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## WEGROW Empowered for a TOGETHER prosperous and inclusive TOGETHER Danube Region WEGROW

26 & 27 June 2014 Vienna City Hall, Austria 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region





EUROPE INTEGRATION FOREIGN AFFAIRS FEDERAL MINISTRY REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



## PREFACE

In the DANUBE REGION, the opportunities for joint development and intensified co-operation are wide-ranging: be it more energy security through better networks, improved water quality or enhanced competitiveness through technology transfer. The EU Strategy for the Danube Region makes a better Europe a reality, in a region still marked by varying degrees of political and economic integration. We must now make sure that initiatives and projects are sustainable with clear funding through to 2020.

The **2014 ANNUAL FORUM** is the main event of the year for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Political, civil society and business representatives from the 14 Danube countries will discuss and decide how best to drive the region forward – under the frame "We grow together – Together we grow".

**WE GROW TOGETHER** represents the EU goals of economic, territorial and social cohesion. This is particularly relevant for the sustainable development of the Danube area.

**TOGETHER WE GROW** recalls that the process is for the benefit of everybody involved. Inclusive development contributes to peace and well-being, and co-operation will itself contribute to the growth and international competitiveness of the Danube Region.

The **3**<sup>RD</sup> **ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EUSDR** is a big opportunity to meet, discuss and decide the future of the Danube Region. It is about perspectives for our citizens. We look forward to meeting you in Vienna.



Johannes Hahn Member of the European Commission



Sebastian Kurz Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria



Michael Häupl Mayor and Governor of Vienna

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### WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW ONE THEME – THREE PERSPECTIVES

#### INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AS A FOCUS AND PREREQUISITE OF PROSPERITY

The financial and economic crisis has had a disproportionately negative effect on many countries in the Danube Region. Against this backdrop, the EUSDR can become a catalyst for accelerated recovery, growth and employment by contributing towards deeper economic integration and cohesion in the Danube Region. However, in order to achieve dynamism and prosperity, the aspects of inclusiveness, competitiveness and ecological sustainability must be understood as being of equal importance for balanced development. By adding emphasis to the social dimension and the creation of jobs, the conference establishes a strong thematic link with the objectives of Europe 2020, i.e. sustainable growth, employment, education and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER EUROPEAN POLICIES FOR AN INTEGRATED AND COMPETITIVE DANUBE REGION

Inclusive, sustainable growth will result from policies that are conceived and delivered in partnership of government, business and civil society – be it equality strategies to combat social exclusion, investment in education and employment opportunities or high-value services of general interest. Finding innovative solutions at the interface of different policy areas (such as labour market, innovation and entrepreneurship policies, social and educational policies, etc.) and strengthening the capacities of actors and institutions are key to successfully addressing major challenges in the Danube region. Representing the successful interplay of sub-state, national and European policy levels, the instruments and priorities of the EU Structural and Investment Funds can contribute much to this agenda and the implementation of the EUSDR.

#### **GOVERNANCE AS A CRITERION OF SUCCESS FOR THE EUDSR**

On a macro-regional level, a "smart" and inclusive governance model promises reinforced dynamic and shared ownership in the process of implementing the Danube Region Strategy. In spring 2014, the European Commission will conduct a discussion process regarding the governance structures for European macro-regions that is to result in a Communication to the European institutions. Thus the Vienna Annual Forum 2014 offers a timely occasion to address questions of EUSDR governance itself: Who is to assume political leadership for the Strategy? How and who is leading the overall and day-to-day implementation of the Strategy? Who shall be the voice of the EUSDR vis-à-vis external parties? What is needed to ensure that the people in the Danube Region will be mobilised, activated and motivated to become partners in support of the Strategy and the implementation of its goals?



## **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

DAY 1	THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2014				
	12:00	Start of registration			
	12:30	Networking lunch			
	14:00	Conference opening WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW			
	14:40	Plenary session 1 danube potentials MIND THE GAP			
	16:00	Coffee break			
	16:30	Plenary session 2 danube challenges INVEST IN PEOPLE			
	18:00	End of conference day 1			
	19:30	Gala dinner danube influences TASTE VIENNA			

#### DAY 2 FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2014

09:00	Plenary session 3 danube cosmos INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY
09:30	Parallel activities danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 1)
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Parallel activities danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 2)
12:00	Parallel activities danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 3)
13:00	Business lunch
14:00	Plenary session 4 danube prospects FACILITATE NEW GOVERNANCE
15:30	Closing session AWARD & ANNUAL FORUM 2015
16:30	End of Annual Forum

