

Opinion on the Macro-regional Strategy for the Carpathian Region

Władysław Ortyl
Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region

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Macro-regional strategies

- macro-regional strategies play an important role in the process of deepening the integration of the EU territory
- instrument for territorial cooperation between countries and regions
- a bottom-up tool activating entities at various levels of government and civil society
- concentration on selected aspects or territories
- dynamizing development processes at the local and regional level



Carpathians

area: 190,000 km²

inhabited by about 68 million people

exceptional endogenous resources

area of geopolitical importance

homogeneous mountain range with unique geographical conditions

a large area with similar environmental and landscape features with certain characteristics



Biodiversity

- "Eastern Carpathians" International Biosphere Reserve
- 36 national parks - area 11,000 km²
- 51 landscape parks - 19,000 km²
- 200 other forms of protection
- one of the most important predator refuges
- an important center of endemism
- pan-European ecological corridor
- **only** 16% of the area outside forms of protection



<http://www.carpathianparks.org/map.html>

Multiculturalism

- unique Carpathian culture
- Hiking trai; and settlement waves
- area of nomadic pastoral economy
- crossing of East and West influences
- transport routes from South North



Cultural heritage

Material and intangible:

- architectural monuments
- numerous objects from the UNESCO World Heritage List
- regional customs
- unique art and handicraft
- traditional music
- local ways of households management



Barriers – challenges

- **transport accessibility**
- **remains of borders**
- **distance from the center of Europe**
- **infrastructure shortages**
- **border location**
- **climate challenges**
- **low economic indicators**
- **quality of the management process**
- **coordination of cross-border activities**



Mountain specificity of the Carpathian area

- terrain is determined by the settlement network and spatial development, i.e. a large number of small towns in valleys and the lack of large cities
- climatic and soil conditions affect economic potential and agriculture
- the mountain area limits the possibilities of adapting the infrastructure to the needs of resident
- the need to preserve forms of nature protection
- spatial conditions hamper the development of expected communication links

Initiatives for the Carpathian Strategy

Concept paper of the Carpathian Strategy

President of the Republic of Poland,
Parliament of the Republic of Poland

European Commission, European Parliament

Committee of the Regions, European Socio-
Economic Committee

Representative of the countries concerned

Society

Regional and local authorities



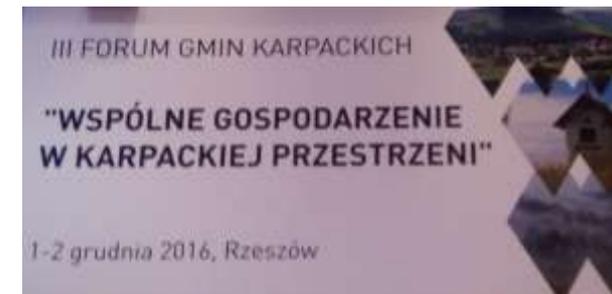
Existing forms of cooperation



- Carpathian Convention
- Carpathian Euroregion
- Interregional Group Carpathian in the Committee of Regions

- Economic Forum with a thematic panel
- Local communities initiatives
- Cooperation with science community
- Forum of Carpathian Communes

- Local Development Forum
- Interreg and European Neighborhood Instrument Programs



Joint initiatives - examples

- Via Carpathia
- Interreg projects
- European Neighborhood Instrument Programs
- EGTC initiatives: Tritia, Tatry, Novum



Assumptions of the Carpathian Strategy

Main objective :

strengthening the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Carpathian macroregion based on the unique natural and cultural heritage, internal development potential and creating a competitive advantage in order to increase the level and quality of life of the inhabitants of the Carpathian region while maintaining the unique ecological values of the Carpathians

Strategic goals :

- ✓ **Competitive Carpathians** - *Development of clean industries, Sustainable development of tourism, Increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, Development of the macro-regional innovation ecosystem.*
- ✓ **Green Carpathians** - *Protection and rational management of natural resources, Diversification of energy sources, Waters reservoir, Environmental risk and natural hazards management*
- ✓ **Coherent Carpathians** - *Increasing the transport accessibility of the Carpathians, Increasing the digital availability of the Carpathians, Developing the e-services system.*



Horizontal priority

Strengthening cooperation and spatial development through :

