

## PRESS RELEASE

On 10<sup>th</sup> of July, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, H. E. Ms. Marija PEJCINOVIC BURIC visited Danube Commission (DC).

This visit at Danube Commission headquarters has been attended by the President of DC, H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Hungary, Mr. Gordan Grlic RADMAN, Vice-President of DC, H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Hungary, Mr. Oleg TULEA and the representatives of the Member States as well as by the Danube Commission Secretariat. The Secretariat of DC was represented by the Chief Engineer of DC, Mr. Horst SCHNIDLER and counsellors.

In his introductory speech, President of DC emphasised the importance of the Danube, as the most international river in the world, and of the Danube Commission as one of the oldest international organization in Europe. In his opinion, the Danube Commission has to adapt to the new circumstances and challenges it might face in the near future, but also has to strengthen its relations and cooperation with other



international river organizations, such as the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine and the International Sava River Basin Commission. The importance of the Danube traffic is expected to grow much more as Danube is a part of the Pan-European corridor network, and the increasing significance will definitely demand greater awareness.

Mrs. Marija PEJCINOVIC BURIC expressed the importance of the cooperation between the DC member states. According Mrs PEJCINOVIC BURIC, Europe should be built on common interest of the member states, expressing the full support for the work done by the Danube Commission, which is extremely important for the regulation on the navigation of the Danube.

Chief Engineer of the Danube Commission, Mr. Horst SCHINDLER, spoke about the importance of being in daily contact with the other international river organizations, mentioning the existence of some on-going and some in sight projects. Danube Commission might have to

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adapt to new rules as the regulations of river navigation will be unified in the near future. The growing importance of the Danube will bring more traffic on it and it will also demand growing awareness for the part of the Commission.

In 2018, Danube Commission will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belgrade Convention, which is counted as the «birth document» of the current Danube Commission. Mr. President added that there are several tasks for the Commission that are necessary to be done until the anniversary. In this respect, Vice-President of the DC, Mr. Oleg TULEA confirmed the importance of this event for the members – states and for the Danube Commission as well.



The Permanent Representative of Hungary, Ambassador Mr. Iván GYURCSIK, stated that one of the most important task of the DC is to deepen the current relations with other international water and river organizations, and to share its experiences with them. Danube Commission might have to contribute to edit the content of the Belgrade Convention on some point, in order to make it work more efficiently in the near future.