

16th Meeting on the Follow-up of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*

Agenda

Date: October 21-22, 2025

Venue: The Danube Commission Secretariat, Benczur utca 25, 1064 Budapest, and online

The objective of the 16th Meeting on the Follow-up of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin* is to discuss the latest developments in the field of inland navigation and environmental protection, with a focus on the Joint Statement 2.0 and the JS 2.0 Manual. Particular attention will be paid to the implementation of the JS 2.0 at the level of the waterway administrations.

DAY 1 • October 21, 2025

19:00	<i>Working dinner (hosted by DC)</i> Restaurant Andrásy Garden, Mamaison Hotel Andrásy, <i>Munkácsy Mihály utca 5-7, 1063 Budapest (tbc)</i>
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DAY 2 • October 22, 2025

8:30	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>	
9:00	Welcome and introductory statements	
	Danube Commission (DC)	<i>Manfred Seitz, DC</i>
	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)	<i>Birgit Vogel, ICPDR</i>
	International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)	<i>Dragan Zeljko, ISRBC</i>
9:15	Inland waterways and the environment – Policy developments relevant for the Danube region	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Manfred Seitz, DC</i>
	Outlook for Danube River Basin waterways in the context of the Rhine-Danube Corridor development Planned activities of the new European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor	<i>Margarida Marques,</i> European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor, EC/DG MOVE
	European Water Resilience Strategy Communication from the Commission, June 2025	<i>Anders Iversen</i> Policy officer, EC/DG ENV

10:00	EUSDR Action Plan and Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Dragan Zeljko, ISRBC</i>
	5th Macro Regional Strategy Implementation Report	<i>Johan Magnusson,</i> Team Leader EC/DG REGIO
	Update on the implementation measures of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan (FRMMP) for the Danube and its navigable tributaries	<i>Gert-Jan Muilerman</i> EUSDR PA1a Technical Secretariat
10:30	Presentation and launching of the Joint Statement 2.0	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Birgit Vogel, ICPDR</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the JS 2.0 development and endorsement process • Key elements of the JS 2.0 document • Launch of the JS2.0 document by the three commissions • Handover of the JS 2.0 to the European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor 	<i>Dejan Komatina,</i> Senior Consultant <i>ISRBC, ICPDR, and DC</i>
11:15	Implementation of the Joint Statement 2.0	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Dragan Zeljko, ISRBC</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation process and next steps • Presentation of the draft JS 2.0 Manual • Proposal for an online knowledge management system • Discussion on the implementation (all participants) 	<i>ISRBC, ICPDR, and DC</i> <i>Dejan Komatina,</i> Senior Consultant
11:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
12:30	Panel Discussion - Impacts of Joint Statement 2.0 on the Work of Waterway Administrations	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Manfred Seitz, DC</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion featuring Directors of Waterway Administrations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For AFDJ: <i>Catalina Dumbrava</i>, Head, Investment & Foreign Financed Programs ○ For APPD: <i>Ivelin Zanev</i>, Director General ○ For Plovput: <i>Aleksandar Pantelic</i>, Director General ○ For OVF: <i>József Gacsályi</i>, Deputy General Director for Technical Affairs ○ For viadonau: <i>Gert-Jan Muilerman</i>, Head of Department Strategy & International Programs • Interaction with the audience 	

14:00	Presentation of ongoing & forthcoming waterway infrastructure projects in the Danube countries (brief overview presentations)	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Jasna Muskatirovic, DC</i>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvement of the Navigation Conditions on the Romanian - Bulgarian Sector, CEF 2 funded project "FAST DANUBE 2" – <i>Romeo Soare (AFDJ)/Ivelin Zanev (APPD)</i> 2. Border Section Croatia - Serbia – CEF Study "Preparing FAIRway 2 works in the Rhine Danube Corridor" - final project results - <i>Lidija Hubalek (MMPI) / Ljubisa Mihajlovic (Plovput)</i> 3. Update on status of FAIRway Danube II (CEF 2 funded project), <i>Andreas Bäck (viadonau)</i> 4. Restoration and Renaturation of Bala Branch Bifurcation Area to Ensure Navigation Conditions and Environmental Protection on the Danube River, <i>Catalina Dumbrava (AFDJ)</i> 	
14:45	Presentation of projects of basin-wide importance (short overview presentations)	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Dragan Zeljko, ISRBC</i>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Danube River Discharge Under Climate Change: trends and future projects, <i>Monica Ionita-Scholz (AWI)</i> 2. MERLIN (Horizon 2020 project) - final project results, <i>Anna Kusters (Deltares)</i> 3. Danube Sediment Q2, <i>Helmut Habersak (BOKU)</i> 4. Master Plan for sustainable tourism development in the Sava River Basin, <i>Jovana Rašeta Bastić/Krunoslav Sopček (ISRBC)</i> 	
16:00	Final Conclusions	
	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)	<i>Birgit Vogel, ICPDR</i>
	International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)	<i>Dragan Zeljko, ISRBC</i>
	Danube Commission (DC)	<i>Manfred Seitz, DC</i>

Webex link:

<https://danubecommission.webex.com/danubecommission/j.php?MTID=mf2a881a2331044c44fc9f0613262bed6>

Registration link:

<https://www.danubecommission.org/dc/en/registrations/16th-meeting-on-the-follow-up-of-the-joint-statement-meeting/>