

**Declaration on Partnership and Cooperation  
of the Members of the Network of the Three Seas Regions  
for supporting the preparation and construction  
of the international transport corridor Via Carpatia**

**Lubelskie Region (Republic of Poland)**

Represented by: Jarosław Stawiarski, Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship

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Represented by: Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship

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**Prešov Self-Governing Region (Slovak Republic)**

Represented by: Milan Majerský, President of the Prešov Self-Governing Region

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**PREAMBLE**

The Lubelskie Voivodeship, Podkarpackie Voivodeship and Prešov Self-Governing Region  
as founding members of the Network of the Three Seas Regions

*hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"*

- taking into account the objective of the Network of the Three Seas Regions, which is partnership cooperation in the field of sustainable and responsible development of the regions of the Three Seas Initiative countries, in particular the development, facilitation and promotion of cross-border and international cooperation in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the area of the Network's activities in the Three Seas Initiative countries,
- recognizing the international significance and wide-ranging importance of the construction of the Via Carpatia transport corridor for the member states of the Three Seas Initiative,

- considering that the Via Carpatia will connect the Baltic Sea with the Aegean Sea, creating the shortest route from the north of Europe to the south, connecting Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece,
- emphasizing the fact that a faster completion of the Via Carpatia transit route would have a major positive impact on the social and economic growth of the Three Seas countries, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, science and research, technology and industrial parks,
- desiring to continue, strengthen and facilitate cooperation on the development of sustainable freight and passenger transport and related infrastructure for the benefit of present and future generations and sustainable development,
- taking into account the responsible approach to the obligations of the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic towards their European partners in the promise of completing the sections of the international transport corridor Via Carpatia on the territory of their country as soon as possible,

**hereby conclude this Declaration on Partnership and Cooperation of the Members of the Network of the Three Seas Regions.** The objective of the Declaration is to support the preparation and construction of the missing sections of the international transport corridor Via Carpatia in the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic.

## **PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION**

In order to achieve the common objective of ***supporting the preparation and construction of the missing sections of the international transport corridor Via Carpatia***, the Parties to the Declaration agreed on the following basic framework of partnership and cooperation:

1. The Parties declare that they will jointly lobby for the completion of the Via Carpatia transport corridor to be treated as the main infrastructure project of the Three Seas Initiative, which will create new impulses for the all-round dynamic development of local and regional governments of the Three Seas Initiative and will significantly contribute to building partnerships between the regions through which the Via Carpatia passes.
2. The Parties declare that they will make every effort, in accordance with their legislative competencies, to promote all activities aimed at completing the transport corridor Via Carpatia that will bring benefits to all the regions through which this transit route will pass, thereby improving the quality of living standards of the inhabitants of the regions concerned.
3. The Parties declare their belief that the international communication of Via Carpatia, as well as its faster completion, will contribute to the development and mutual benefit of the society in the area of the Three Seas Initiative countries and increase the competitiveness of the regions in the European dimension.

4. The Parties are of the opinion that deepened international cooperation as a component of local and regional self-government of the Three Seas Initiative, which includes the building of partnerships to support the construction of the transport corridor Via Carpatia, will significantly contribute to reducing the infrastructural gap in Central and Eastern Europe in relation to Western Europe.
5. The Parties declare that they will make every effort and endeavour in order to jointly support the completion of the transport corridor Via Carpatia, fulfilling and thus based on the objectives of the Lancut Declaration for the Construction of Via Carpatia and the Agreement on Cooperation in the Construction of Via Carpatia.
6. The Parties declare that by signing they support and call on the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Slovak Republic to take a positive stance towards the urgent completion of the missing sections of the transit road Via Carpatia in the territory of the Republic of Poland (S19 expressway and S61 expressway) and in the territory of the Slovak Republic (R4 expressway), especially with regard to its strategic importance for the countries of the Three Seas Initiative.
7. The Parties call on the interested national authorities of the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic to prioritize the completion of the transport corridor Via Carpatia, to allocate sufficient funds for the preparatory and implementation phase of its construction, and thus to commit to a clear substantive and financial timetable for the completion of the missing sections of the Via Carpatia on the territory of their country.
8. At the same time, the Parties appeal to the relevant institutions of the European Union to exert pressure on the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Slovak Republic with the aim of rapid completion of the transport corridor Via Carpatia, which has been included in the extended TEN-T core network, which will significantly contribute to the improvement of transport infrastructure in the international aspect.

This Declaration on Partnership and Cooperation of the Members of the Network of the Three Seas Regions expresses the free and serious will of the signatories. The signatories have no objections to its form or content, which they confirm with their handwritten signatures.

The Declaration was signed in Brussels on 11 December 2024 in 3 copies, each in English, Polish and Slovak, all texts having the same legal force.

In Brussels, 11 December 2024

Jarosław Stawiarski

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Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship



Władysław Ortyl

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Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship



Milan Majerský

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President

Prešov Self-Governing Region

