

Summary Report 7th Workshop 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

15-16 September 2016, Danube Commission, Budapest (HU)

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1. Welcome and introductory statements

On the 15-16 of September, 2016 in the Danube Commission Headquarters in Budapest was held 7th meeting on the follow-up of the Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin of the representatives of the Danube Commission – DC, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River – ICPDR, the International Sava River Basin Commission – ISRBC, representatives of the European Commission, national, transport, environmental and water management authorities and NGO's.

The Danube Commission, together with the International Sava River Basin Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River supported by the European Commission, national authorities and NGOs are joining their efforts on the protection of the riverine environment and improvement of the sustainable development of the inland navigation in the Danube River Basin. For these purposes, annual follow up meetings of the Joint Statement are constantly organized.

The meeting with around 60 participants was opened by welcome speeches of the General Director of the DC, Mr. Petar Margic, the Executive Secretary of the ICPDR, Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, the Secretary of the ISRBC, Mr. Dejan Komatina and the European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Corridor, Mrs. Karla Peijs (EC/DG-Move). The meeting was attended by the diplomatic representatives of the member states (Bulgaria) and observers (Turkey) in the work of DC.

The meeting was led by three moderators: Mr. Horst Schindler (DC), Mr. Ivan Zavadsky (ICPDR) and Mr. Dejan Komatina (ISRBC).

1.1 Danube Commission

General Director of the DC, Mr. Petar Margic, welcomed the participants and opened the 7th Joint Statement Meeting. Mr. Margic stressed that Joint Statement is a good general platform for follow up activities and exchange experiences among the countries and stakeholders. However, it is necessary to improve the process with more concrete mechanisms. For this purpose, the implementation of two mechanisms is very important for improvement process and during the meeting we will discuss about it: Good Navigation Status and Pool of Experts. He informed that one day before Danube Commission Secretariat organized Regional workshop session on Good Navigation Status. Through constructive dialogue stakeholders provide significant expert contribution that this document be functional.

1.2 International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

The ICPDR Executive Secretary Mr. Ivan Zavadsky welcomed the participants on behalf of the ICPDR and expressed appreciation for the participation of experts from different fields.

Mr. Zavadsky highlighted that the meeting will define progress made in the practical implementation of the Joint Statement, occurring challenges and to draw lessons learned. He emphasized meaning of synergy and good cooperation of stakeholders within the Joint Statement platform. There is adequate level of balance in implementation Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) and environmental protection in the Danube River Basin. All activities are defined taking into account opportunities stemming from the EUSDR.

1.3 International Sava River Basin Commission

The Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), Mr. Dejan Komatina, welcomed the participants on behalf of the ISRBC. He confirmed progress under the Joint Statement platform.

Mr. Komatina informed about the various activities which took place in the past period, including the further improvement of inland navigation safety and related technical issues, the development of Sava GIS and HIS, flood forecasting and warning, and realization of Sava River Basin Management Plan. Mr. Komatina stressed the good cooperation with the Danube Commission and ICPDR, what is important for the Joint Statement Process in order to make further progress.

1.4 European Commission

The European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Corridor, Mrs. Karla Peijs (EC/DG-Move) expressed satisfaction for participation to the the 7th Joint Statement Meeting. She emphasized support of European funds in achieving sustainable transport system and that key objective of the inland waterway part of the multimodal TEN-T Core Corridor “Rhine Danube” is to guaranty reliable good navigability conditions with respect environmental issues on the river Danube and its tributaries. Mr Peijs expressed importance of synergy DG Move, DG Regio and DG Environment in these activities. Ensuring navigation on the Rivers Danube and Sava is seen as a key priority supported by the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan, the need for coordination with Transport Ministries and coordination by the European Commission. Further progress is necessary and as a precondition for achieving principle of sustainable and efficient inland waterways transport noted: political will, commitment of all stakeholders and faster realization of project activities.

2. Inland waterways and the environment - Policy developments relevant for the Danube region

2.1 Danube policies on inland navigation and financing opportunities - latest developments

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (EC, DG MOVE) provided a presentation on the recent developments on EU policies on inland navigation and financing opportunities. European Commission top priorities defined through the CEF Transport programme include: job and growth, investment, energy union and digital agenda. Total budget for 2014-2020 is 24.1 billion eur.

