

## THE DANUBE STRATEGY AND THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION



## Map of the Danube Carpathian Region (source: WWF Danube Carpathian Programme)



## Public Consultation process for the ESDR

Inputs on behalf of the Carpathian Convention submitted to EC, DG Regio,  
KEY MESSAGES

- The substantive scope of the Danube Region Strategy – which includes both the Danube river and its basin and the Carpathian mountains (besides other important mountain regions in South East Europe) – should include the priorities of the Carpathian region. Therefore, it should be of **cross-sectoral and integrated nature**, prominently including issues of environmental protection and regional development. A full analysis of main challenges in demography, agriculture, industry, urban network, cultural and natural heritage, transport, environment, tourism, and recommendations for support and action, can be found in the VASICA;
- The future EU Danube Region Strategy should take into consideration the vast experience and build on the priorities identified within the existing tools of **multi-level governance and regional and sub-regional cooperation, such as the Carpathian Convention and the ICPR;**



## Public Consultation process for the ESDR

- The Carpathians are a unique natural treasure of European and global importance. Therefore, **the preservation and enhancement of their natural heritage** – as a unique strength and key element of regional development – must be ensured in line with EU policies (e.g. improving effectiveness of **management of Natura 2000 sites** in the Carpathians, application of **environmental impact assessments** to projects etc.).
- Future EU transnational programmes in this region should be based on **macro-regional approaches**. This should allow that sustainable development priorities of the **Carpathian Space** will be addressed through better coordination of existing or new EU programmes. **The strategic and programme framework should allow to address the Carpathians in their integrity, avoiding a split in different programmes or strategies.**
- A specific chapter on the Carpathian Space ("Carpathian macro-region"), taking into account the specific features of the area, could be elaborated within the **EU Danube Region Strategy**.



December 2010: European Commission Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the accompanying Action Plan



Source: henchelbure.com



## Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Action - "To reinforce the Carpathian Convention to share best practices on using **biomass** for energy purposes". The Carpathian Convention includes a provision that Parties shall pursue policies aiming at introducing environmentally sound methods for the production, distribution and use of energy, which minimises adverse effects on biodiversity and landscapes, including wider use of renewable energy sources.

*Example of project* - "To set-up a cooperation mechanism between the regions of the Alpine Convention and the regions of the Carpathian Convention for the transfer of best practices, best available technologies, environmental and social know-how".



### To manage environmental risks

Various mining activities which take place in the Carpathians present serious danger

Action - "Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research. A preparatory action "Climate of the Carpathian Basin" launched before the end of 2010.



### To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts

Attractive landscapes (e.g. the Delta as a UNESCO World Heritage Site). They range from the developed tourism destination of the Austrian Wachau to emerging destinations such as the Iron Gate, the Carpathians and the Delta.

"To establish the Danube Region as important European tourist destination". The Carpathians should also be promoted as a destination with tourist infrastructure and services to be further developed.



### To restore and maintain the quality of waters

The drainage area of the Danube is also influenced by two major mountain chains: the Alps and the Carpathians.

Action – Implementation of the DRBMP; complete and adopt tributaries' RBMPs



### To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

The Danube Region includes the major part of the Carpathian Mountains, the Balkans and part of the Alps.

Action - "To manage Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas effectively". The action could be implemented e.g. ... through the Carpathian Networks of Protected Areas. ALPARC can serve as successful example.



### To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

Example of project - "To develop the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor"

This project aims to reconstruct and improve the function and permeability of the traditional wildlife corridor within the urban agglomeration Vienna-Bratislava for red deer, lynx, wolfs or bears by means of "traverse support" and green bridges. A cross border project in cooperation between Austria and Slovakia is already in the implementation phase.

Project Website:  
[www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at](http://www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at)



### To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

Example of project - "To implement the VASICA - Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian area", including the "BIOREGIO Carpathians" project.

VASICA is the first transnational spatial development document for the entire Carpathian Space. Its main objective is to support the Carpathian Space as an area of economic, social and environmental progress and sustainability. "BIOREGIO Carpathians" will promote the regional development and improve the ecological connectivity in the Carpathian region. (Lead: Carpathian Convention UNEP Office).



## Danube Strategy

Carpathian Strategy and projects  
to implement EUSDR to be  
developed



## Preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian region

**EC Service Contract** for  
the INTEGRATED  
assessment of  
vulnerability of  
environmental resources  
and ecosystem-based  
adaptation measures

**EC Framework Contract**  
for the IN-DEPTH  
assessment...

2 Mio. EUR

