



GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER
EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Budapest, 14/03/2014

Subject: request to NCPs to confirm SG members and ensure representation of DRS countries in the 7th SG meeting of Priority Area 4 and 5 in Budapest

Dear Colleagues,

According to the prior “save the date” message sent out to Steering Group members of the Priority Areas 4 and 5 (PA) the next meeting of the **Steering group of PA4** will be held in Budapest, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Budapest, Bem tér, on **28 March**;

AND

the **Steering Group of PA5** will be held in the Central Directorate for Water Management (1012 Budapest, Márvány st. 1.c.) on **27 March**.

These Priority Areas are tasked by such responsible tasks as

(PA4) ensuring water quality and good status of our waters, sustainable drinking water supply for the Danube Region: a functional area as a river basin. All citizens and enterprises rely heavily in those services while we have to overcome increasing challenges in terms of climate change and providing efficient answers to such challenges in an economic crisis to ensure competitiveness of the region both from the aspects of risks and cost efficiency.

(PA5) ensuring prevention and preparedness to floods and droughts, industrial risks. The devastating floods of last year exceeding historic peak levels reminded all of us to the frequency weather and flood extremities in the past decade. Just in the last months several extreme weather occurrences left hundreds of thousands in the Danube Region without electricity supply in a snowstorm and traffic and supplies were heavily affected in many countries. Without assistance from other Danube region countries the consequences could be more severe. Future risks demand common preparedness and interoperation of Danube Region administrations including operative bodies, a cooperation already being developed in the framework of PA5.

All these should be also coordinated throughout priority areas that are linked to water related sectors, enterprises, education and cooperation.

For the first time the Danube Region countries can leverage from a powerful tool that not only allows the alignment of policies but also provides the alignment of funding to step up for meeting such challenges: the EU DRS. In this decisive period it is our responsibility to use this platform up to its full potential : we owe it to the 112 million citizens of the region and our partners in this task like the ICPDR. **Therefore it is of utmost importance that each and every Danube country is represented at the forthcoming Steering Group Meetings.**



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The meetings will address major tasks and development as the scientific methods and models supporting the DRS tasks in river basin management (early warning issues and recent studies on buffer zones) as introduced on the high level scientific conference on river basin management serving as a Stakeholder Conference of the Pillar 2 of the EU SDR held in Budapest, September 2013. (PA5) , as well as and substantial programs as the status of the macro-regional flood management and civil protection cooperation review and implementation program started in the framework of the PA5 at the initiative of high level political leaders of the Commission and Danube Region countries.

We would like emphasize that the full representation of the Danube Region is not only our general responsibility but also a clear expectation from the side of the Commission.

As for the aforementioned you are kindly requested to

- please make sure that the SG member or an alternate member with proper mandate attends the SG meeting;**
- please make sure that the SG meeting participant is confirmed to the PACs preferably until the 20th of March.**

For SG members representing countries not members of the European Union the travel costs might be covered to ensure participation. Should the SG member require such assistance it is requested that Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper (kocsiskupperzs@t-online.hu, PA4) and Zsófia Ekés (ekeszsofia@gmail.com, PA5) to be contacted via e-mail without hesitation so the proper arrangements must be ensured in a timely manner.

In case you should you foresee any problems please contact us so we can find a way to resolve it to ensure a full representation of all DRS countries.

Your help is highly appreciated. I remain positive that our common efforts combined with the opportunities the next Multiannual Financial Framework provides in mobilizing the potentials in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region will prove that even in a challenging time of global crisis of competitiveness and climate change the Danube Region might be a driver for safer, more competitive and inclusive Europe for the benefit of its citizens.

Best regards,



Balázs Medgyesy

Government Commissioner

National Contact Point for Hungary