



Press release

On 15th of February 2017, the first meeting of experts on the security of inland water transport has taken place at the Danube Commission (DC); it was convened with the support of the DG MOVE of the European Commission.

The meeting brought together experts of the Member States of the Danube Commission: Austria, Hungary, Germany, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Croatia. Along with the experts in the field of the security of inland navigation, the meeting was attended by representatives of the shipping industry.

According to the experts, the Danube Commission has done a significant preparatory work on this matter. The DC was the first in the European inland navigation to develop several fundamental documents on the security of navigation, including Recommendations on ensuring the security of navigation on the Danube. Further work on this matter requires new proposals, primarily from the security, to enable the introduction of the documents into practice of the Danube navigation. This relates, first and foremost, to the identification of insecure areas and information scheme for the potential security threats of violation of vessel and port facilities for the river operators, education and training of the security experts and interaction of the specialized agencies for the security of navigation. Shipping industry stakeholders and competent authorities should have mutual interest in the security of navigation, as it provides the necessary economic performance.

The objectives of the safety and security refer to the different fields of responsibility, while in terms of a common security the goals of both the shipping companies and competent authorities must coincide.

Ensuring the security in the field of safety and security requires substantial investments not only to prevent actions resulting in incidents, fire and loss of cargo, but also to prevent terrorist attacks that jeopardize human life. In this case, a preliminary risk assessment is of great importance, e.g., pre-screening plan for the passenger list. The same measures for crew personnel are needed.

Efficiency is also gained through the joint action plan developed by the competent authorities and through the participation of organizations, such as EUROPOL, FRONTEX, AQUAPOL as well as non-EU Member States. Meanwhile, joint education and training of the security experts according to the uniform methodologies and in one language of communication is of great significance.

The participants of this interaction are expected to take active part in drafting recommendations and in the decision-making process.

The meeting of experts emphasized the need for the Danube Commission's participation in the activity of the Priority Area 11 (*Security*) of the European Union Strategy for the Danube region as well as in the events under the auspices of the DG MOVE and DG REGIO.

The meeting proposed to follow up on a set of issues and suggestions in framework of the Danube Commission and European fora.



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