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#### DAY 1 THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2014

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12:00	Start	of	reais	stratio	n

12:30 Networking lunch

#### 14:00 Conference opening

#### WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW

#### Welcome & introduction by conference moderator

• Greg Clark, city and regional development advisor, London

#### **Opening speeches**

Plenary session 1

- Johannes Hahn, Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional and Urban Policy
- Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria
- Michael Häupl, Mayor and Governor of Vienna

14:40

#### danube potentials MIND THE GAP

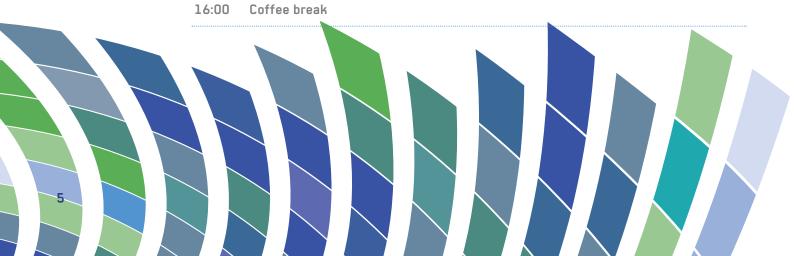
How to achieve accelerated recovery and deeper integration among the Danube countries? How can growth and higher employment levels contribute to cohesion and shared prosperity? Which policies and institutional capacities are needed to foster smart specialisation and economic success? – The 'state of the Danube region', between convergence and disparities, taking into account the challenges of competitiveness, social inclusion and good governance, is at the centre of this plenary session.

#### Keynote & comments

- Michael Landesmann, Director of Research, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)
- Bernhard Boockmann, Scientific Director, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IAW), Tübingen
- Georg Licht, Head of the Research Department of Industrial Economics and International Management, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim

#### Panel reflection and debate

- László Baranyay, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
- Christian Ketels, Harvard Business School (to be confirmed)
- Goran Svilanović, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council RCC, Sarajevo
- Charlina Vitcheva, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy



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16:30
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## Plenary session 2

danube challenges INVEST IN PEOPLE

From education and training to supporting innovation and creativity, from preventing early school leaving to active labour market strategies: competitiveness, inclusion and sustainable development result from balanced policies that take the often extensive know-how of local, regional and other stakeholders into account. In particular, this session assesses how employment opportunities can be created for young people and how labour mobility and the related braincirculation can be shaped to the advantage of all involved.

#### **Opening statement**

 Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, Federal Minister of Education and Women Affairs, Austria

#### Keynote

• Mike Campbell, Principal Associate Fellow, Institute for Employment Studies, UK

#### Panel reflection and debate

- Remus Pricopie, Minister of National Education, Romania (to be confirmed)
- Michel Servoz, Director-General, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (to be confirmed)
- Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (to be confirmed)

18:00 End of conference day 1
19:30 Gala dinner

Gala uniner

danube influences TASTE VIENNA

#### DAY 2 FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2014

#### 09:00 Plenary session 3

#### danube cosmos INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY

Get involved with the Danube community and meet the abundance of Danube themes, projects and initiatives! Pick from the wide choice of actions and arrange your individual morning programme: discuss in workshops, learn from good practices and experiences at speakers' corners, meet new partners and ideas in matchmaking areas, get first-hand information in coaching zones and browse the Danube exhibition.

#### Impulse

Mercedes Echerer, actress, writer, former MEP

#### Interviews introducing the activities of the Danube Cosmos with

 Johannes Lutter, Europaforum Wien – Centre for Urban Dialogue and European Policy



For details on the thematic focus and speakers of the parallel sessions please check out the conference website:

ww.danubeforumvienna.e

#### 09:30 danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 1)

Parallel sessions on the thematic pillars of the EU Danube Strategy

#### **Connecting the Region**

- Towards a Low Carbon Economy in the Danube Region Workshop
- Destination Danube Tourism Development Model Workshop

#### Protecting the Environment

- Active for a Safer Danube: Accident Prevention, Flood and Drought Management under Changing Climatic Conditions
   Workshop
- 20 Years of ICPDR: Active for a Living Danube Speakers' Corner

