

# Danube Commission: Introduction

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Director-General of the  
Secretariat

Workshop

## STREAMLINING AT THE DANUBE



**Duration:**  
09:30 – 15:10

**Working language:**  
English

**Participants:**  
Secretariat of the Danube  
Commission  
Navigation Companies  
Key Stakeholders



**September 29, 2015**

Secretariat of the Danube Commission



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# DANUBE COMMISSION background

## EUROPEAN DANUBE COMMISSION

Established 1856

Aim to eliminate obstacles on the Danube delta arms (initially for 2 years)



Participants of the Congress of Paris (1856)

## SIGNATORIES:

- Russia
- Austria
- France
- Great Britain
- Prussia
- Sardinia
- Turkey



European Danube Commission

# DANUBE COMMISSION today

## Convention regarding the Regime of Navigation on the Danube (BC), 1948

establishment of the Danube Commission (DC) to provide freedom of navigation on the Danube



### 11 MEMBER STATES

Austria  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Germany  
Hungary  
R.Moldova  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Romania  
Russia  
Ukraine



### 10 OBSERVERS

France  
the Netherlands  
Czech Republic  
Turkey  
Cyprus  
Greece  
Montenegro  
Belgium  
FYRM  
Georgia

## Key points:

- 🚢 navigational problems
- 🚢 bottlenecks
- 🚢 low and high water levels
- 🚢 cooperation with competent authorities
- 🚢 locks
- 🚢 lack of crew
- 🚢 old fleet



## Key points:

- 🚢 **fairway infrastructure**
  - locks and lock management
  - fairway depth and other fairway conditions
  - marking system
- 🚢 **standards and administrative issues**
  - border controls
  - waiting time
  - vessel speed
  - education and boatmaster's licenses
- 🚢 **transport operations**
  - workable economic transport concept
  - water power – the cheapest fuel
  - lack of skilled crew sector



"A Prosperous Future for the Danube  
Navigation"  
(17 September 2013)

"Danube on the Flow"  
(14 October 2014)

# "Streamlining at the Danube" (29 September 2015)

## Key points:

### DANUBIAN AND INTER-REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

customs, border control, border police checks

- ✂ simplification of procedures by signing series of bilateral agreements between the neighboring countries (Hungary, Croatia and Serbia)
- ✂ improvement of collaboration between border customs and technical inspection agencies
- ✂ forming of the joint border crossing points to harmonize working hours and to speed up custom clearance process



Commissioner Hahn:

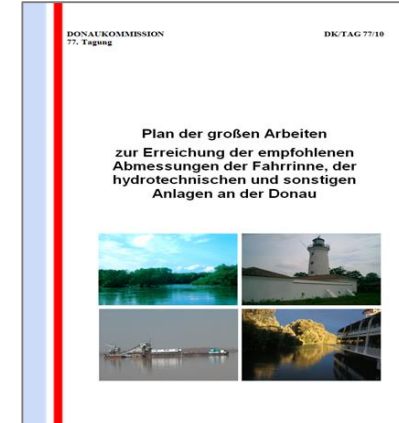
**"The biggest loss of time and highest operational costs are related to three main areas: customs, border police and navigation surveillance."**

(Round Table "Industry meets Policy" – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum of EUSDR, Vienna, 27 June 2014)

# DC TASKS

specified in Art. 8 of the Belgrade Convention

- ⚓ **Plan of major works on the Danube in the interests of navigation**
- ⚓ **establishment of a unified system of signals and pilot services**
- ⚓ **unification of rules of river surveillance**
- ⚓ **coordination of hydro-meteorological services**
- ⚓ **harmonization of inland navigation rules**
- ⚓ **consulting, recommendations**
- ⚓ **provide statistical data on Danube navigation**
- ⚓ **edition of professional publications**



# DC PUBLICATIONS

- ⚓ Rules for **river surveillance** applied on the Danube, 2010
- ⚓ Recommendations on **Inland AIS** application, 2011
- ⚓ Information manual on **dues and fees, tariffs and taxes** in force in the Danube navigation, 2012
- ⚓ Recommendations on **RIS** application, 2013
- ⚓ Recommendations on ensuring **security of navigation** on the Danube, 2015



# RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENSURING SECURITY OF NAVIGATION ON THE DANUBE

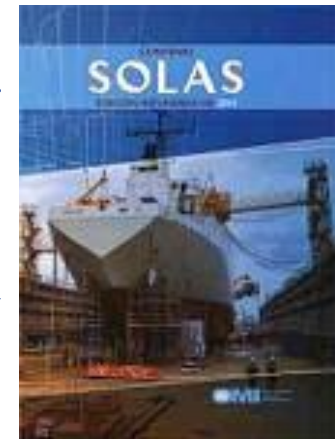
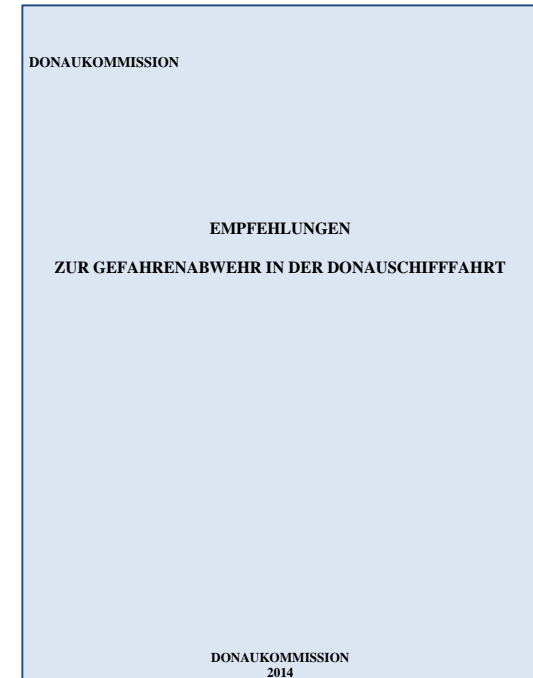
- in German, French and Russian
- Adoption: by DC's 83rd session on 10 December 2014
- Entry into force: **from 1 January 2015**