With regard to financing, Mr. Bernabei informed about the CEF 2016 call-Multi-annual Work Programme on mid October 2016. He emphasized possibilities for projects connecting with third country networks. It is very important because now Non EU Member States can only receive funding up to 10% for projects with links between parts of the Union core network. After that Mr. Bernabei explained elements for Rhine-Danube Working Plan II and importance of setting up a multimodal, interoperable, interconnected and reliable transport system in the region. He presented compliance by 2015 and projection up to 2030 in order to have sustainable and efficient inland waterways transport on the Danube.

Further details can be obtained from the presentation, which is available together with the other presentations which were held at the meeting following the link:

http://www.danubecommission.org/uploads/doc/Presentations/2016/7th_Joint_Statement_Meeting.zip

and on the following pages:

http://www.danubecommission.org/index.php/de_DE/grafik-zasedanij-i-soveschanij-dk-na-2016-g-2

http://www.danubecommission.org/index.php/fr_FR/grafik-zasedanij-i-soveschanij-dk-na-2016-g-2

http://www.danubecommission.org/index.php/ru_RU/grafik-zasedanij-i-soveschanij-dk-na-2016-g-2

2.2 EU environmental policies relevant for Danube inland navigation - latest developments

Mr. Jorge Rodriguez Romero (EC, DG Environment) provided a presentation on the latest developments regarding EU environmental policies relevant for inland navigation. He highlighted the previous results of Joint Statement process and meaning balance between hydrotechnical projects and environmental issue. Key document is Water Framework Directive (WFD) and informed that public consultation on the Workshop of River Basin Management Plans will be held on 13-15. December 2015. The Workshop will be cover different topics: inland navigation, flood protection, construction of hydro power plants, GNS, etc.

He introduced new member of DG Environmental team Mr. Raimund Mair and informed of importance of River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021. finalized by ICPDR.

2.3 Discussion

Mrs. Irene Lucius (WWF DCP Austria) asked for clarification how the new projects relate to bottleneck projects.

Mr. Manfred Seitz (Pro Danube International) appreciated current difficulties in achieving the navigation status especially in Romanian and Bulgarian section of Danube and insufficient investment in maintenance as a main problem. He expressed concerns regarding designation in the lower Danube and Sava. He noted that decision-making process have to base on facts and considered and exchange on this topic as useful.

Mr. Klaus Arzet (Bavarian Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection) asked for financial assistance of EU in scope of flood protection measures.

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) expressed understanding for different views of current situation and real problems and answered about existing clear rules for using European funds for supporting eligible activities by countries including flood protection. However, other ways to provide financial support might be possible.

Mr. Laszlo Perger (Danube Strategy PAC4, Hungary) expressed concern about the influence of navigation, hydrotechnical projects and power plants to the water quality. He stressed the importance of preserving biodiversity. Mr. Perger noted of existing of large sediment on the river Tisa.

3. Pool of experts

3.1 Development of technical advisory services for the implementation of the Danube part of the TEN-T Rhine Danube

Mr. Ivan Zavadsky (ICPDR Secretariat) opened third session and provide a short introduction on topic Poll of Experts. After that Mr. Cesare Bernabei gave detailed information about topic. Initiative is a few years old.

Key aspects are integrated approach aims to address and integrate the environmental aspects at an early stage of the decision-making process of the waterway transport infrastructure projects, thus preventing that a project could be delayed or rejected later on, due to non-respect of environmental grounds. In order to help overcoming the identified difficulties, DG Environment, DG Regio and DG Move agreed to set up a Mixed Environmental and Transport External Expert Team, including waterway transport infrastructure experts as well as environmental experts to provide advice to competent authorities in developing sustainable strategies, plan and projects in the field of inland navigation in the Danube, respecting international, European, national and local relevant legislation. Due to expertise and authoritative recognition in these fields ICPDR and DC have been identified as the right international organizations to lead this initiative. Based on their overall role in the Danube basin, ICPDR and DC are considered ready and able to set up such a team of transport and environment experts that can visit National and Regional authorities as well as agencies to provide assistance in applying the environment and transport European Union Acquis and analyzing alternatives and mitigation and compensatory measures. ISRBC will be involved in the process as an observer. Next weeks will be solved all details in order to reach a consensus for ToR document and administrative and operational details in order to start implementation from March 2017.

