
**Press release: Meeting of the Working Group on legal and financial matters of
the Danube Commission
(13-15 October 2026)**

On October 13-15, 2026, the Meeting of the Working Group on legal and financial matters (WG JUR-FIN) of the Danube Commission (DC) was held in a hybrid format and led by the Slovakian Chair, Mr. Peter Kováč.

The delegations of all riparian countries (Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine) participated in the Meeting.

The delegations expressed solidarity with Ukraine, which continues to suffer damage from the strongly condemned Russian military attacks on the Lower Danube, which hinder free navigation and violate the very core of the Belgrade Convention's fundamental principles regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube (1948)¹. They welcomed the update of the [*Register of Damage in the Lower Danube Region Caused by Russian Military Actions*](#), published on the DC website, with the inputs from Romania and an update from Ukraine. All affected Danube countries are invited to provide information on any damage caused by the Russian Federation's military attacks to ensure the continuous updating of the Register.

The Danube Commission continues the process of reform, ensuring the functioning within the new Secretariat structure (effective July 1, 2026). A further step towards the modernization of the Danube Commission Secretariat was the agreement on the draft of the new *Unified Regulations on the Rights and Obligations of Functionaries and Employees of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission*.

Another important topic discussed was the 2027 mandate change based on an open competitive recruitment procedure and selection process organized by DC SEC for 7 posts of functionaries that will become vacant as of 1 July 2027.

During the three-day meeting, delegations considered important legal and financial issues concerning the implementation of the Belgrade Convention and Danube navigation, discussed the suspension of the activity of the Preparatory Committee for the Diplomatic Conference on the regime of navigation on the Danube and the conditions for its reconvening, took note of the progress achieved in cooperation with international partners within the framework of the GRANT 3 Agreement with EC/DG MOVE, the PLATINA4Action and DiVINE EU-funded projects, and also agreed to expand cooperation with IG River Cruise – the European River Cruise Association.

As usual, the autumn WG JUR-FIN meeting covered the implementation of the DC Work Plan 2026 and the DC Budget 2026 (first semester), as well as agreement on the draft DC Work Plan 2027 (Section on Law, Finance, Organizational Development and Publications) and the draft DC Budget 2027.

The next WG JUR-FIN meeting is planned for April 2027.

¹ Danube States adopted the Decision at the 100th Session on 14 December 2023 (DC/SES 100/11) urging the Russian Federation to draw the consequences of its attacks by withdrawing from the Belgrade Convention until 29 February 2024, or, failing that, as of 1 March 2024, the Danube States will no longer consider themselves bound by the obligations under the Belgrade Convention vis-à-vis the Russian Federation. This decision came into force on the 1st March 2024.