

Petar Margić, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission, awarded *Doctor Honoris Causa* of Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy

(Varna, 14 October 2015)

On 14 October 2015, a solemn ceremony of awarding the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa* to the Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission (DC) Mr. Petar Margić was held at Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (NVNA). NVNA, founded in 1881, is the oldest and the most prestigious national educational centre in Bulgaria dealing with the education and training of highly skilled professionals for maritime and river transport.

The honorary degree was conferred upon Mr. Margić in recognition of his outstanding contribution to strengthening cooperation between the DC and NVNA, development of mutual understanding between the countries in the Danube region as well as environmental protection, peace and security on the Danube. The ceremony was attended by the representatives of government and public bodies, heads of public non-governmental organizations, representatives of maritime companies and business sector, professors, students and cadets of the Academy. The Superintendent of NVNA, Captain (Navy), Mr. Boyan Mednikarov presented Mr. Margić with the honorary medal, mantle and diploma. By tradition, Mr. Margić planted a tree in memory of the day in the courtyard of NVNA.

Following the official part, a presentation on the history and current activities of NVNA, including projects and programs for professors and students, was made. The Director-General and senior management of NVNA discussed prospects of implementing joint projects in the field of safety of vessels and port security against terrorist attacks, with the support of the European Commission.

