JOINT STATEMENT

**of the Minister of Transport of Romania,
the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and
Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria and
the European Coordinator of the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor
for ensuring the conditions for navigation on
the Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the Danube river**

The Minister of Transport of Romania and the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "*the Parties*",

IN CONFORMITY with the *Convention on the Regime of Navigation on the Danube,* signed at Belgrade on 18 August 1948, hereinafter referred to as "*the Belgrade Convention*",

OBSERVING the provisions of the *Agreement between the People's Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the maintenance and improvement of the fairway on the Romanian- Bulgarian common sector of the Danube River*, signed in Sofia on 28 November 1955, hereinafter referred to as " *the Agreement of the 1955*",

CONSIDERING the *Declaration on effective waterway infrastructure maintenance on the Danube and its navigable tributaries*, signed by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for transport in Luxembourg on 7 June 2012,

TAKING INTO account the Europe 2020 Strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and EU Strategy for the Danube Region,

REITERATING the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria on setting up an Interministerial Committee for the sustainable development of inland waterway transport, on the Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the Danube*, signed in Sofia on 11 October 2012,

RECOGNIZING the importance of the TEN-T network, established by the Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and repealing Decision No 661/2010/EU,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the deadline for the finalization of the TEN-T core network corridors in conformity with the Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 cited above and with the Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT *the Conclusions of the meetings between Mrs. Karla PEIJS, European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube TEN-T Core Network Corridor, and Mr. Peter KIROV, Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria (Sofia, 23 May 2014)* and respectively, *Mr. Dan-Coman SOVA, Minister of Transport of Romania (Bucharest, 27 May 2014)*,

WHEREAS the European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor expressed the willingness to support both parties in implementing the best measures for ensuring the minimum navigation conditions on the Romanian – Bulgarian common sector of the Danube.

IN ACCORDANCE with the international obligations and laws of their States and acting within their powers,

adopt this statement:

1. The Parties shall endeavor to carry out the project "*The Improvement of navigation conditions on the Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the Danube River and related study*", hereinafter referred to as "*the Project* ",

2. The Parties agree that the Terms of Reference necessary for the preparation of the contract „*Technical Assistance for improving the navigation on the Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the Danube river and complementary studies*", elaborated by JASPERS Romania, are mature and represent the reference for the elaboration of the Feasibility Study of the Project.

3. The Romanian party shall perform the procedure for the procurement of consultancy services necessary for the elaboration of the Feasibility Study of the Project.

4. The Bulgarian Party shall provide the data for the elaboration of studies and to offer to the Romanian party all necessary support to obtain the approvals and authorization with the view to finalize the Feasibility study of the Project taking into account that the national allocation for both Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria, as EU Member States eligible for the Cohesion Fund, under the Connecting Europe Facility will be earmarked only until the end of 2016.

5. The Bulgarian Party shall endeavor to grant the support to the Romanian party in appraising the solutions proposed in the Feasibility Study of the Project.

6. The Parties shall endeavor to ensure conditions of good navigation on the Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the Danube River.

7. The Parties shall commit the necessary resources and start without delay the works on maintenance of the navigable fairway on the Romanian–Bulgarian common sector of the Danube river in accordance with the Action Plan adopted by the *Romanian-Bulgarian Joint Commission for the maintenance and improvement of the fairway*, established by the *Agreement of 1955*.

8. The Parties agree to allow unconditionally on mutual bases, on the sector under their administration, the performance of maintenance works by the other Party as foreseen in the Action Plan adopted by the *Romanian-Bulgarian Joint Commission for the maintenance and improvement of the fairway*, as will be amended as soon as possible, in order to prevent the blocking of or hindrance to the navigation.

9. Each Party shall inform the other Party on a regular basis about the maintenance works planned and carried out on the sector under their administration and on the sector under the administration of the other Party.

10. The Parties agree that the provisions of the *Agreement of 1955* shall be amended, so as to define an emergency situation, the way of cooperation between the Parties in emergency situations, as well as the way of funding the actions which are undertaken in emergency situations. In this regard, the Parties shall designate the teams of experts to start the procedures for amendment of this Agreement starting with September 2014 and shall aim at adopting this amendment by September 2015.

11. The European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor agrees to support the parties in order to identify and to seek access to the most appropriate EU funding solutions for the necessary measures to ensure the navigation conditions on the Romanian – Bulgarian common sector of the Danube.

Signed in **Ruse**, on **19 June 2014** in two originals, in Romanian, Bulgarian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation of this Joint Statement, the English text shall prevail.

Minister of Transport of Romania	Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria	European Coordinator Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor
Dan-Coman Sova	Danail Papazov	Karla Peijs