## THE MAIN OBJECTIVE

Establishment of general principles for taking measures preventing consequences related to the violation of security of vessels and of port facilities as well as to the unlawful acts against vessels' crews navigating on the Danube

## BACKGROUND

- Proposals by the **competent authorities** of the **DC** Member States
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (**SOLAS**), 1974: International Code for the security of ships and of port facilities (ISPS-Code)





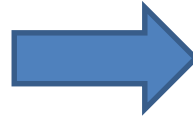
## Declaration

on effective waterway infrastructure  
maintenance on the Danube  
and its navigable tributaries

Danube Ministers Meeting

**Luxemburg**

7 June 2012



## Conclusions

on effective waterway infrastructure  
rehabilitation  
and maintenance on the Danube  
and its navigable tributaries

Danube Ministers Meeting

**Brussels**

3 December 2014



**reasserts existing obligations** to  
maintain the fairway to a good  
standard and undertakes measures to  
tackle problems like low water or ice

endorses "**Fairway Rehabilitation  
and Maintenance Master Plan:  
Danube and its navigable  
tributaries**"

# "Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan: Danube and its navigable tributaries"

## Areas of focus:

- ⚓ Upgrade of waterways in order to achieve stable or improved navigation conditions and/or more capacity for the passage of vessels (deepening, widening, water regulation measures, etc.)
- ⚓ Facilities for ice-breaking, hydrological services and dredging to ensure year-round navigability

all critical locations and  
required short-term  
measures to ensure proper  
fairway maintenance



Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan  
- Danube and its navigable tributaries

EU Strategy for the Danube Region,  
Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: inland waterways

Version 13 November 2014

# DC's coordinating function in the maintenance of the Danube fairway

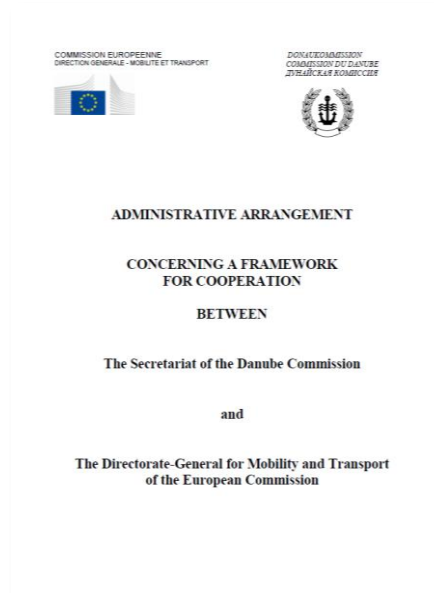
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT concerning a framework for cooperation between the Secretariat of the Danube Commission and the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission – DG MOVE  
signed 24 July 2015

Waiting for adoption of grant application

⚓ Follow up actions on the Implementation of a Master Plan for the maintenance of the Danube navigability

⚓ Contribution to the elaboration of technical standards for IWT vessels

## Areas of cooperation



⚓ Elaboration of technical standards for navigation, in particular, **infrastructure maintenance**

⚓ Market observation for the Danube Basin

# DC – PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

Strengthening ties **DC/EC- DG MOVE** – the Danube Commission takes - via its members states - a complimentary coordinating function for the maintenance of the Danube fairway  
"Administrative arrangement concerning a framework for cooperation between the secretariat DC and DG MOVE"

Close alliance with **other RIVER COMMISSIONS**

Cooperation with partners on **market observation**, *inter alia*, launching new projects, e.g., *consolidated Glossary on inland navigation – uniform terminology, recreational navigation, etc.*

Follow-up meetings on **Luxemburg Declaration**, (7 June 2012)  
**Danube Minister's Conclusions**, (3 December 2014, Brussels)

# DC – REGULAR MEETINGS 2015

1.	Small Expert Group Meeting on NAVIGATIONAL SIGNALS	24-26 February
2.	Expert Group Meeting on SHIP-GENERATED WASTE	10-12 March
3.	TECHNICAL Working Group Meeting	14-17 April
4.	LEGAL AND FINANCE Working Group Meeting	11-14 May
5.	84 <sup>TH</sup> SESSION	9 June
6.	Expert Group Meeting on HYDROTECHNIQUES	23-24 September
7.	Annual Workshop with SHIPPING COMPANIES "Streamlining at the Danube"	29 September
8.	Expert Group Meeting on CREW AND PERSONNEL	7-8 October
9.	TECHNICAL Working Group Meeting	19-22 October
10.	LEGAL AND FINANCE Working Group Meeting	17-20 November
11.	85 <sup>TH</sup> SESSION	9 December

# DC - PERSPECTIVE LINES

DC involved in  
European inland  
navigation programs

Numerous  
international projects  
or initiatives show  
growing demand for  
coordination

A better interaction  
between policymakers  
and customers needed  
to be stimulated

Harmonization of  
technical prescriptions,  
rules and standards –  
Danube, Rhine, European  
Union, UNECE regulatory  
framework

Contributing to a  
uniform  
*Pan- European system*  
of inland navigation

# Thank you for your attention!



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