

PRESS RELEASE

participation of General Director of the Danube Commission Secretariat at the International Ministerial Conference

“Connecting by Inland Navigation”

(18-19 April 2018, Wrocław, Poland)

On 18-19 April, 2018 a high – level International Ministerial Conference was held in Wrocław, Poland. The Conference was jointly organized by Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland

This Conference represented a *forum* which gathered the key transport stakeholders being as a part - event of the 2018 year of Multimodality.

The Conference *“Connecting by Inland Navigation”* enjoys an important participation through the topics approached and through the level of the participants from the different sectors of the transport. Over 400 delegates gathered to discuss the development of inland navigation across the world and of river basins. The Danube Commission has been represented by **Mr. Petar Margic**, General Director of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission.



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The Conference represented a well a platform for the exchange of experiences regarding the development and future of the inland navigation sector. Representatives from the international community shared current information on the role and growing importance of inland water transport in Europe and beyond.



Mr. Petar Margic had a presentation concerning the past, present and future of the Danube Commission in which he emphasized the origins of Danube navigation, current situation of the activity of Danube Commission, the challenges in sphere of Danube navigation and of course the plans, perspectives, initiatives and projects for the future.

The International Ministerial Conference had the aim to increase the focus of policy on fostering the role of inland water transport, encouraging countries to maximize the potential of inland waterways and addressing the challenges of sustainable development of mobility with reference to inland water transport. For this purpose, the Ministers were invited to sign the Ministerial Declaration to endorse the objectives for the next period and propose strategic actions.

This Conference has linked together countries with vested interest in inland navigation, River Commissions, European Commission, basin authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental associations and other key stakeholders from around the world to discuss key matters, trends and challenges that are fundamental to the development of inland waterways across the world, set priorities and coordinate activities by means of a signed Ministerial declaration.

The Declaration sets forth a number of strategic actions to improve the competitive position of inland waterways across the globe with the aim of creating a sustainable future for Inland Navigation.



The Declaration stresses the need for:

- an appropriate regulatory framework, and the role that the United Nations Conventions for the sector can play in developing them,
- using the full potential of the sector in balancing transport modes and promoting multimodality,
- ensuring the sector's resilience to climate change,
- increasing the competitiveness of the sector through innovation,
- ensuring that the development of Inland Water Transport is pursued in an internationally harmonized manner.

Respectively, the countries and all parties concerned are invited to develop action plans for the implementation of these issues, and the progress will be monitored.

[Declaration in French](#)

[Declaration in Russian](#)

[Declaration in English](#)

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