



PRESS RELEASE

Danube Ports Days 2025: Empowering the Danube Region with Waterborne Logistics

Constanta, 17 September 2025 – Organised on 16 and 17 September by Pro Danube and hosted by the National Company Maritime Ports Administration SA Constanta, Danube Ports Days 2025, supported by the EU-funded projects **PIONEERS**, **Green Inland Ports Study** and **SYNERGETICS** and the **Danube Ports Network** successfully concluded. The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders and experts to discuss and evaluate innovative solutions aimed at achieving sustainability and digitalisation within inland ports and inland waterway transport.

The event streamlined actual topics including innovative solutions to foster energy efficiency, to further enhance digitalisation and to improve the quality of service and reliability of inland waterway transport and port operations. The tour in the Port of Constanta provided an insight to the operations at the gateway to the Danube Region.

In her welcome speech, **Cristina Rizea**, the Head of the Port Community Department at the National Company Maritime Ports Administration SA Constanta, ensured the sector about the full commitment of the Port of Constanta towards decarbonisation and the facilitation of the state-of-the-art technology-supported waterborne transport.

Representing DG MOVE, **Mutien Marchandise** updated the audience on the current policy topics around the European Green Deal with special focus on the crucial role of the ports. He has also pointed out the enabler function of digitalisation in enhancing operations.

Monica Patrichi from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania underlined the importance of the international cooperation – highlighting the essential role of the Priority Area 1A of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region – that has resulted in several project initiatives and important benefits for the ports and their users.

This year's event's special guest was the Transport Community whose director, **Matej Zakonjšek** addressed the event by introducing the efforts to integrate the transport systems, the inland waterways and ports of the Western Balkan countries, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia into the European Union system.

Project presentations and panel discussions lining up top experts of the key themes technologies and logistics, embraced current challenges and business opportunities and engaged both the on-site and online audience in lively discussions to empower the Danube Region with waterborne transport.

Herfried Leitner, representing Pro Danube, reflected on the event's success: *“The Danube Ports Days 2025 brought together businesses and experts showcasing deployments, innovations and unique solutions in engine technologies, digitalisation that – together with the proper fairway conditions – can pave the way for competitive logistics using the Danube and the ports as a transport backbone. It is an honour for us to have more than 120 participants at our conference, and we express our gratitude to the speakers for their valuable contribution.”*

About Pro Danube

Pro Danube represents the voice of Danube-minded businesses which are interested in the promotion of better navigation conditions, waterway infrastructure and transport services, hence being an active contributor in the political debates on transport policy, technology, and regional development fora. For over a decade, Pro Danube has been involved in the initiation and execution of transnational EU-funded projects related to the development of the inland waterway transport sector in the Danube Region.

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