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Via Carpathia - a comment on Romanian approach

Author: Petrișor Peiu
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Via Carpathia-the project



Via Carpathia-context

- Need of East and Central European regional cooperation booming in the last years
- European Union suffers from many wounds
- The sixth part of EU is leaving the Union and the others five sixths are set up to a commercial war against the brits
- Bruxelles is fighting against few Central European governments
- The south and the east borders of EU are under pressure; Russian Federation and migrants are the big challenges

Via Carpathia-meaning

- Countries to be involved: Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia and Hungary signed a declaration on its construction; in 2010, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece joined the club
- Poland is the 24th largest world economy (PPP) with about 1,100 billion USD
- Romania ranked the 42th (PPP also), with 470 billion USD
- Greece ranked the 57th, with 302 billion USD
- Hungary is the 59th, with 285 billion USD
- Slovakia is the 70th, with 180 billion USD
- Bulgaria is the 76th, with 152 billion USD
- Lithuania is the 87th, with 90 billion USD

Via Carpathia-relevance

- All the seven countries involved are performing a total of about 2600 billion USD (PPP), which is 2.2% of the global GDP (PPP) or 13% of the whole EU-28
- This is more than 15% of the EU-27 or the seventh part of EU economy
- This is about the same size as French GDP (PPP) so should be relevant for the EU as well

Political priorities for the Romanian authorities

- The first priority is keeping and strengthening the strategic partnership with US, because security is a top issue for the country
- The second priority is to “catch” the German-French policy trends and to be “in line” with the informal leadership of the EU
- The regional priority is to carry out as much as possible the mild European attendance of the Republic of Moldova
- Romania has to address a very poor level of confidence shared with its western neighbor , Hungary
- Basically, Romania is reluctant to any initiative which involves Hungary; last bilateral meeting HOSG in 2010!
- Focus on strengthening the political and military relation with Poland is big
- Romania does not want to be in the position to ``choose`` between the informal leadership of EU and Visegrad group
- The two mainstream parties (the liberals and the socialists) are looking rather to increase the exposure to the West than to increase the level of regional involvement

Infrastructure priorities for the Romanian authorities- highways

- Due to the lack of resources, the main objective is to complete the highway from the Black Sea (Constanta) to the capital city (Bucharest) and the western part of country (Arad), part of Via Carpathia project
- The second objective is to complete the Transilvania highway (from Bucharest to north-west, Oradea)
- The third objective is to connect the poorest regions in country (south east and east) with the capital city

Romania 2016

Transport master-plan



Via Carpathia vs. EU TEN-T CORE NETWORK CORRIDORS



Conclusions

- There are not high expectations to get the Romanian authorities very involved in the Via Carpathia project
- They don't like to be outside of the any regional project but is not seen any incentive to participate to a project (Arad-Calafat) which avoids the wide majority of the national territory
- Due to the lack of financial resources for capital expenditures of the government, an attitude of passive expectancy is expected from Bucharest authorities
- The way to have the regional business more exposed to the government attention is still to be developed

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Black Sea University Foundation (BSUF)

13 September Street no. 13, Romanian Academy House, 7th floor east, Bucharest-5, postal code 761172

Romania

E-mail: office@fumn.eu

Phone: +4 031 405 25 42

+4 0755 087 185

For more details please visit: <http://fumn.eu/>