



Budapest, 15 October 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the host country and EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) Pillar B Priority Area Coordinators, and on behalf of the Government Commissioner for the EUSDR of Hungary please allow us to invite you to the stakeholder seminar of the of the Pillar B. (Protecting the Environment) of EUSDR presenting its aim, work progress and challenges.

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission, together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together. It seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and activities taking place across the Danube Region. It involves 14 Danube Region countries (8 EU Member States and 6 candidate or neighbouring countries) and has a broad spectrum of 11 priority areas from transportation to sustainable energy; river basin management to traditional security. These priority areas are to harmonize efforts with each other to provide an efficient and integrated set of policies for the macroregion. The broad goals of the EU SDR cover more efficient use of existing EU and national financial resources for regional development; reducing regional disparities on macroregional level and renewed EU partnership with neighbouring regions.

The environmental issues are associated with three priority areas (PAs), such as Water Quality (PA4), Environmental Risk (PA5) and Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality (PA6). These priority areas address various aspects and specific tools and actions for the same geographic and ecological features: rivers and basins, lands and habitats. While focused actions in river basin management, flood protection, civil protection and emergency preparedness, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and landscapes, soil protection and improvement of air quality are essential, these shared features also present the opportunity and obligation of cooperation, reflected by the common stakeholder seminar of priority areas within the Pillar B.

You are kindly invited to participate in this stakeholder seminar.

The seminar will introduce the structure, modus operandi, plans and achievements of the Pillar B. of EUSDR, as well as some projects relevant to the three Priority Areas.



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**The seminar will take place in Danubius Hotel Helia
(62-64 Kárpát utca, Budapest, HUNGARY 1133)
on 6 November 2012 from 9.00 to 17.00.**

Please find the detailed programme and registration form attached to this invitation letter. You are kindly asked to return the registration form, in case you are interested in any of the priority Areas to the respective email address, detailed in the registration form, by 26 October:

Your participation will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. László PERGER
PA4 coordinator
from Hungary

Dr. Péter BAKONYI
PA5 coordinator
from Hungary

Dr. Florian BALLNUS
PA6 coordinator
from Bavaria

also on behalf of the PACs of co-coordinator countries.

Balázs MEDGYESY
Government Commissioner



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