



PRESS RELEASE

The Danube Commission (DC), under the presidency of Ambassador Mr. Dimitar IKONOMOV, held its Seventy-seventh session on 15th of December 2011 at the premises of the Danube Commission in Budapest.

In the work of the session the delegations of all member states of the Danube Commission (the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Hungary, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and the Republic of Croatia), as well as observer states (the French Republic, the Czech Republic, Greece and the Kingdom of Belgium) participated. The representatives of the international organizations also attended the session: the European Commission, the International Sava River Basin Commission and the Central Commission for Navigation of the Rhine.

The session considered issues, arising from reports on the outcomes of the Technical group and Legal and Financial group meetings, and adopted a number of Decisions proposed by these working groups.

The session adopted a number of important documents, inter alia: "Recommendations of the Danube Commission on boatmasters' licenses" (doc.CD/SES/77/7), (to be entered into force on 1 January 2013), "Recommendations on minimum requirements for standard fairway parameters, hydrotechnical and other improvements on the Danube" (doc. CD/SES/77/11), (to be entered into force on 1 January 2013), "Master Plan on achievement of recommended fairway parameters, hydrotechnical and other facilities on the Danube" (doc. CD/SES/77/10), "Statement by the Danube Commission regarding impact of climate change on inland navigation" (doc.CD/SES/77/12).

The session heard the Report of the Director General of the Secretariat on the execution of the budget of the Danube Commission for 2011 (as of November 2011) and approved budget of the Danube Commission for 2012.

Under the agenda item "Other business" the President of the Danube Commission performed information on "Current situation on the Danube caused by critical shallow water". He noted that the situation was very difficult due to the navigational conditions resulting from prolonged absence of precipitation in the Danube basin.

The 77th session approved the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming 78th session of the Danube Commission and determined the date of the meeting (6 June 2012).

In order to strengthen cultural ties of the Danube countries among themselves as well as with the other countries, during the 77th session, at the premises of the Danube Commission, the Commission's Secretariat, in cooperation with the Balkan cultural foundation (*The Balkankult Foundation*, www.balkankult.org), organized exposition of winning and participating artworks of the 3rd International Ex libris exhibition entitled "*The Danube – route of culture. Ex-libris for intercultural dialogue*".