



## Press release

On 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2018, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of experts on the security of inland water transport has taken place at the headquarters of Danube Commission (DC) in Budapest; it was convened with the support of DG MOVE of the European Commission.

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

According to the experts, the Danube Commission has carried out a significant preparatory work on the security of navigation, which is important not only for the Danube, but also for European inland navigation. Several basic documents on a related subject have been prepared, and the task is to effectively implement them in practical navigation, namely, to create a system for interaction of the shipping industry with the competent authorities from the *safety* and *security* fields, as well as with the security-oriented organizations.

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.

It was proposed to consider the *Recommendations on ensuring the security of navigation on the Danube* (dok. DK/TAG 83/15) as a general Vessel Security Plan to be provided during vessel check. On the basis of the Recommendations of the Danube Commission, further special instructions for the security of river vessels, including passenger ones, have been also launched.

The experts considered a number of special requirements for the qualifications of crews and personnel of passenger vessels. The meeting also acknowledged the benefits of a special databank, covering not only boatmasters' certificates, but also information from police authorities on crew and personnel employed.

It was agreed that the special issues, such as the RIS application, alarm equipment, *etc.* require joint examination with the CCNR.

The meeting of experts pointed out that the security of inland water transport is a complex and diverse issue, affecting various aspects of navigation itself and the activities of special bodies, that requires at this stage the systematization of proposals within a special project, involving, as a theoretical platform, "Working platform for the development of the security system for inland water transport" - the document elaborated by the Danube Commission. The meeting suggested that consideration be given to the possibility of turning to DG MOVE of the European Commission on this issue.

The expert meeting discussed the interaction of the Danube Commission with the PA 11 (Security) of the EU Strategy for the Danube region, with AQUAPOL on the security of inland waterway transport.

The meeting proposed to follow up on a set of topics and suggestions in framework of the Danube Commission and European for a, which will be incorporated into a questionnaire and further presented at the Technical working group meeting in April 2018.