Regarding the financial issues expectance is that direct grant from DG Move to ICPDR and/or DC will be operational as soon as possible. Should bear in mind that DG Move concluded in 2015. cooperation agreement with the Secretariat of the Danube Commission.

2.4 3.2 Discussion

In an open discussion of all aspects of the concept and details about implementation topic Poll of Experts participated Irene Lucius (WWF DCP Austria), Dejan Komatina (ISRBC), Robert Tögel (ViaDonau), Cristina Sandu (Danube Sturgeon Task Force), Cristina Cuc (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania).

Mr. Karl Schwaiger (Federal Ministry of Austria) has proposed that the project activities under Poll of Experts realized gradually through pilot projects.

Mr. Jorge Rodriguez Romero (EC, DG Environment) emphasized key role of European Commission in this activities. He highlighted need to be involved in the activities of experts from universities, industrial associations and NGOs.

Mr. Ivan Zavadsky (ICPDR Secretariat) has summarized discussion and highlighted the previous open topics: ToR, time frame for realization and possibilities for start with pilot projects. He repeated that next weeks ICPDR and DC will continue communication with EC in order to solve all details.

4. Good Navigation Status

4.1 Improvement of the navigation conditions respecting environmental issues and elements of GNS

Ms. Gudrun Maierbrugger in front of consortium STC Group-Viadonau, presented basic information on Good Navigation Status-GNS, study and links to environmental requirements by Lot 3. Concept of "Good Navigation Status" referred to in article 15 paragraph 3(b) of Regulation 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with a view to support the implementation of this Regulation.

She emphasized that **Good Navigation Status (GNS) to be achieved by 2030** will be specified starting from existing definitions and approaches and assessing the TEN-T Core waterway network.

There is mainly coordination foreseen with the TEN-T Core Network Corridor studies, the data collection work on the TEN-T using the TENtec system as well as the work by the Danube Commission. Moreover, it is important to connect to the European Strategy for the Danube Region, NEWADA duo, FAIRway and also to take into account the work done in PLATINA II.

The context of the study is formed by the TEN-T Regulation which requires all waterways of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network to feature a "Good Navigation Status" until 2030.

Final study will be completed in first part of 2017. Study will thus specify, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, a broadly accepted concept of Good Navigation Status and a common methodology that allows for a sufficient level of differentiation to the various corridors and specific demand requirements and transport characteristics. Aiming at seamless navigation across EU waterways, GNS may cover proposed components (hard and soft) with minimum standards of a process to achieve GNS.

Ms. Gudrun Maierbrugger highlighted details about exemption criteria in GNS study. Besides minimum requirements on draught (less than 2.50m) and on minimum height under bridges (less than 5.25m) she presented proposed topics: local conditions, environmental requirements, extreme weather events and others. GNS concept shall take into account environmental requirements in particular water law (possible exemptions from requirements based on water law (e.g WFD 4.7) due to good navigation status requirements.

Finally, it was concluded in presentation that main focus of GNS is navigation and that relevant aspects of environmental legislation will be taken into account aiming win-win situation.

4.2 Discussion

Mrs. Karla Peijs (EC/DG-Move) and Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) expressed sensitivity of exemption criteria regarding different conditions on Danube sections by countries. By Mrs. Peijs problems of the Danube region are rather basic compared to other river corridors (reaching minimum fairway parameters). Not all topics (soft elements) are considered as particularly relevant on the Danube. Mr. Bernabei repeated that GNS is not new regulation and also it is not substitute for current regulations.

Mr. Horst Schindler (DC) agreed with Mr. Bernabei and confirm that environmental and navigation interests shall both influence the choice of measures. However, Good Navigation Status shall focus on navigation. He also explained role of DC in GNS project.

Regarding topic under GNS - exemption criteria, Mr. Ivan Zavadsky (ICPDR Secretariat) and Mr. Raimund Mair (EC, DG Environment) emphasized that common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive may serve as practice example for dealing with exemptions and lessons learned may be taken over.

