

PRESS RELEASE

participation of General Director of the Danube Commission Secretariat at the Conference on Multimodal Freight Transport

(20 March 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria)

On March 20, 2018 a high – level *Conference on European Multimodal Freight Transport* was held in Sofia. The Conference was organized at the initiative of the European Commissioner for Transport, Mrs. Violeta Bulc and Minister of Transport, Information, Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Ivalo Moskovski.

This Conference represented a *forum* which gathered the key transport stakeholders being as a part - event of the 2018 year of Multimodality.

The Conference on European Multimodal Freight Transport enjoys an important participation, through the topics approached in the Conference Sessions, but especially through the level of the participants from the different sectors of the transport. The Danube Commission has been represented by **Mr. Petar Margic**, General Director of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission.



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The discussions were divided in 4 Sessions, reflecting different important transport topics as well as being discussed solutions for the most stringent problems in the field.

Session 1 – Towards a sustainable and integrated European multimodal transport system.

This Session addressed challenges and opportunities including enablers such as digitalization as well as innovative concepts for more suitable and efficient multimodal transport and logistics chains in Europe and beyond. Moderator of the Session was Mrs. Magda Kopczynska, Director, DG Mobility and Transport, European Commission.

Session 2 – Role of rail and port connections for efficient multimodal freight transport and logistics.

This Session put into the discussion the importance of rail and port connections for multimodal transport addressing operational issues as well as multimodal infrastructure including terminals, hinterland access, last – mile accessibility. Moderator of the Session was Mr. Matthew Baldwin, deputy Director – General, DG Mobility and Transport, European Commission

Session 3 – Multimodal challenges and opportunities for the region.

This session elaborated challenges and opportunities for multimodal transport in the region, addressing infrastructure gaps, missing links, investment plans and best practice in order to move towards a seamless transport network and well connected with the neighboring regions. Moderator of the Session was Mrs. Maja Bakran, Deputy Director General, DG Mobility and Transport, European Commission.

Session 4 – Sustainable Funding Architecture.

The Session discussed possible funding mechanisms especially for transport infrastructure, with a specific view on the financial challenges for multimodal connections between EU and the European Western Balkan countries. Moderator of the Session was Mr. Dimitar Savov, director of nautical Transport Policy Directorate, Ministry of Transport, Information, Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Mrs. Violeta Bulc in her presentation mentioned the strong believe that until 2030 all the transport corridors will be completed and all the parameters will be solved but until 2030 should be undertake a huge work in this sense.