- **Comprehensive development of the Carpathian region**
- **Emphasizing the special needs of mountain regions**
- **Improving accessibility of the region conditioning internal cohesion and strengthening cross-border connections**
- **Partner cooperation of the signatories**
- **Better coordination of financial instruments**
- **Building cooperation mechanisms using local communities and endogenous potentials**
- **Protection and preservation of the natural environment**

Macro-regional strategies

	Danube Strategy	Alpine strategy	Adriatic and Ionian strategy
Participating States	Germany, Austria, Hungary Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina Montenegro, Ukraine, Moldova	Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland	Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia
Priority Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobility on waterways. 2. Mobility railway - road - air. 3. Renewable energy. 4. Culture and tourism. 5. Water quality. 6. Threats to the environment. 7. Biodiversity and landscapes. 8. Knowledge society. 9. Competitiveness of enterprises. 10. People skills. 11. Institutional capacity and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic growth and innovation. 2. Mobility and connectivity. 3. Environment and energy. 4. Management, including institutional potential 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue growth. 2. Connecting the region. 3. Environmental quality. 4. Sustainable tourism.

Macro-regional strategies



Participating States

Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic
Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria
Romania, Croatia, Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro Ukraine,
Moldova

Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia
Romania, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine

Priority Areas

1. Mobility on waterways.
2. Mobility railway - road - air.
3. Renewable energy.
4. Culture and tourism.
5. Water quality.
6. Threats to the environment.
7. Biodiversity and landscapes.
8. Knowledge society.
9. Competitiveness of enterprises.
10. People skills.
11. Institutional capacity and cooperation.
12. Security.

1. Competitive Carpathians.
2. Green Carpathians.
3. Coherent Carpathians.
4. Strengthening cooperation and spatial development.



Work progress on the Macro-regional Strategy for the Carpathian Region

Activities undertaken at the local government level

- **February 2016 - creation of the "Karpaty" Interregional Group in the Committee of the Regions (33 members from 4 different countries).**
- **December 2016 - handover of the chairmanship of the "Karpaty" Group to the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region.**
- **Declarations supporting the creation of the Strategy: Carpathian Memorandum 2011, Krynickie Memorandum 2013, Krasieczyn Declaration 2013, Przemyśl Declaration 2017, Carpathian Declaration 2018.**
- **Organization of "Carpathian Days of Good Neighborhood" - meetings of the Carpathian regions.**
- **Promoting the idea of creating a strategy for the Carpathian macroregion among regional and local governments.**

Work progress on the Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathian Region

Work schedule of the Committee of the Regions

- **Initiative of the COTER commission regarding its own opinion**
- **Appointment of the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodship Władysław Ortyl as rapporteur.**
- **On 9 and 10 September 2019 - bilateral meetings on the Carpathian Strategy with representatives of the Permanent Representations of the Carpathian States to the EU, representatives of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, representatives of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament.**
- **Consultations for representatives of regions and local governments from the Carpathian countries.**

Work progress on the Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathian Region

Work schedule of the Committee of the Regions

- **On September 24, 2019, a draft opinion was submitted to the COTER secretariat.**
- **On October 23, 2019 - at the meeting of the COTER commission, the draft opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - Macroregional strategy for the Carpathian region was discussed and adopted unanimously.**
- **The opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - A macroregional strategy for the Carpathian region was adopted during the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions on 4 of December 2019.**
- **The opinion was adopted by a clear majority, with only 4 votes against.**

The main CoR's conclusions contained in the Opinion

- macro-regional strategies improve the complementarity of various policies and programs, set and implemented at various levels of management,
- combining jointly defined potentials and coordinating activities is an important added value at European level,
- the unique resources of the Carpathians create a great opportunity for joint activities for more dynamic, sustainable and balanced socio-economic development



