



**Press release of the Danube Commission: 96th session of the Danube Commission
(14th December 2021)**

The 96th session of the Danube Commission (DC) was held under the presidency of the Representative of Ukraine to the Danube Commission, H.E. Mrs. Ambassador Liubov Nepop on 14th December 2021 at the premises of the Danube Commission in Budapest.

The session was held in hybrid mode, allowing delegations to attend both in the conference room and remotely online.

The delegations of all eleven Member States of the Danube Commission (Republic of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and observers from the European Commission and Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine participated in the session

The session addressed issues pertaining to various fields of the DC's activities and adopted a number of Decisions recommended by the legal and financial working group and the technical working group, as well as proposed by the Member States. The President of the DC outlined the main tasks of the DC in 2022, and Mrs. Rita Silek, Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the Revision of the Belgrade Convention, provided information on the status of the revision of the Convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube.

Thus, during the 96th session, Representatives of the Member States adopted 13 Decisions in accordance with the items of the agenda as adopted:

- on the execution of the Work Plan of the Danube Commission for the period from 1 January 2021 till 31 December 2021 and on the adoption of the Work Plan for the period from 1 January 2022 till 31 December 2022 (DK/TAG 96/7);
- in regard to the recognition of documents of personnel of inland navigation vessels for crews of vessels of the Member States of the Danube Commission that are not members of the European Union (DK/TAG 96/10);
- to adopt the Regulation on the composition and activities of the drafting group entrusted with updating the DFND (2018 edition) and drafting a new edition of the DFND in 2022 (DK/TAG 96/13);
- to publish information on planned interruptions of navigation through standardized Notices to Skippers (DK/TAG 96/14);
- to approve the Report on the results of the working group on technical matters, held in April 2021 (DK/TAG 96/19);
- on technical matters (concerning the approval of the Report on the results of the working group on technical matters, held in October 2021) (DK/TAG 96/20);
- to amend the provisions of the "Rules of Procedure of the Danube Commission" in regard to the representation of the Member States of the Commission (DK/TAG 96/23);
- on the time frame for drafting the reports of working group meetings and expert meetings (DK/TAG 96/24);



- to amend article 37 of the Rules of Procedure of the Danube Commission (DK/TAG 96/25);
- to amend article 66 of the Rules of Procedure of the Danube Commission (DK/TAG 96/26);
- to amend the "Description of the duties and qualifications of functionaries and employees of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission" with regard to the updating of the requirements for the 2.1 post "Secretary" (DK/TAG 96/27);
- on the draft budget for 2022 (DK/TAG 96/30);
- on legal matters (concerning the approval of the Report on the results of the working group on legal and financial matters from 11th – 14th May 2021) (DK/TAG 96/32).

The meeting heard and took note of Information by the Director-General on the Secretariat's activities from June 2021 (DK/TAG 96/4), Report on the execution of the Work Plan of the Danube Commission for the period from 1 January 2021 till 31 December 2021 (DK/TAG 96/5), Information on cooperation with international organizations (DK/TAG 96/8), Report on the results of the Experts Meeting on Development of Ports and Port Operations (30th September 2021) (DK/TAG 96/17) and Information on the execution of the budget in 2021 (as of 15th November 2021) (DK/TAG 96/28).

At the conclusion of its work, the 96th session set an indicative agenda for the 97th session of the DC to be held on 15th June 2022.