#### **Building Prosperity**

- Sustainability of the Danube Region as a Multidisciplinary Issue in Research and Education
   Workshop
- SIRA DANUBE Establishing Competences for Smart and Innovative Rural Areas in the Danube Region
   Speakers' Corner
- Investing in Inclusive and Innovative Education and Training for Better Socioeconomic Outcomes
- Workshop
- Vocational Training and EU Funding Opportunities Coaching Zone
- i.e. SMART The SMART Innovation Network for New Generation Enterprises: How to implement a transnational training network to promote entrepreneurial education, skills, and competences Presentation and Exhibition
- CEEPUS Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies Presentation and Exhibition
- Enhancing Interregional Competences Experiences and Good Practices from Lower Austria

Matchmaking

#### Strengthening the Region

- The Urban Agenda in the Danube Region Growing Together on the Urban Platform Workshop
- Creation of an eGovernance Platform for Digital Economy Development Presentation and Exhibition
- Danube Excellence Security and Safety of Critical Infrastructure, the Transformation of Regional Best Practices into a Joint Transborder University Workshop
- European Territorial Co-operation Projects From Project Idea to Application Workshop
- Geographical Information: A Key to Integrating, Managing, Analysing and Presenting Data in the Catchment Area
   Presentation and Exhibition

10:30 Coffee break

For details on the thematic focus and speakers of the parallel sessions please check out the conference website:

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#### **11:00** danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 2)

Parallel sessions on the thematic pillars of the EU Danube Strategy

#### Connecting the Region

- Industry Meets Policy Inland Waterway Navigation Event Workshop
- Project GREEN PARTNERSHIPS for Sustainable Energy Efficiency in Mediterranean Regions
- Presentation and Exhibition
- DanubeHIKE Cross-country Hiking Tourism Along the Danube Matchmaking

#### Protecting the Environment

- Synergy of the Danube Strategy with the Policy of the European Union Workshop
- Eco-economy and the Danube Region: Tradition, Nature, Innovation Presentation and Exhibition
- Flood Action Plan: A Comprehensive Action Plan for Flood Forecasting, Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation for the Danube Region Workshop

#### **Building Prosperity**

- Challenges and Approaches in Multi-source Funding of Cross-border R&I Projects with a Specific Focus on the Danube Region Workshop
- Scientific Research Innovation Clusters: The New Highway for Reindustrialisation of the EU Presentation and Exhibition
- Technology Transfer and Regional Competitiveness Pilot Initiatives in the Danube Region

Speakers' Corner

- Smart Business Association and Platform the Danube Chambers of Commerce Association and the Smart SME Platform Danube Region Speakers' Corner
- Investing in Inclusive and Innovative Education and Training for Better Socioeconomic Outcomes (part 2) Workshop
- Empowerment for an Inclusive Labour Market Workshop
- Stepping up Institutional Capacity for Roma Inclusion in the Danube Region Workshop

#### Stengthening the Region

- The Danube Civil Society Organisations: Stakeholders of the Danube Strategy Workshop
- Social Partnership for the Future: Fostering the Co-operation of Relevant Stakeholders in the Labour Market

Presentation and Exhibition

 Transnational Co-operation in the Danube Region and Beyond: Funding Opportunities of the New CENTRAL EUROPE and DANUBE Programmes Coaching Zone

For details on the thematic focus and speakers of the parallel sessions please check out the conference website:

vww.danubeforumvienna.e

#### 12:00 danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 3)

Parallel sessions on the thematic pillars of the EU Danube Strategy

#### Connecting the Region

- Industry Meets Policy Inland Waterway Navigation Event (part 2) Workshop
- Culture and Tourism the Danube Encounter Workshop
- ARGE Donau Österreich Presentation of Tourism-related Activities Along the Danube

#### Presentation and Exhibition

#### Protecting the Environment

- Crossing Borders, Crossing Sectors: Sustainable Navigation on a Healthy River Workshop
- Interoperability among Emergency Response Authorities with the Purpose of Risk Consequence Mitigation – the SEERISK and MASPREM Projects Speakers' Corner

#### **Building Prosperity**

- DREAM, Danubius, Urban Europe An Insight from Practice in Planning, Managing and Financing Multi-source Cross-border R&I Activities Speakers' Corner
- Research Talent Along the Danube How the River Can Inspire Scientific Careers Presentation and Exhibition
- Developing a Bio-based Economy Contributions and Needs of the Danube Region
   Speakers' Corner
- How Trade Fairs of the Central European Fair Alliance Network Can Boost the EUSDR and: DanuClus – Progress and Future of the Danube Cluster Networks Speakers' Corner
- Labour Mobility in Central and South-East Europe Challenges and Opportunities Workshop
- Empowering Young People Connecting Europe: Development and Implementation of Innovative Student-led Regional School Projects on "Shaping Life" in the Danube Region
   Speakers' Corner
- Lifeguides & Learning Journeys Presentation and Exhibition
- Common Sustainable Economic Activities Under the Umbrella of "Working Community of the Danube Regions"
   Presentation and Exhibition

