

PRESS RELEASE

On 11 February 2015, during an official visit to Hungary of H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, a delegation, led by him, conducted a visit to the Secretariat of the Danube Commission (DC).

Presidency of the Danube Commission, representatives of the Member States and Observer States, as well as the DC Secretariat attended the meeting.

In his speech, Mr. Ivica Dačić noted that water management is one of the priorities of Serbia's OSCE Chairmanship within the OSCE economic and environmental dimension.



For the Republic of Serbia, as well as the whole of Europe, the Danube River is of special transportation and economic importance. The huge potential of the Danube as the navigable route and the economic traffic artery has also been recognized by the European Union, which has defined its interests related to the Danube in the EU Strategy for the Danube region (*EUSDR*).

The Republic of Serbia is supportive of the work done by the Danube Commission, believing it to be extremely important for the regulation of free navigation on the Danube, and that it has a positive impact on the economic development of the Danube Region. Serbia supports the process of modernization of the work of the Danube Commission, as well as the signing of a new Convention on the Regime of Danube Navigation.

In addition, Serbia supports the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between the Secretariat of the Danube Commission and the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission, hoping the Agreement would constitute the basis for financing projects designed to improve the navigable infrastructure on the Danube and, as a consequence, lead to more extensive navigation on the Danube and economic development of the Danube region.

Mr. Ivica Dačić expressed the hope that the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia in the Danube Commission would make a positive contribution to reaching a compromise in the resolution of all open issues concerning the improved navigation of the Danube, thus contributing to future successful work of the Danube Commission consequently helping better economic exploitation of this navigable waterway of exceptional importance for all of Europe that has not been so far sufficiently utilized.

In turn, President of the Danube Commission, Mr. Ambassador Rade Drobac and Director-General of the DC Secretariat Mr. Petar Margić delivered speeches.