European Committee
of the Regions

COTER-VI/057

137th plenary session, 4-5 December 2019

OPINION

Macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region

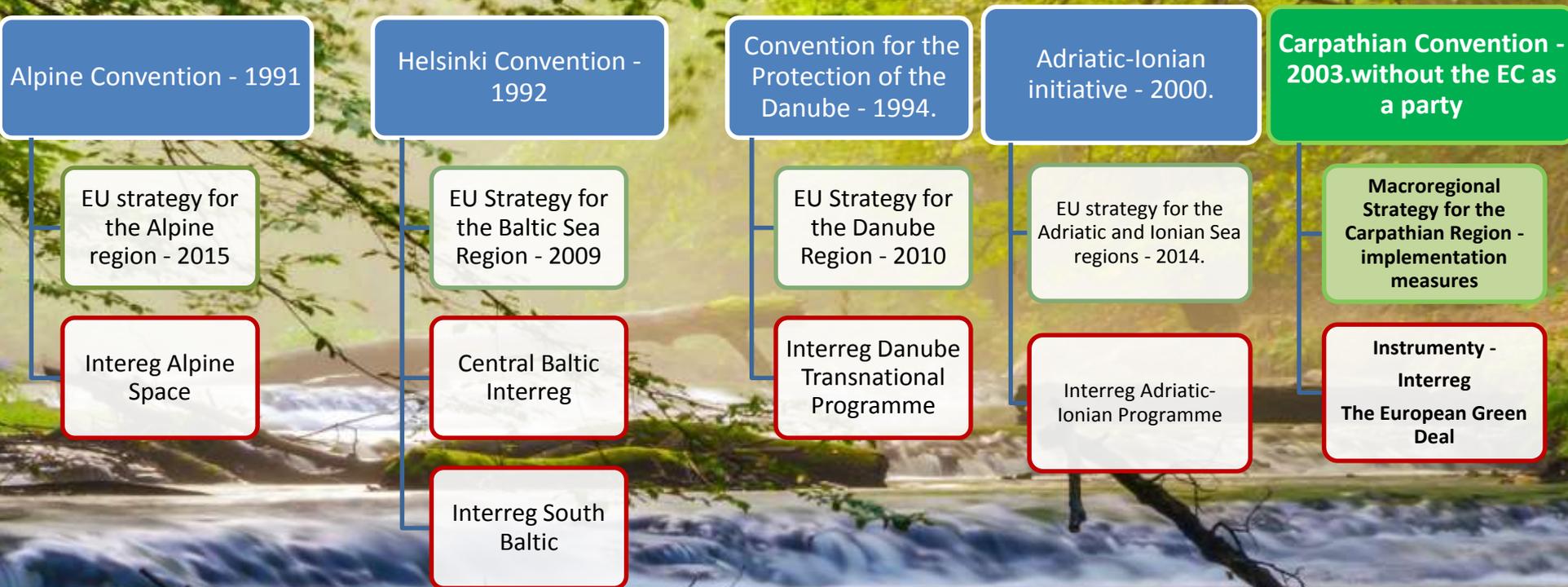
THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

- underlines that macro-regional Strategies improve the complementarity of various political strategies and programmes that are designated and implemented at different levels of governance. This pooling of jointly defined potential and coordination of actions is a significant added value at the European level;
- highlights the unique resources of the Carpathians, such as the natural wealth, unique multicultural heritage, human resources and common identity of mountain communities, all of which provide a great opportunity to work together towards more dynamic, sustainable and balanced socio-economic development in the area;
- considers that placing the Carpathian issue at the centre of a strategic document would highlight the problems of this area and make it possible to exploit the currently dormant and unique potential of the whole macro-region by focusing actions on the most important horizontal problems and challenges;
- reiterates and confirms the approval expressed many times of the initiative to develop a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region and sees it as a well-developed initiative undertaken at all levels of government;
- calls on the European Commission to support the initiative to create a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region as a further macro-regional strategy and the second one to address a European region with mountainous characteristics;
- considers that the macro-regional strategy instrument enables more effective use to be made of available financial resources as part of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective, by creating a viable system for co-financing and implementing actions supporting the regions of Carpathian countries.

The main CoR's conclusions contained in the Opinion

- placing the Carpathian issue at the center of a strategic document would draw attention to the problems of this area and enable the use of the currently dormant unique potential of the entire macroregion by focusing on its most important horizontal problems and challenges,
- a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian area as a mature initiative undertaken at all levels of government,
- call on the European Commission to support the initiative to create a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region as another macro-regional and second strategy directed to the European mountain-specific area,
- the macro-regional strategy instrument will allow more efficient use of available financial resources under the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective by building a real system of co-financing and implementation of measures supporting regions of the Carpathian countries.

Initiatives and tools for European macro-regions working for the Carpathian Convention





Thank You

Władysław Ortyl
Marshal of the Podkarpackie
Region



PODKARPACKIE
przestrzeń otwarta