

Danube Commission hosts 13th Joint Statement Meeting

The 13th Follow-up Meeting of the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube Region took place on 14 and 15 September 2022 in Budapest. A large number of representatives of the European Commission, international organizations, national transport and environmental institutions, project team representatives, water management authorities and NGOs participated in the meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Danube Commission and took place in a hybrid format with over 60 participants.

The Danube Commission, together with the Sava River Basin Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River supported by the European Commission, and also national authorities and NGOs have had fruitful debates on the protection of the riverine environment and improvement of the sustainable development of inland navigation in the Danube River Basin. The reunion is part of the annual follow-up meetings of the Joint Statement which are constantly organized by the three organizations. There is also a consensus of three commissions on the future development of the JS process, which was presented to the participants of the meeting. The concept is largely supported by the results of an online questionnaire.

Experts from Hungary, Austria, Serbia and Croatia reported on the status of implementation of important national and joint projects in line with the Joint Statement process. The main topics of discussion were climate change adaptation and ecologically sound river engineering, as well as the challenges for future ecologically sound river engineering in the context of climate change. In this framework, the document and key aspects of the Technical guidance on climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027 were presented. Special attention was given to the question of how ecologically sound river engineering can be integrated into the education and training of current and future engineers, and there is initial consensus on an integrated approach to hydraulic engineering.

In order to pave the way for new positive developments, the ISRBC will organize the next Joint Statement Meeting in Zagreb on 13 and 14 September 2023.