Conclusions Day 1

In the conclusions to the first working day of meeting Mr. Petar Margic (DC Secretariat) highlighted constructive approach and large involvement in the discussion of all stakeholders. The focus of the first day was on two topics: Good Navigation Status and Pool of Experts. In addition, excellent presentation of both topics are analyzed from several aspects and it is driven by quality discussion which will enable better further finalization activities. More strategic discussions regarding existing and future projects by countries on the way forward and the future needs of the process are planned for the second day. For all participants of the meeting DC organized gala dinner.

5. Overview on current state of IWT projects in the Danube basin countries

Dejan Komatina (ISRBC Secretariat), opened second day session and provide an overview on the feedback provided on the current state of IWT projects via presentations. Updated project data sheets were not provided by ICPD as the previous year. Based on consultations of organizers of meeting was arranged that presentation of current and future projects will be presented by country representatives for the purpose of exchanging experiences. Also on the remaining projects following the meeting, helping to exchange information as an important source of information on approaches for the implementation of the Joint Statement Principles in different projects.

5.1 Recent experiences of projects with the practical implementation of the Joint Statement

5.1.1 Upper Danube River Basin. Flood protection and revitalization works-Germany

Mr. Klaus Arzet (Bavarian Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection, Germany), provided a presentation on general findings after the flood event at June 2013-Deggendorf area and major activities of flood protection measures has been taken in order to protect area. Mr. Arzet presented major goals in order to make protection against a 100-year flood along the Danube River between Straubing and Vilshofen. He highlighted details realized flood protection measures in total amount of 200 mil.eur. and projection necessary investment about 660 mil.euro until 2024. Details on the different planning steps on options for Danube ecological river construction works especially hydromorphological measures and NATURA 2000 and involvement of stakeholders- Option A, could be obtained from the presentation.

Ms. Lucius (WWF) and Mr. Manfred Seitz (Pro Danube International) expressed satisfaction for integrative concept by Option A and comment some details about flood protection measures.

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) recommended to German side to publish experiences in flood protection which will be useful for other stakeholders and countries. He welcomed the efforts in constituting a compromise between the needs of inland navigation and environmental protection based on a discussion process which was long but worth the efforts and asked for lessons learned in the frame of the process.

5.1.2 Inregrated river engineering project / Catalogue of Measures on the Danube East of Vienna

Mr. Robert Togel (Viadonau) provided a presentation on the river engineering measures on the Danube East of Vienna and the results of the integrated planning approach. Riverbed degradation, a heavily regulated river in the National Park area and inadequate fairway depths are the key deficits addressed in the frame of the project. An integrative planning structure was set up and different measures were taken with 6 pilot projects in last 18 years. Activities will continue through CEF-T programme in section Bad Deutsch-Altenburg. He also presented continuation of the interactive approach within the Catalogue of Measures on the Danube East of Vienna and realization by priority up to 2022 and 2030. Details can be obtained from the presentation.

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) expressed that he has seen the information provided in the presentation and asked for problems on the Danube West of Vienna. He commended approach Viadonau for the improvement of river ecology and navigation. Following, the Serbian project could draw from the experiences gained in Austria. It is therefore a model which is spreading.

5.1.3 Current status of IWT infrastructure development of the Hungarian section of the Danube

Mr. Zsolt Gerencser (Ministry for National Development of Hungary) presented ongoing projects in scope of navigability receiving funding by CEF and Operational Programme. Action plan focus to 31 bottlenecks in Hungarian section of the Danube and 9 activities for completion of EIA and other projects and tender procedures. Mai activities are link with Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan of the Danube and its navigable tributaries, further development of RIS, improvemet of infrastructure and increasing of capacity ports (Budapest, Komarom, Baja, Mohac). Addition details available on the presentation.

Mr. Petar Margic (DC Secretariat) and Mr. Manfred Seitz (Pro Danube International) highlighted importance of hydrotechnical works in joint section Slovakia-Hungary. Mr. Vladimir Novak explained Slovak bottlenecks on the Danube. He emphasized finishing reconstruction works on Old bridge Bratislava, co-financing by EU Cohesion Fund and preparation activities for upgrade Gabcikovo locks, CEF funding 2016-2020. He finally stressed that more pressure on navigation finally also means more pressure on the environment. Cooperation is therefore needed.

