



## DANUBE COMMISSION

2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Workshop “Roadmap and actions towards zero-emission Danube fleet”

**Main conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Workshop**

---

Virginia Oganessian

Budapest, 12 May 2025

## Main objectives of the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Workshop:

- To bring together the most relevant Danube fleet operators and representatives of all Danube States on the level of navigation authorities and other organisational units tasked with the decarbonisation of the Danube fleet, to start a structured dialogue and to agree on a **Joint Strategy and Roadmap for Decarbonising the Danube Inland Navigation Fleet** with the EU 2030/2040/2050 CO2 emission targets;
- To provide information on the relevant regulatory framework for CO2 emission reduction in Europe and an overview of the technical provisions for close-to-zero emission vessel technologies, on best practice projects in Western Europe;
- To discuss technical solutions and assess their relevance to achieve the EU emission targets based on the Danube fleet composition and operational profile;
- To learn from the barge operators how they intend to deal with the CO2 emission as part of fleet investment (renewal and retrofiting);
- To learn from the DC member states how they intend to support the barge operators in their greening efforts (support in funding & financing, other incentives, etc.);
- To learn from a major bunker fuel supplier in the Danube region what alternative fuels could be made available where, when, at what volumes, and at what costs.



## “Roadmap and actions towards zero-emission Danube fleet”

Workshop Grant Agreement 3 /Task 5.1  
Joint Workshop by Danube Commission and EUSDR PA1a

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	8 October 2024, 8:30 – 16:00
<b>Meeting venue</b>	Danube Commission, Benczur utca 25, 1068 Budapest (Meeting will be held in hybrid format)

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome and introduction to the DC initiative for a Joint Roadmap for the greening of the Danube inland navigation fleet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manfred Seitz, General Director, Secretariat of the Danube Commission</li> <li>Markus Simoner &amp; Monica Patrichi, Chair EUSDR PA1a</li> </ul>
09:15-10:00	<b>Regulatory framework for decarbonisation of Inland Navigation (CO2 Emission reduction requirements) and status of technical provisions for close-to-zero emission solutions in inland navigation (CESNI)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU legislation in place and forthcoming, financial support from EU programs, Representative of EC/DG MOVE</li> <li>Representative of CCNR / CCNR chief engineer</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	<b>Expectations/requirements from shippers towards Inland Navigation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of Rick Arends, Director Sustainable Freight Buyers Alliance at Smart Freight Centre (SFC) –tbc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trends in buying green transport</li> <li>Calculation of CO2 emissions in supply chains (GLEC)</li> <li>Impact of Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	<b>Status of Danube inland navigation fleet, main operational profiles and possible technical solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Danube inland navigation fleet and its estimated fuel consumption, Presentation by DC Statistics</li> <li>Overview of technically available promising zero-emission solutions</li> </ul>

11:00-12:15	<b>Status of Danube inland navigation fleet, main operational profiles and assessments of possible technical &amp; economical solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview on the Danube inland navigation fleet, Presentation Pjotr Suvorov, Chief Engineer &amp; Domokos Iványi, Expert Statistics</li> <li>Overview of technically available promising zero-emission solutions for European inland navigation, Presentation by Benjamin Friedhoff, DST- DST – Development Centre for Ship Technology and Transport Systems</li> <li>Results of study on promising alternative fuels and propulsion systems specifically for the Danube Region, incl. economic and technological assessment, Milica Nikoli, Senior Project Manager, via donau &amp; Erwin van der Linden, Aristoi</li> </ul>
12:15-12:45	<b>Perspectives for supply of green fuels for Danube navigation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antigona Mironescu &amp; Attila Gaál, OMV Petrom „Charting a Greener Course-OMV’s Commitment to Sustainable Bunkering along the Danube”</li> <li>Davide Rubini &amp; Arthur Romano, Vitol „Possible contributions from Vitol to supplying the Danube region with green fuels for inland navigation” - tbc</li> </ul>
12:45-13:30	Buffet Lunch
13:30-14:15	<b>Assessment of greening options by barge operators and Member State representatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive session to assess technical and economic characteristics of greening options</li> <li>Opinion of the sector and Member State representatives</li> </ul>
14:15-14:45	<b>Activities of Danube barge operators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of selected company strategies and activities - DDSG Mahart, Balázs Hlavacska, Managing director &amp; sales manager</li> </ul>
14:45-15:15	<b>Activities of Danube Member States</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory issues, supporting initiatives</li> <li>Status of implementation of Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) - The perspectives of the Netherlands, Martin Quispel, EICB, Coordinator of Platina4Action</li> </ul>
15:15-16:15	<b>Discussion Session: Interventions of representatives of barge operators with first experiences in using biofuels, bio-fuel suppliers, engine producers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type of biofuels /HVO/Engine requirements</li> <li>Demand, supply and costs of biofuels</li> <li>Alexander Ochs, CEO &amp; Daniel Bell, COO “Practical experiences of Kühne + Nagel Euroshipping in HVO100 operations”</li> <li>Questions &amp; Answers</li> <li>Moderator of the session: Christian Stangl-Brachnik, BMK (AT)</li> </ul>
16:15-16:45	<b>Elaboration and implementation of a joint strategy Danube States and Fleet operators (DC initiative for a Joint Roadmap for greening Danube inland navigation fleet, supported by PA1a)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of the DC Strategy and Roadmap</li> <li>Organisation of the process</li> <li>Next joint Workshop 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025</li> </ul>
17:00	End of the workshop



Funded by  
the European Union

- Funded by the EU and supported by the EC
- Organized jointly by the Danube Commission and EUSDR PA1a on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Attended by almost 100 participants from the Danube Region and beyond

## Main key points and discussions:

The **EC DG/MOVE, DG/GROW**, and the **CCNR** presented the regulatory framework for decarbonizing IWT (CO<sub>2</sub> Emission reduction requirements) and the status of technical provisions for close-to-zero emission solutions in inland navigation, including the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III).

The **SYNERGETICS, PLATINA4Action** projects, and **viadonau** presented close-to-zero emission vessel technologies and best practice projects in Western Europe. Possible technical solutions were discussed, including assessments of their relevance to achieving the EU emission targets based on the Danube fleet composition and operational profile, focusing on biofuels.

Fuel providers (**OMV, Vitol**) shared their opinion regarding future perspectives for the supply of green fuels for Danube navigation. Special attention was paid to the use of **HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil)** as an economically prospective short-term and mid-term solution to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vessel operations significantly, especially for those vessels that require high engine power and operate over long distances, such as pushed convoys.



## Main conclusions and results:

- Approval of the Draft document for the Strategy & Roadmap by the DC Member States ( WG TECH, 9-10 October 2024);
- Elaboration of a catalogue of measures for coordinated national implementation and facilitating the development of national plans and incentives for fleet modernization in close cooperation with fleet operators;
- Follow-up workshop at DC in Budapest on 12 May 2025 with a focus on Member States' actions;
- Technology Transfer Workshop of Platina4Action project 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025;
- Update of the Draft Strategy & Roadmap document.

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

***Secretariat of the  
Danube Commission***

[secretariat@danubecommission.org](mailto:secretariat@danubecommission.org)

*H-1068 Budapest  
Benczúr utca 25*

[www.danubecommission.org](http://www.danubecommission.org)

