



# THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

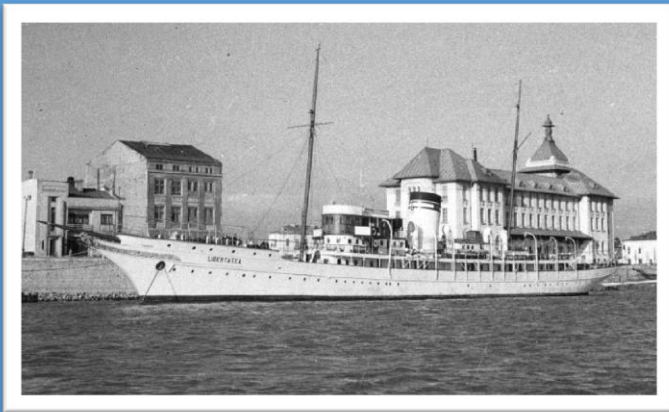


Sofia,  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MINISTER DELEGATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

# HISTORY AND TRADITION



- ✓ **Romania has a very long history of managing affairs of the Danube**
- ✓ The first European body to manage navigation on the Danube, **the European Commission of the Danube**, established in 1856, with initial headquarters at Galați, was one of the first European institutions
- ✓ After the end of the Second World War, **the Danube Commission**, an international intergovernmental organization established by the Convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube, has been created in 1948, with Romania being among the first seven founding members
- ✓ **The European Union Strategy for the Danube Region**, one of the four existing macro-strategies of the European Union, was co-initiated by Romania and Austria and launched in 2011



# ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF EUSDR

- ✓ Romania, as co-initiator of the EUSDR, continues to be fully committed to its effective implementation. During its rotating Presidency (November 2018 - October 2019), Romania will bear the responsibility of **managing the process of revision of the EUSDR's Action Plan**
- ✓ Another technical endeavor that could give a push to the re-invigoration of the EUSDR consists in taking over together with Austria, of the EUSDR Secretariat. The official launching of the Danube Strategy Point's office from Bucharest will be held in the margins of the **EUSDR National Forum on 5-6 November 2018**
- ✓ An important objective will be to **increase the visibility of the EUSDR** by promoting successful projects at local / national / regional level, in order to:
  - highlight the added value of the regional cooperation frameworks
  - eliminate development gaps
  - increase the interconnectivity between the states that are part of EUSDR





# THE PRIORITIES OF THE MANDATE

**Improving connectivity and mobility** in the Danube region by promoting transport, tourism, digitization and people-to-people contacts



**Promoting exchanges of experience** and good practices within the EUSDR Priority Areas



**Revitalizing EUSDR** by creating synergies between all stakeholders in the region and the European Commission, as well as by operationalizing the Focal Point for Technical Assistance



**Fostering transnational cluster development** by supporting exchange of best practices between various entities taking part in the EUSDR





# THE MOTTO

- ✓ Romania is committed to fully use the **opportunities the Danube river offers** and ensure better socio-economic cohesion and sustainable development throughout the macro-basin
- ✓ Through all objectives proposed during this mandate, Romania intends to **bring an added value to the cooperation** at regional level in order to strengthen cooperation between the EU and non-EU member states of the EUSDR
- ✓ Cohesion has deep roots in the European construction and this slogan is correlated with the motto of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, **„Cohesion, a common European value”**

**„Building cohesion for shared prosperity”**





# EVENTS DURING THE PRESIDENCY

- ✓ The calendar of the Romanian Presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region contains **more than 50 meetings and thematic events**
- ✓ Through the dense schedule of actions planned throughout the EUSDR Presidency, we wish to **make the benefits of our country's participation to this Strategy more visible among the citizens**. This mandate overlaps with another important phase for our country on its European path, respectively the Presidency of the European Union Council, as both offices are highly important in shaping our country's image





# DIRECTIONS OF ACTION



- ✓ **NO Funds - YES to a better alignment of funding**
- ✓ **NO change of the legislation - YES to a more efficient coordination of already existing legal instruments**
- ✓ **NO additional structures for this Strategy (within the EU framework) - YES to new ideas and a new impetus**



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