



PRESS RELEASE

Participation of the President of the Danube Commission at the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin

(Belgrade, 1 June 2016)

On behalf of the Danube Commission (DC), the President of DC, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Hungary, H.E. Mr. Rade DROBAC, participated at the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, on the 1st of June, 2016, which took place in Belgrade.

The meeting brought together the high representatives of all Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin: Bosnia Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Slovenia, as well as the representatives of different organizations, institutions and governments.

The key objective of the Meeting was to discuss the progress regarding the implementation of the framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and the current important issues regarding the flood management, the information exchange and the rehabilitation of the navigation on the Sava River waterway.

Ambassador DROBAC expressed his gratitude for having been invited to participate in the meeting and emphasized the importance of the collaboration between the Danube Commission and the Sava River Basin Commission. This collaboration permits to work together in order to develop specific fields of common interests, to establish and stimulate a platform which would promote and coordinate the activities related to the identified field of cooperation and the results thereof. Mr. R. DROBAC spoke regarding the Danube navigation and the efforts to join for the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Danube and the Sava River in accordance with the relevant European Directives, Platforms and initiatives.

The representatives of all participating states concluded and supported the Declaration of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin.

The President's speech was as it follows.

Speech

of Mr. Ambassador Rade Drobac, President of the Danube Commission
at the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin
Belgrade, 1 June 2016

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours Excellences,

I have the honor and privilege to attend today the special event of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and to express, on behalf of the Danube Commission, the cordially salutations and congratulations addressed to our friends and partners from the International Sava River Basin Commission.

The day of 29 December 2004 representing the date of the entry into force of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin is recognized by the Danube Commission as a historical moment, on this day being created the necessary legal conditions for the establishment of the International Sava River Basin Commission.

Since the establishment of the Sava River Basin Commission on 27 June 2005 in Zagreb, the Danube Commission has been supporting by all possible means the activity of this important organization and has been preoccupied about the establishment of an institutionalized cooperation between our two River Commissions.

On 29 January 2009, the President of the Danube Commission and the President of the International Sava River Basin Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Danube Commission (DC) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

The signing ceremony was organized in Budapest, on 29 January 2009 within important tripartite meeting of the Danube Commission, the International Sava River Basin Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), held in the headquarters of the Danube Commission.

This Memorandum of Understanding does represent the legal basis of the cooperation between the two Commissions for the purpose of a better coordination of their activity in the field of the navigation on the Danube and Sava River.

Since the year 2009, on the basis of this legal document, the Danube Commission and the International Sava River Basin Commission were working together in order to develop specific fields of common interest, to establish and stimulate a platform to promote, discuss and co-ordinate activities related to the identified field of cooperation and the results thereof.

The importance of our Memorandum of Understanding and its mutual benefit for both Parties is being proved by the fact that the two River Commissions, Danube and Sava granted each other mutual observer status from the first day of the beginning of our official cooperation.

The very closed cooperation between the Danube Commission and the Sava River Basin Commission is not only developed on the basis of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding but we have also an excellent cooperation and communication in the framework of the application of the Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin.

The Danube Commission, together with the Sava River Basin Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River supported by the European Commission, national authorities and NGOs are joining their efforts on the protection of the riverine environment and improvement of the sustainable development of the inland navigation in the Danube River Basin. For these purposes, annual follow up meetings of the Joint Statement are constantly organized.

Allow me to conclude by mentioning that the Danube Commission and the Sava River Basin Commission are more and more committed to join their efforts for the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Danube and Sava River in accordance with the relevant European Directives, Platforms and Initiatives.

I wish all success to the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin in achieving their goals and be sure that the Danube Commission will continue to be on your side for a successful regional development.