



CONCEPT

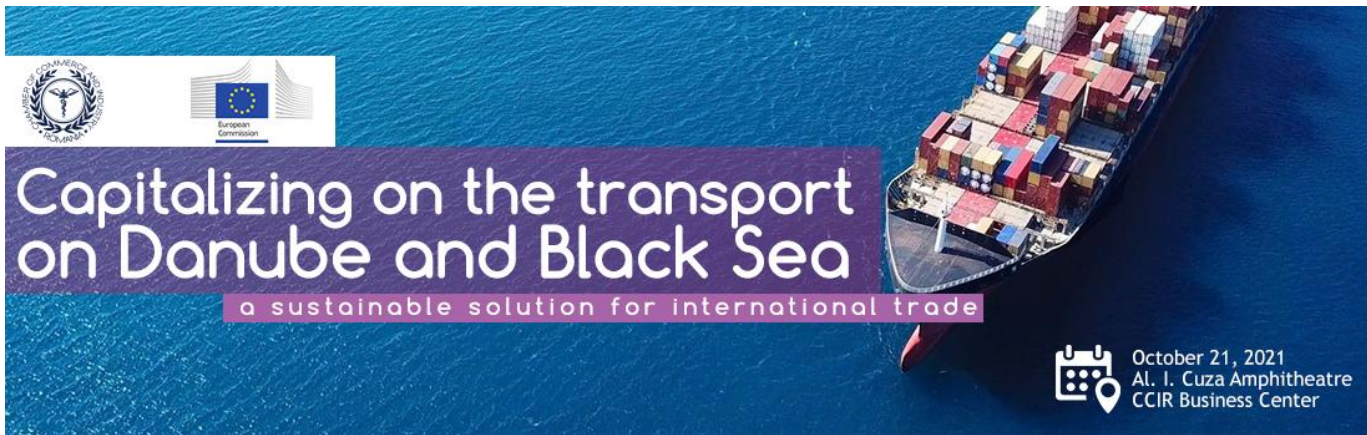
The maritime transport is an important part of the European Union's economy, while its decarbonization will have a direct impact on the EU's ability to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. A solution to ensure a sustainable green transition for maritime transport, scalable and cost-effective will consist in developing alternative sources of carbon-free fuels, such as hydrogen. These measures will also contribute in increasing the resilience and sustainability of international trade - an important component of the new EU Trade Strategy, which aims to develop sustainable supply chains.

The European Union is the world's second largest exporter and importer, where shipping and transport related services are essential to support companies globally. In 2019, at EU level, short sea shipping accounted for 60% (estimated at almost 1.8 billion tonnes of freight) of total sea freight to and from major EU ports. Rotterdam remained the EU's largest short sea shipping port, handling a total of 204 million tonnes of cargo, followed by the ports of Antwerp (101 million tonnes of cargo) and Amsterdam (53 million tonnes), while the port of Constanța ranks 14th, managing in 2019 - 28.5 million tonnes of goods over short distances. It is therefore clear that maritime transport plays a vital role in securing supply chains for the development of global trade.

In terms of CO₂ emissions, maritime freight transport at European level is responsible for 13% of total emissions from the transport sector, three times lower than carbon dioxide emissions from total transport (38.1%). Thus, given that the EU has proposed to increase the volume of goods transported by sea, decarbonizing and capitalizing on shipping would have a twofold effect: **achieving the EU's environmental objectives and stepping up trade by sea.**

For Romania and the business environment it is essential to develop and capitalize on river transport on the Danube and maritime transport on the Black Sea, including the route with the Suez Canal to facilitate and intensify international trade relations. The Danube basin has a great potential for sustainable inland navigation, but the physical capacity of the river and its tributaries should be improved, and the existing blockages removed. Also, according to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region it is essential to improve mobility and multimodality through road, rail and air links in order to transform the Danube into an important trade corridor and a viable alternative for freight to Black Sea ports.

These issues would help improve transport interconnections internally, but also with other areas, including the Black Sea region, the South Caucasus and Asia. In this regard, it is essential to mention the Suez Canal - a route worth being exploited by companies working in the shipping industry - vital for international trade and one of the most important waterways in the world, which connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean through the Red Sea.



In conclusion, given the importance of developing inland waterways to boost trade and, on the other hand, the EU's goals of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, through this event we aim to address both the EU's priorities for the green transition and sustainable transport, and to generate opportunities for business people by stimulating discussions with decision-makers on the development of Constanța Port into a commercial hub on the Black Sea and the transformation of the Danube into a viable alternative for freight transport to the ports of the Black Sea, Baltic Sea and Adriatic Sea from the Three Seas Initiative.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Hour	Activity
09:30 – 10.00	Registration
Session (1)	Opening speeches
10.00 – 10.10	- Mihai Daraban , President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania
10.10 – 10.20	- Matthew Baldwin , Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission (tbc)
10.20 – 10.30	- Representative, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (tbd)
10.30 – 10.40	- H.E. Lazăr Comănescu , Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS
10.40 - 10.50	- Admiral Osama Mounier Mohamed Rabie , Chairman and Managing Director, Suez Canal Authority
10.50 – 11.00	- Lara Tassan Zanin , Head of Office for the European Investment Bank in Romania (tbc)
11.00 – 11.20	Q&A session
Moderator:	Eduard Costin , Director, Foreign Affairs Department, CCIR



Capitalizing on the transport on Danube and Black Sea

a sustainable solution for international trade



October 21, 2021
Al. I. Cuza Amphitheatre
CCIR Business Center

11.20 – 11.50	Coffee break and networking
Session (2)	The importance of river and maritime transport in stimulating sustainable international trade
11.50 – 12:00	- Magda Kopczynska , Director for Waterborne Transport, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission (tbc)
12:00 – 12.10	- Marian-Jean Marinescu , Member of the European Parliament (EPP) <i>online intervention</i>
12.10 – 12.20	- Mihail Harbic , General Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (tbc)
12.20 – 12.30	- Tudor Constantinescu , Principal Adviser to the Director General for Energy in the European Commission (tbc)
12.30 – 12.40	- Florin Goidea , General Director, Administration of Maritime Ports S.A. Constanța
12.40 – 12.50	- Șerban Alexandru Gabriel , General Manager of the "Maritime Danube Ports Administration" National Company (tbc)
12.50 – 13.00	- Emilian Stere , General Director, CGM CMA Romania (tbc)
13.00 – 13.10	- Marius Schuster , CEO Arena Innovation (tbc)
13.00 – 13.20	Q&A session
Moderator:	Dr. ec. Ion Dănuț Jugănar , General Director, Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture Constanta (tbc)
13.20 – 14.00	Lunch and networking