#### Strengthening the Region

- Building Institutional Capacities in the Danube Region in Practice Presentation of Integrated Project Approaches & Exchange of Experiences
   Workshop
- Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Workshop
- How to Create and Prepare Feasible Projects? Financing Options and Technical Assistance under Relevant Operational Programmes and Bank Sources Coaching Zone

#### 13:00 Business lunch

#### 14:00 Plenary session 4

#### danube prospects FACILITATE NEW GOVERNANCE

The more stakeholders become mobilised in all priority areas, the more business will be able to make use of opportunities, and the more citizens and civil society are involved in its implementation, the more relevant the EUSDR will be for the development of the Danube Region. Three years after its adoption, this session will look at the way forward and at the governance, partnership and funding issues underlying the success of the EU macro-regional strategy.

#### Report from the European Commission

#### Governance concepts for the implementation of macro-regional strategies

 José Palma Andrés, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

#### Report from the informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The Vienna Declaration for Governance of the Danube Region

 Titus Corlățean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania, Annual Forum host 2013 (to be confirmed)

#### Panel debate on the Danube Region and the way forward

- Erhard Busek, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe IDM, Vienna
- **Tanja Miščević,** Government of the Republic of Serbia, Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of Serbia to the EU
- Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia-Herzegovina; ICPDR Chair 2013

#### 15:30 Closing session AWARD & ANNUAL FORUM 2015

Danube Challenge award ceremony

#### Outlook: The EUSDR Annual Forum 2015

 Peter Friedrich, Minister for European and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

#### Conference closing by hosts

- Johannes Hahn, Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional and Urban Policy
- Rudolf Hundstorfer, Federal Minister for Social Affairs, Austria
- Michael Ludwig, Executive City Councillor for Housing, Housing Construction and Urban Renewal of Vienna

16:30 End of Annual Forum

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## **REGISTRATION, VENUE AND TRAVEL**

#### **CONGRESS REGISTRATION**

Participation in the Annual Forum is free of charge. For your registration please use the electronic form on http://www.danubeforumvienna.eu. **Registration deadline: 13 June 2014** 

**CONGRESS LANGUAGES** English and German (simulaneous translation)

CONGRESS LOCATIONAll sessions of the Annual Forum as well as the evening reception will take place at the<br/>Vienna City Hall. Please use the entrances Felderstraße 1 or Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1.<br/>For the venues of additional related events please see the section "Related Events" below.



 PUBLIC TRANSPORT
 The City Hall can easily be reached by public transport (Underground line U2, "Rathaus" station). You can buy your tickets in each station or book them online: https://shop.wienerlinien.at/index.php/

- AIR TRAVELAustrian Airlines acts as official carrier for the event and offers a discount of 15% on all<br/>applicable fares if you book your flights online at <a href="http://www.austrian.com">http://www.austrian.com</a>. To do so, simply<br/>enter the code DFV14 in the eVoucher field on the Austrian homepage booking engine.Conditions
  - Booking period: now until June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014
  - Valid for flights to Vienna and return as of June19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 until July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (final date for return flight) on OS operated flights.
- AIRPORT TRANSFER There are several options for travel to and from the airport: metropolitan train ("S-Bahn" S7), City Airport Train ("CAT"), public shuttle bus, or taxi. For detailed information please see http://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/to-and-around/airport-to-center.

ACCOMMODATION For useful information regarding hotel reservations, please go to the website of the Vienna Tourist Board: http://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/hotels-accommodations

#### **ENTRY FORMALITIES – VISA**

If you are unsure whether you need an entry permit (visa) for travelling to Austria, please consult the information page of the Austrian Foreign Ministry: http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/consulate-general-new-york/practical-advice/visaand-residence-permit/

