



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Danube Commission (Secretariat) and European Commission (DG MOVE) sign arrangement to develop and improve navigation on the Danube River**

Budapest, 24.07.2015 - **The Secretariat of the Danube Commission (DC) and the Directorate general for mobility and transport of the European Commission (DG MOVE) signed today, 24 July 2015, at the DC's headquarters in Budapest, an Administrative Arrangement, which represents an important new step in the consolidation of the cooperation and the complementarity between the two institutions.**



The signing ceremony was opened by Ambassador Miklós LENGYEL, Vice-President of the Danube Commission, and was followed by a presentation of Mr. Alexander F. Stemmer, Deputy Director-General who gave an overview of the historical background of the DC leading to its today's functioning and agenda.

On behalf of the European Commission, Mr. João AGUIAR MACHADO, Director-General of DG MOVE, highlighted that the signing of this Agreement is a new and important step towards a closer cooperation between DG MOVE and the Danube Commission. Such cooperation will be of benefit to the inland navigation sector, which needs a coherent and efficient governance framework to realise its full potential and improve navigability on the Danube River.

Mr. Petar MARGIĆ, Director-General of the DC, referred to recent developments in the field of infrastructure maintenance and focused on some examples in Germany, Slovakia and Bulgaria where

the Administrative Arrangement will support the development of solutions awaited by the industry for decades. Coordinated maintenance of the river-infrastructure is the backbone for a prosperous future of the Danube's navigation.

The Administrative Arrangement encourages bilateral partners to support the inland navigation sector and to streamline its development. Within the established new framework for cooperation between the Secretariat of the DC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), the document promotes the following main areas of cooperation:

- implementation of a Master Plan for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Danube River;
- elaboration of technical standards for navigation, in particular, infrastructure maintenance;
- as well as for navigability assessment;
- market observation for the Danube basin.

With the signing of the Administrative Arrangement, a new form of cooperation should optimize the efficiency of the respective policies of the two institutions in these areas and launch a regular, extensive dialogue for the mutual benefit of their respective members and, more broadly, for the benefit of the European inland navigation, in particular, on the Danube River.

This event signified the importance of strengthening and consolidating cooperation between the DC's secretariat and DG MOVE in order to increase synergies and make their actions more complementary and mutually reinforcing.

