

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

List of targets agreed by the Steering Groups

This document presents the targets agreed by the Steering Groups of each Priority Area (PA). The High Level Group of Member States will be consulted on these targets.

Background:

- The Commission strongly believes that setting targets is essential, to focus and prioritise efforts.
- Targets have been discussed by the Steering Groups (with representatives of all the Danube Countries, the Commission - both DG Regional Policy and sectoral DGs - and, where appropriate, the International Convention for the Protection of the Danube River - ICPDR). The targets proposed by the Commission as examples could be either maintained as such, or amended, or replaced, or completed with additional ones.
- Targets will apply to Member States. Non Member States will be encouraged to strive towards them in the light of their specific circumstances.
- The targets will be monitored closely in the context of Commission reporting.

PA1A - 'To improve mobility and multimodality/ inland waterways'

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- ***“Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010”.***
- ***“Development of efficient multimodal terminals at Danube River ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020”.***

Targets proposed in the Communication which were amended:

- ***“Solve obstacles to navigability, taking into account the specific characteristics of each section of the Danube and its navigable tributaries and establish effective waterway infrastructure management by 2015”.*** This target amends the one proposed in the Communication: “Remove existing navigability bottlenecks on the river so as to accommodate type VIb vessels all year round by 2015”, which was accompanied by the a footnote stating that “The international classification of European Inland Waterways (UNECE/TRANS/120/Rev.4, p. 28/29) in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) classifies the parameters for motor vessels and pushed convoys. In the present text, category VIb uniquely refers to pushed convoys and inland waterway vessels with a draught of up to 2.5m”.

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:



- *“Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data by 2015”.*
- *“Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonize education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures”.*

PA1B - ‘To improve mobility and multimodality/ road, rail and air links’

***** These targets still need to be confirmed officially by the PACs *****

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- *“Improved travel times for competitive railway passenger connections between major cities”.*
- *“Achievement of national targets based on the Europe 2020 climate and energy targets”.*

Targets proposed in the Communication which were amended:

- *“Implementation of the 4 Rail Freight Corridors crossing the Danube Region as planned within 3 or 5 years and possible inclusion of a new corridor with added value of linking together the EU and non-EU member states’ railway systems”.* This target amends the target proposed in the Communication “Implementation of the 4 Rail Freight Corridors crossing the Danube Region as planned within 3 or 5 years”.
- *“Development of efficient multimodal terminals at Danube river ports and dry ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020”.* This target amends the target proposed in the Communication “Development of efficient multimodal terminals at Danube river ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020”.

PA2 - ‘To encourage more sustainable energy’

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- *“Achievement of national targets based on the Europe 2020 climate and energy targets”.*

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:

- *“Remove existing bottlenecks in energy transport in countries of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in order to allow reverse flow of gas by 2015”.*
- *“Strengthen cooperation of the Energy Community countries with international financial institutions to upgrade the EC countries’ energy infrastructure and energy markets by 2015”.*



In addition, the Steering Group has agreed on the following policy objective: “The EU Member States of the Steering Group agreed to further elaborate the overarching European energy policy goals based on the Energy 2020 goals 'a strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy' with special attention to the energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond and to work towards the completion of the energy internal market; the non Member States are aspiring to achieving these goals”.

PA3 - ‘To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts’

***** These targets still need to be confirmed officially by the PACs - expected 22 July*****

PA4 - ‘To restore and maintain the quality of waters’

Targets proposed in the Communication which were amended:

- **“Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan”**. This target amends the target proposed in the Communication: “Achieve the environmental targets set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan”.
- **“Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s”**. This target amends the target proposed in the Communication: “Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960”.
- **“Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015”**. This target amends the target proposed in the Communication: “Complete and adopt the Delta management Plan by 2013”.
- **“Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species”**. This target amends the target proposed in the Communication: “Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020, combating invasive species”. NB: In the PA6 ‘To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils’, a new target covers the issue of invasive species “By 2020, Invasive Alien Species and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Invasive Alien Species”.

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:

- **“Elaborate, adopt and implement the sub-basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-basins”**.

PA5 - ‘To manage environmental risks’

***** Further targets may be added at a later stage*****

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:



- *“Implement Danube wide flood risk management plans - due in 2015 under the Floods Directive – to include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change”.*

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:

- *“Update of the accidental risk spots inventory at the Danube River Basin level by 2013”.*

PA6 - ‘To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils’

Targets proposed in the Communication which were amended:

- *“To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement, adapted to the special needs of the Danube Region by 2020”.* This target amends the target proposed in the communication “Draw up effective management plans for all Natura 2000 sites”.
- *“Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020”.* This target amends the target proposed in the Communication “Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020, combating invasive species”.

****** On this target, there are still discussions ongoing between PACs and DG Environment***

- *“Reduce by 25% the area affected by soil erosion exceeding 10 tonnes per hectare by 2020”.* ***

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:

- *“By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems”.*
- *“By 2020, Invasive Alien Species and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Invasive Alien Species”.*

PA7 - ‘To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies’

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- *“To invest 3% of GDP in Research and Development by 2020”.*
- *“Broadband access for all EU citizens in the Region by 2013”.*
- *“Increase the number of patents obtained in the Region by 50%”.*

PA8 - ‘To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development’



***** These targets will be further discussed and developed*****

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:

- *“Establishing a cluster network for the EUSDR (identification of the founded institutions in this connection, as well as the existing networks)”*.
- *“Improvement of the vocational training, subject to participation by the private sector (a dual system of practice and theory) through pilot projects (identifying the potential institutions, as well as the partners and projects)”*.
- *“Improvement of the technological transfer through establishing measures like consulting services by chambers and other institutions or organizations, typically in cooperation with the Priority Area Coordinator 7 (PAC 7)”*.
- *“Better use of environmental technologies, like for example: sewage treatment, refuse disposal, generation of energy from renewable resources, etc., first of all, through determination of the regional decision-makers concerning submission of the applications”*.

PA9 - ‘To invest in people and skills’

***** Further targets may be added at a later stage*****

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- *“Increase the share of the EU population aged 30-34 with tertiary or equivalent education to 40% by 2020”*.

PA10 - ‘To step up institutional capacity and cooperation’

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- *“Establishing benchmarks for e-government and reducing excessive bureaucracy by 2012”*.
- *“Maximum 4 weeks for business start-up permissions by 2015”*.

PA11 - ‘To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime’

Targets proposed in the Communication which were maintained:

- *“Efficient exchange of information between relevant law enforcement actors by 2015 with the aim of improving security and tackling serious and organised crime in the 14 countries”*.
- *“Effective co-operation between relevant law enforcement actors by 2015”*.

Targets which were added to those of the Communication:



- *“Promoting the rule of law. - Assistance for participating countries by deepening and promoting the idea of the rule of law and strengthening and developing further democratic structures. Promoting (legal) certainty for the people by fighting against corruption”.*