

PRESS RELEASE

The 29th of June, on the occasion of the 70 years of the signature of the Convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube, the Danube Commission gathered in Belgrade, Serbia to strengthen the partnership and the cooperation between its Member States to promote freedom of navigation on the Danube.

The 90th Session of the Danube Commission, hosted by the Republic of Serbia, was held in the Palace of Serbia in Belgrade under the chairmanship of Gordan Grlić Radman, President of the Danube Commission.



The delegations of all eleven-member states of the Danube Commission (Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine) as well as representatives of the observer states (Greece, Turkey, Czechia and Belgium) participated in the session. The session was also attended by representatives of several international organizations (European Commission, Central Commission for the Navigation on

Address: Hungary, H-1068 Budapest, Benczúr utca 25.

Phone: +36-1-461-80-10, Fax: +36-1-352-18-39, E-mail: secretariat@danubecom-intern.org

Website: www.danubecommission.org

the Rhine, Pro Danube Serbia, International Sava River Basin Commission, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and Mosselle Commission).

The President opened the 90th session with a speech concerning the tasks of the Commission in 2018 and recalling future projects. Afterwards, Director-General Petar Margić presented the activities performed by the Secretariat since December 2017 as well as the main objectives, mentioning the projects in which the Commission participates.

Karla Peijs, the EU Coordinator of the Rhine–Danube Corridor, presented the 3rd Corridor Work Plan of which the Danube Commission is an active member. The session examined reports of the expert and working groups regarding technical, nautical, management and ecology issues as well as legal and financial issues.



The representatives of the Member States approved draft decisions in different areas of DC competence, submitted by the groups, such as the update of the Fundamental Dispositions for Danube Navigation (DFND) and the Commission's participation in the DTP GRENDL project. Further information will be made available on the website of the Commission.

In addition, during the session, EU Coordinator Karla Peijs, and Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the UNECE were presented with a Danube Commission Medal. The Commission

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also awarded its commemorative medal for merits in the development of Danube navigation to Anatoliy Efimovitch Kolesnikov, Captain of the Izmaïl port, Matej Vaníček, former Director of the Department of water transport in the Slovakian Ministry of Transport and Construction and to Igor Zaharia, Deputy Captain of the Giurgiulești port.

International cooperation has also been emphasized during the 90th session by the signature of the Cooperation Arrangement between the Danube Commission and the Moselle Commission, by which both organizations granted each other observer status and restated the importance and wish for deepening their future cooperation.



This anniversary was also celebrated by the Serbian authorities who organized a Ministerial Conference on the "Danube Commission - strengthening the partnership in free navigation on the Danube", preceded by an exhibition dedicated to "70 Years of the Belgrade Convention", both on the premises of the Palace of Serbia.

The 91th ordinary session of the Danube Commission will take place on 12 December 2018 in Budapest.

[COMMUNIQUÉ Ministerial Conference on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Belgrade Convention, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, 29 June 2018](#)

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