



## Green living

*“It is clear that continuing failure to meet goals on biodiversity loss will be truly catastrophic and we can’t keep deluding ourselves that we are doing enough”*

**Janez Potočnik on Green Week 2010, mainstreaming environmental policy and developing a sustainable economy**

### GREEN WEEK

#### **Biodiversity: Our lifeline**

Heidi Sørensen, Jacqueline McGlade, Sandrine Bélière and Edward McMillan-Scott

**Plus:** An ecosystems approach, food security, sustainable forestry, green economies, marine life



#### **Electronic waste**

Karl-Heinz Florenz, Jill Evans and Achim Steiner

#### **Eastern partnership**

Bruno Dethomas, Evgeni Kirilov, Milan Cabrnich, Jacek Protasiewicz and Alexander Graf Lambsdorff

#### **Ambient assisted living**

Technology and healthcare



# Heading into the markets of the future on a well developed Trans-European Railway Network

From the Baltic to the Adriatic Sea – Future-oriented and sustainable transport systems such as rail and shipping must be strengthened in order to make transport more environmentally friendly, efficient, and to accelerate Europe's independence from importing oil. Within a sustainable and efficient future European transport set-up, the 20 regions of 5 countries along the Baltic-Adriatic Axis (BAA) believe that this axis is set to become a part of the "core network" of Trans-European Transport Networks. The Baltic-Adriatic Axis (a European high-speed railway project from Gdansk in Poland to Bologna in Italy - with the Koralm railway, from Graz via Klagenfurt, Villach to Udine, Trieste and Venice) connects the ports of Gdansk in the North (PL) with the seaports of Trieste, Venice and Ravenna in the South (IT), across the relevant regions in Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, via southern Austria and northern Italy. The section of the axis from Danzig to Vienna has already been categorised by the European Union as one of the most important European transport projects, a so called European priority project (PP).

"The economy is growing in and towards the East – these are the markets of the future," underlines Gerhard Dörfler, Governor of the Carinthia region, with regard to the increasing importance of the Baltic-Adriatic transport axis.

At the first BATCo conference in Klagenfurt (Carinthia), representatives from all regions bordering the length of the BAA emphasised the importance of this EU project. Professor Harald Eicher from the University of Graz highlighted the major opportunities for the BAA regions which would stem from the high-performance railway. "Transport axes are prosperity axes. BATCo is a big step forward for European cooperation and European transport of the future", said Dörfler.

## The EU- BATCo project – economic improvement for European regions

Representatives of regional governments as well as national ministers from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Italy have repeatedly professed their willingness to work together to develop the economy and transport infrastructure along the BAA, signing several declarations (Cooperation Contracts

in 2004, Letter of Intent in 2006, common declaration by the Presidents of 19 regions in the European Parliament in October 2009).

Drawing from the ambition and content of these declarations, Carinthia has taken the lead in developing the EU project BATCo with 18 organisations from the aforementioned countries. The purpose of the project is to strengthen economic cooperation between the regions along the BAA and to develop and interlink logistic centres. Besides this main purpose, the BATCo project is also expected to have an impact on environmental protection and tourism in the regions concerned. A budget of 3.7 million Euros is allocated to BATCo over the next three years, of which 2.9 million are EU-funded through the European Regional Fund.

## Carinthia as a VIP strategic region within the BAA

With the Koralm line, due for completion in 2020, as a core part of the BAA and with the Villach Combi Cargo Terminal and the Alplog Carinthia as the "Hinterland" of the North Baltic ports, Carinthia plays a crucial role in the Baltic-Adriatic-Axis scenario.

The President of the Venice Port Authority, Professor Costa, and the Governor of Carinthia, Mr Dörfler, are developing a close partnership between the North-Adriatic ports and the two cargo / logistics terminals at Villach South and Alplog Carinthia. The Villach region has a pivotal role as the interface between the BAA and Corridor X (Salzburg via Villach to Thessaloniki).

Thanks to the Koralm line, as part of the new Southern Austrian line and of the BAA, the two Austrian regional capitals Graz and Klagenfurt will be connected by a 130 km long double track high-speed railway, thus decreasing travelling time considerably from 3 hours to just 1 hour.

The Koralm base tunnel, with a length of 32.9 km, is the key section of the seven parts of the Koralm line. About 65 km of the railway are under construction or partly completed. Since 2001, eight stations and stops and 87 railway bridges, underpasses or overpasses have been converted or newly constructed. The total cost of the Koralm line will be approximately 5.2 billion Euros.

“Transportation axes are prosperity axes”

Governor Gerhard Dörfler



Signatories of the declaration in support of the Baltic Adriatic Corridor in October 2009 in the European Parliament

## Baltic-Adriatic Axis - important economic development in the regions

The Baltic-Adriatic Axis has a major impact on the industrial and economic area stretching from Poland to Italy. In Austria the axis is of particular importance to the central regions of Vienna, Lower Austria, Styria and Carinthia.

The BAA will significantly improve the quality of the regions along the axis as a business location by interconnecting them, fostering cooperation at all levels and also connecting them to the ports on the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas. Enterprises in these regions will be able to transport their goods more quickly, cheaply and in a more environmentally friendly way, enabling them to enter new markets with new earning potential. According to scientific studies the added value of the BATCo project will be 210 Million Euro per year. Each billion invested in the railway infrastructure will bring 17,000 jobs.

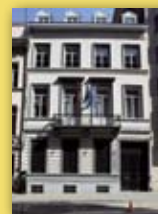
*Prof Paolo Costa, President of the Venice Port Authority (left) and Mr Gerhard Dörfler, Governor of the region of Carinthia, at the kick-off conference of the EU-project BATCo (lead by Carinthia) in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee 2010.*



## Carinthia in brief

- Carinthia is the southernmost and sunniest region in Austria. With an area of 9,533 km<sup>2</sup>, it is also the fifth largest of the 9 regions of Austria. Carinthia has a population of 560,605 (as of 1.1.2009), with 93,478 people living in the capital city of Klagenfurt.
- Due to its position at the heart of Europe, Carinthia has a rich history. It borders the regions of Salzburg, Styria and Tyrol. The border with neighbouring Slovenia is 170 kilometres long and that with Italy is 109 kilometres long. Dreiländereck [or 'Three Country Corner'], near Arnoldstein, marks the meeting point of the three different cultural areas.
- Carinthia has always put a strong focus on cooperation with its neighbours, as is particularly clear in the Euregio which includes the northern Italian regions of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Veneto for the purpose of an intense cultural, tourist and political interaction.
- Carinthia is also well-known as a tourist region of mountains and lakes. 93 of its mountain peaks are over 3,000 metres high. The Großglockner is Austria's highest mountain at 3,798 metres. Approximately 1,270 lakes have water clean enough to drink.

Info at [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at)



## The EU-Representation Office of Carinthia - Verbindungsbüro Land Kärnten - Bureau de Liaison de Carinthie

Founded with the accession of Austria to the EU in 1995, the EU-Representation Office of Carinthia has been in a common house in Brussels with Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sarajevo and Istria since 2005.

The office is Carinthia's government's and civil society's representation in Brussels, its contact to the EU institutions and other regions and the first address for Carinthians in the European capital.

### Contact:

Mag. Martina Rattinger,  
Director of the EU-Representation office of Carinthia  
Rue du Commerce 49, 1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 / (0)2.282.49.10  
Fax: +32 / (0)2.280.43.80  
@: [post.vbb-kaernten@ktn.gv.at](mailto:post.vbb-kaernten@ktn.gv.at)  
www: <http://vbb.ktn.gv.at>