

PRESS RELEASE

Participation of General Director of the Danube Commission Secretariat at the 120 years' anniversary of Constanta Port.

(Krems, Austria 06 October 2016)

On October 6, 2016, the National Company Maritime Ports Administration Constanta (Romania) in partnership with the shipping Company Mierka Donauhafen Krems organised the 11th edition of «Constanta Port Day». This year the National Company Maritime Ports Administration Constanta has celebrated 120 years since the inauguration of the works on the modern Port of Constanta.

Like every year, Constanta Port Day in Krems enjoys an important participation, through the topics approached in the presentations, but especially through the level of presenting the participants from 11 countries (Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, Germany, Croatia, Belgium and Hungary), representatives from Austrian ports at the Danube, international organizations, diplomats etc.



For the first time, this edition was attended by the representatives of the port of Aktau in Kazakhstan and port of Baku in Azerbaijan as important part of the new route, so called «Silk road».

The Danube Commission has been represented by **Mr. Petar Margic**, General Director of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission.

Dimitrios Theologitis, Head of Unit Ports and Inland Navigation, DG MOVE – European Commission, had an interesting and cognitive presentation. He has mentioned that «Silk road» represents a new connection for the Europe, the Danube river being a very important part of this route. The message of the event, emphasized by Dimitrios Theologitis, is that the Danube has a key role in this respect on one hand, but is a subject of worries because of low water and lack of the maintenance on the other hand.

According to the panelist, there are two viable alternatives, how to solve the situation, namely:

- ✓ at the political level (through declarations, statements etc.). Relevant declarations were signed in Luxemburg (June 2012), Brussels (2014) and in Rotterdam (2016)
- ✓ at the technic level, through the projects promoted by European Commission, Danube Commission and Pro Danube International.



The strategic objective of the event relates to maintaining and developing the transport relations and exchange of goods within the European Union, identifying the new areas of interest in order to attract new flows of goods. Special attention should also be paid to the establishment of partnerships with new ports in order to encourage the opening of new shipping lines with calls in the Romanian ports, (respectively to set up multimodal connections with other ports too)

and as well as to the increase of the interest for a commercial corridor Central Europe - Caspian Sea, using the port of Constanta as a transit port.