29th October | 13.00 – 14.00
OPENING SESSION
SMART, SOCIAL, SUSTAINABLE – Innovation for the Danube Region

Introduction by the conference moderator, Eckhart Stratenschulte

Welcome speech
• Ivo Gönner, Lord Mayor, City of Ulm (Germany)

Keynote speeches and discussion
• Corina Creţu, European Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy
• Peter Friedrich, Minister for the Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

Outlook
• Andrea Nahles MdB, Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs (Germany)

29th October | 14.00 – 15.30
THEMATIC SESSION 1
Reaching Out – Intertwining the strategy with civil society, parliaments and local communities

Report from the “Participation Day”

Panel discussion
• Igor Bečić, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Serbia)
• Michael Theurer, Member of the European Parliament
• Kamal Izidor Shaker, Chair of the Committee on EU affairs at the National Assembly (Slovenia) tbc
• Karla Peijs, European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Corridor
• Gisela Erler, State Counsellor, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
• Ivo Gönner, President of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions

Session chair
• Lena Andersson Pench, Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
30th October | 09.00 – 09.30
KEYNOTE SPEECH
• Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
• Bogdan Aurescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Romania)

30th October | 09.30 – 11.00
THEMATIC SESSION 2
Innovation connects - How to profit from macro-regional cooperation for implementing smart solutions

Keynote speech
• Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy & Society

Panel discussion
• Nikolina Angelkova, Minister of Tourism (Bulgaria)
• Pavel Šolc, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade/Energy (Czech Republic)
• Franz Untersteller, Minister of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
• Thomas Hampel, Head of the Police Operations Unit Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Building and Transport (Germany)
• Markku Markkula, President, Committee of the Regions

Session chair
• Eric Unterwurzacher, Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission tbc

30th October | 11.30 – 13.00
THEMATIC SESSION 3
From the idea to implementation – Strategic development of professional training as a key for inclusive growth

Impulse
• Bogdan Aurescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Romania)

Panel discussion
• Romana Kanovská, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education (Slovakia)
• Dijana Bežjak, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts (Croatia)
• Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Secretary of State for European Integration and NIPAC (Montenegro)
• Eckhard Kreßel, Daimler AG

Session chair
• Andriana Sukova-Tosheva, Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

30th October | 14.00 – 15.30
THEMATIC SESSION 4
Labour mobility and migration in the Danube Region – grasping economic and social opportunities in an era of demographic change

Introduction
• Balázs Orbán, Director of Migration Research Institute, Századvég Foundation (Hungary)

Panel discussion
• Renate Held, Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
• Alan Paic, Head of Southeast Europe Investment Compact, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
• Gazmend Turdiu, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Programme Department, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
• Dorin Toma, Bureau for Diaspora Relations (Republic of Moldova)

Session chair
• Katarina Mathernova, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, tbc

30th October | 16.00 – 17.00
CLOSING SESSION

Closing speeches
• Walter Deffaa, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
• Lubomír Vážny, Vice Prime Minister (Slovakia, future EUSDR chair)
• Peter Friedrich, Minister for the Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)