## **RELATED EVENTS**

24–26 June 2014	<b>HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON THE SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO THE DANUBE STRATEGY</b> One year after the launch of four scientific flagship clusters by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the event will take stock of the first activities undertaken in the frame of the scientific clusters, to present first results and decide on further actions. During the meeting it will be discussed how JRC can facilitate cooperation and help to overcome challenges in the implementation of the macro-regional strategy.
	<b>Venue:</b> Aula der Wissenschaften, Vienna <b>Contact:</b> Moritz Haller, moritz.haller@ec.europa.eu Attendance by invitation only
<b>25 June 2014</b> 11.30-18.00	<b>PARTICIPATION DAY: LOCAL ACTORS AND PARTICIPATION</b> The Conference, merging stakeholder meetings of the priority areas 9 and 10 of the Danube Strategy with the closing conference of the Danube River Show project, will enable international civil society and local actors from the 14 countries of the Danube Region to meet, exchange views and perceptions, and conduct in-depth discussions with EU and national decision-makers.
	<b>Venue:</b> Esterházy Palace, Eisenstadt <b>Contact:</b> Stefan August Lütgenau, luetgenau@foster-europe.org Public event – open to all
<b>25 June</b> (9.30) – <b>26 June 2014</b> (13.00)	THEMATIC SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS: LEARNING, TEACHING, EXCHANGING – SCHOOL         COOPERATIONS IN THE DANUBE REGION         The seminar organized by the National Agency for Lifelong Learning, the Austrian National         eTwinning Support Service and PAC 9 focuses on teacher cooperation in the Danube         region. The participants will have the possibility to learn more about the Danube Region         and its challenges in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century and to create future partnerships.
	Venue: Vienna Contact: Martin Gradl, etwinning@oead.at
	Teachers interested in participating have to contact the eTwinning National Support Services of their home countries first. For a contact list please see http://www.etwinning.net/de/pub/get_support/contact.htm
<b>26 June 2014</b> 10.00-12.00 (registration starting at 9.30)	COUNCIL OF DANUBE CITIES AND REGIONS (CoDCR) – EXTENDED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE The meeting shall bring together mayors and representatives of cities and regions in the Danube countries to discuss further cooperation and upcoming projects in the frame of the "Urban Platform Danube Region".
	Further information: http://www.danubecities.eu Venue: Vienna City Hall, "Wappensaal" Contact: Peter Langer, p.langer@ulm.de Public event – open to all



## **RELATED EVENTS**

<b>26 June 2014</b> 16.00-18.00	<b>MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE DANUBE REGION</b> The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries in the Danube area will meet with the objective of consulting and conveying political messages regarding the future governance of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.
	<b>Venue:</b> Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria <b>Contact:</b> Andrea Nasi, andrea.nasi@bmeia.gv.at Attendance by invitation only
<b>27 June 2014</b> 08.30-09.30	<b>INDUSTRY MEETS POLICY – HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE</b> The Dialogue, initiated and coordinated by Pro Danube, will unite high level representatives from the industry with political decision-makers in order to formulate concrete measures to improve the current infrastructure situation along the Danube.
	<b>Venue:</b> Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Austria <b>Contact:</b> Manfred Seitz, seitz@prodanubeaustria.at Irina Cruceru, irina.cruceru@ec.europa.eu Attendance by invitation only
29 June 2014	DANUBE DAY On the 29 June of each year, the 14 countries of the Danube Basin jointly celebrate one of Europe's greatest river systems and the people and wildlife that rely on it. Further information: http://www.danubeday.org Contact: Benedikt Mandl, benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org Series of public events – open to all
1/2 July 2014	<b>CENTRAL EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE</b> The conference will introduce future funding priorities and possibilities in CENTRAL EUROPE and discuss these with key decision makers from the regional, national, and European levels.
	<b>Further information:</b> http://www.central2013.eu <b>Venue:</b> Vienna City Hall <b>Contact:</b> Dana Kascakova, info@central2013.eu Public event – open to all



### **CONFERENCE ORGANISERS**



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is organised by the European Commission together with the Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna

#### European Commission

**City of Vienna** 

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional\_policy

#### EUROPE INTEGRATION FOREIGN AFFAIRS FEDERAL MINISTRY REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

**Republic of Austria** Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/foreign-ministry/startpage.html



Executive Group for European and International Affairs http://www.wien.gv.at/english/politics/international/

## **SPONSORS**



Austrian Airlines acts as official carrier for the event. http://www.austrian.com

Hafen Wien – the port of Vienna http://www.hafen-wien.com

#### **CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT** OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FORUM



europaforum wien – Center for Urban Dialogue and European Policy Rahlgasse 3/2 | 1060 Wien Tel. +43-1-5858510-0 office@europaforum.or.at http://www.europaforum.or.at

### **CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

http://www.danubeforumvienna.eu

#### FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Website of the Danube Region Strategy: http://www.danube-region.eu

Information page of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/regional\_policy/cooperate/danube/index\_en.cfm

