

The Appeal of the European Union's Regions,
participants of the International Conference entitled:
**„Via Carpathia Transit Route – an opportunity for strengthening the
competitive advantages of the EU Eastern Regions”**

Łańcut-Rzeszów, Poland — 29–30 November 2012

We, representatives of seven UE States situated along the “Via Carpathia” transit route,

— **referring to** the idea of creation of the “Via Carpathia” transit route expressed in the declarations signed in the years 2006 and 2010 in Łańcut by the Ministers of Transport from seven EU States, i.e. Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece, on creation and incorporation of the “Via Carpathia” transit route running through *Klaipėda District, Tauragė District, Kaunas District, Marijampolė District, Podlaskie Voivodship, Mazowieckie Voivodship, Lubelskie Voivodship, Podkarpackie Voivodship, Prešov Region, Košice Region, Hajdú-Bihar County, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Bihor County, Arad County, Timiș County, Hunedoara County, Caraș-Severin County, Mehedinți County, Alba County, Sibiu County, Vâlcea County, Argeș County, Dâmbovița County, Ialomița County, Constanța County, Giurgiu County, Bucuresti-Ilfov County, Calarasi County, Dolj County, Vidin Region, Montana Region, Sofia Region, Sofia City, Kyustendil Province, Pernik Province, Pleven Province, Blagoevgrad Province, Pazardzhik Province, Plovdiv Province, Haskovo Province and Central Macedonia Region* as a priority European Union's transport corridor to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T);

— **in connection** with the currently ongoing work of the European Parliament on the *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network*;

— **appreciating** efforts of governments of the States towards taking the segments of said road route into account when planning the TEN-T base network in the course of currently discussed EU's revisions of guidelines in that area;

— **receiving with recognition** the declaration of the Government of the Republic of Poland in scope of plans involving construction, in the immediate future, of the segment of S-19 Rzeszów–Lublin road included in the “Via Carpathia” transit route,

— **taking into account the significance of the „Via Carpathia” transit route for:**

- **utilisation of the potential**, both economic and social, of the 41 regions of the European Union from the seven States and reinforce their mutual relations,

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by removing the significant barrier hampering improvement of their competitiveness consisting in unsatisfactory accessibility to the all-EU transportation network,

- **creation of the transit road route** improving transport of people and goods in the North-South direction along the EU's Eastern border and between the Baltic Sea in the North and the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea in the South,
- measurable and consistent **realisation of the EU's cohesion policy**, including levelling disproportion in transport infrastructure development between individual European regions which has a significant effect on the economic growth of the European Union as a whole,

we hereby appeal to Governments of Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece for:

- **giving the priority**, by individual EU States, to road investment undertakings concerning individual segments of the “Via Carpathia” route in the framework of government plans related to development of their national road infrastructure; and
- **intensification of activities** on the level of European institutions aimed at giving said road route a priority status in the key documents defining the EU's transport policy, and first of all, in the *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network*, by **taking into account the whole course of “Via Carpathia” transit route in the TEN-T base network**;

we request the European Commission to treat the idea of constructing „Via Carpathia” transit route as a project fulfilling the concept of integrating people, cultures and traditions aimed at deepening and enriching the process of European integration. „Via Carpathia”, by reinforcing cohesion of eastern frontiers of the European Union, gains particular significance in the times of crisis that resulted in enfeeblement of ties holding EU together, activation of milieus openly challenging the need to deepen European integration, and awakening of national egoisms;

we expect that Members of the European Parliament, especially those bound with regions situated along „Via Carpathia”, will support efforts towards including this road route to the TEN-T base network as a EU's priority transport corridor.

The Signatories of this **Appeal** hereby undertake to promote the idea of construction of “Via Carpathia” transit route in their Regions and States and co-operate closely in the framework of their bilateral and multilateral relationships.