



PRESS RELEASE

Danube Commission / European Commission



Informative and Consultative meeting between the representatives of the Danube Commission and the European Commission

(Budapest, 17 March 2010)

Following mutual agreement Informative and Consultative meeting of the representatives of the Danube Commission (DC) and European Commission (EC) was held at the premises of the Danube Commission on 17 March 2010. On behalf of the European Commission the following representatives: Mr. Olivier Baudelet (Directorate DG REGIO) and Mr. Jorge de Britto Patricio-Dias (Directorate DG MOVE) took part at the meeting. On the Danube Commission's part Mr. A. A. Tolkach, President of the DC (Representative of the Russian Federation), Mr. Dmitriy Tkach, Secretary of the DC (representative of Ukraine), as well as representatives of Member States of the Danube Commission: Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, the Republic of Moldova, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine and Croatia participated.

Dr. Istvan Valkar, Director General of the Danube Commission Secretariat, Mr. P. S. Suvorov, Deputy Director General, Mr. K. Anda, Chief Engineer and Counsellors of the Secretariat also participated at the meeting.

The main aim of the meeting was to present EU Strategy for the Danube Region, as well as to determine the role of the Danube Commission in the development of this project.

President of the Danube Commission Mr. A. A. Tolkach informed the participants to the meeting on the main tasks facing the Danube Commission and work undertaken on structure modernization and working methods of the Danube Commission.

Representatives of the European Commission informed about the development of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, focused on the comprehensive regional development, including transport issues. To ensure sustainable and environmentally-friendly navigation is appeared to be one of the key problems.

Participants to the meeting held a discussion on certain aspects, related to the navigation issues: safety of navigation, economical indicators, environmental protection and future tasks of the Danube Commission.

Discussion resulted in the definition of guidelines on possible active cooperation between the Danube Commission and European Commission, primarily, on issues where main tasks of both the Danube Commission and EU Strategy of the Danube Region are corresponding. Undoubtedly the Danube navigation will benefit from such cooperation.

Parties have agreed on the elaboration of interaction plan, which after its approval by the forthcoming session of the Danube Commission and senior officials of the Directorates DG REGIO and DG MOVE will become a platform of cooperation concerned.