

## DBS GATEWAY REGION KICK-OFF CONFERENCE

**Wednesday, 22 March 2017**

Hotel Best Western Expo Sofia

Sofija, Bulgaria

9.00 am – 3.00 pm

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**9.00 am**    **Registration**

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**9.30 am**    **Welcome Speeches**

Mr. Werner Pracherstorfer, Regional Government of Lower Austria (Lead Partner)

Ms. Anna Natova, Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure (Project Partner and host)

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**9.45 am**    **Opening Speeches - The Danube-Black Sea Region in a Nutshell**

Challenges and Potential of the Danube-Black Region

Mr. Christian Popp, Regional Government of Lower Austria (Lead Partner)

Background and Framework Conditions

Mr. Otto Schwetz, Chairman of the Working Group Transport at the Working Community of the Danube regions

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**10.30 am**    **Danube-Black Sea Gateway Region – the Project**

General Presentation, Strategic Scopes, Outputs and Methodology

Ms. Christina Narval, verracon (Project Management, Lead Partner)

The Danube Transnational Programme

Ms. Ana Leganel, Joint Secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme

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**11.15 am**    **Coffee Break and Group Picture**

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**11.45 am DTP Thematic Pole 7 – Waterborne Transport**

Introduction

Mr. Christian Popp, Regional  
Government of Lower Austria (Lead  
Partner)

Presentation of related DTP  
projects

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**12.00 am Panel Discussion on general expectations, possible benefits and involvement with Representatives of Target Groups**

Port of Vienna

Bulgarian Ministry of Transport,  
Information Technology and  
Communication

Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Izmail Branch of state enterprise  
„Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority“

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**1.15 pm Conclusions & Outlook**

Ms. Christina Narval, verracon (Project  
Management, Lead Partner)

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**1.30 pm Networking Lunch**

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