the Danube maintenance measures will enable the DC to make an essential contribution to solve technical problems and to eliminate bottlenecks.

Participation of the representative of the DC at the Vienna Forum provided an excellent chance to present the Danube Commission to the international and the regional community as an important regional organization representing national interests of member countries related to inland navigation. Invitation to this annual prestigious forum served to raise the image of the Danube Commission as well as to its communicate main objectives for enhancing regional cooperation through improving conditions for inland water transport networks.

