

The First meeting of the Commission Expert group on DINA

(Brussels, 26th of February 2018)

The First meeting of the Commission expert group on DINA (Digital Inland Navigation Area) took place on the 26th of February 2018 in Brussels. This expert group is set up to support the European Commission in the development and implementation of the policy initiatives to promote the digitalization of inland waterway transport including its interconnection with other transport modes.

The meeting has been attended by the Member States authorities and other public entities in charge of Inland Waterway matters. Other members include organizations that represent the inland navigation professions and are associated with digitalization. Danube Commission has been represented at the meeting by the Director General, Mr. Petar Margic.

At the first meeting on 26.02.2018, the group adopted its rules of procedure on the basis of standard rules of procedure. In 2015 the Commission announced the Digital Single Market Strategy: its translation to inland waterway transport is the ongoing DINA initiative, this needs to be supported by the expert group. The expert group shall also support the Commission in revising of the 'RIS Directive' (2005/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on harmonized river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community and support the development of a legal initiative on electronic tools in inland waterway transport as referred to in the Commission's proposal for a Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation of February 2016.

The main tasks of the Commission expert group are to assist the European Commission in relation to the implementation of existing Union legislation, programs and policies, to assist the Commission in the preparation of delegated acts, to assist the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives, to Coordinate with Member States, exchange of views, to provide the expertise to the Commission when preparing implementing measures, i.e. before the Commission submits these draft measures to a comitology committee.



During the meeting, the key speakers as Mrs. Daniela Rosca, Mr. Patrizio Grillo, Mrs. Luca Farkas (DG MOVE) marked out some conclusions as follows: inland navigation sector sees great benefits in electronic documents to be exchanged with administration (paperless administration); relevant experience of RIS and maritime sector can contribute to successful development and implementation of the new service.