5.1.4 Current situation on inland waterways in Croatia

Ms. Hubalek (Agency for Inland Waterways Croatia) and Mr. Tadic (Hidroing d.o.o.) provided a presentation on the projects for improving navigation conditions on the Danube and addition on the Drava and Sava Rivers in Croatia. Regarding the Danube they mentioned 17 critical sectors especially elaborated situation on location Apatin and Sotin and way how to finance this hydro-technical works. Mr. Tadic explain problem of activities on Sava river basin and blackflow of Drava river due to greater flows of Danube river and how they solved sediment problem on this location. The participants were informed that for the projects which started before the adoption of the Joint Statement all main principals are taken into account from the beginning, but not entirely in the forms listed in the Joint Statement. Addition details available on the presentation.

Mrs. Irene Lucius (WWF DCP Austria) asked for clarification what happens with the excavated material while Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) comments important realization of projects on the joint sector Croatia - Serbia The Croatian representatives answered on the return of the material into the river bed and informed that the projects are very much in relation to the River Basin Management Plan and that Croatian Waters is the responsible body for elaborating the River Basin Management Plan.

5.1.5 Balance between integrated planning and executing infrastructure measures and provision of dynamic fairway information services-Serbia

Mrs. Jasna Muskatirovic (Plovput Serbia) provided a presentation on the balance between integrated planning and executing infrastructure measures and provision of dynamic fairway information services. The different Joint Statement principles and measures taken for applying the principles was presented. She explained Serbain focus to 6 critical sectors on the Danube and presented good practice with preparation project process and activities under Stakehoklders'Forum. Besides that, Plovput applied multi-criteria analysis with criteria: navigation, environment, technical feasibility and costs. Mrs. Muskatirovic also presented current fairway maintenance activities and emphasized meaning EU support of the importance of **Major Overhaul of the Iron Gate I Navigational Lock**. More detailed information can be obtained from the presentation.

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) highlighted the good practice approaches performed in Serbia, including navigation and ecological objectives, stakeholder forum, multi-criteria analysis and the use of the fairway information system.

Mr. Manfred Seitz (Pro Danube International) confirmed importance of major overhaul of the Iron Gate I Navigational Lock.

Mr. Petar Margic (DC Secretariat) in front the Danube Commission expressed appreciation for the presentation and highlighted the approach as good practice example. He asked for situation of new bridge construction (Zezelj Bridge Novi Sad). Mrs. Muskatirovic answered that works will be finished on mid of 2017. DC will receive all relevant data.

5.1.6 IWT Projects on the Danube in Romania and Romanian-Bulgarian common sector

Ms. Monica Patrichi (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania) provided a presentation on the improvement of the navigation conditions on the Danube between Calarasi and Braila as well as on the Romanian - Bulgarian Common Sector of the Danube. On sector Calarasi-Braila, following different activities which were performed in the past, the decision was taken to restructure the project to identify alternative solutions together with the works already executed, what is currently ongoing with different problems. Implementation period is up to December 2016. Environmental monitoring contract will continue up to April 2017. She also presented activities under Fast Danube project regarding Romanian-Bulgarian Common Sector of the Danube. Project period is November 2014-December 2018. Stakeholder Forum is active. More detailed information can be obtained from the presentation.

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move), Mr. Petar Margic (DC Secretariat) and Mr. Manfred Seitz (ProDanube International) expressed concern about the problem of implementation and extension work on sector Calarasi-Braila. At the same time, it is necessary to continue the investments by Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan.

Representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria are set up presentation on the end of meeting. The document is not presented at the meeting. Presentation is set of the common link.

5.1.7 Force Sturgeon conservation and navigation improvement in the Danube River Basin - Danube Sturgeon Task Force

Mrs. Cristina Sandu (Danube Sturgeon Task Force) presented aspects of DTF to environmental protection and navigation improvement in the Danube River Basin. She mentioned completion of environmental legislation and necessity of involment all stakeholders in project and policy activities. For Danube River Basin she emphasized importance of Natura 2000 and ICPDR document of Climate Change. Mr. Sandu mentioned meaning sturgeon conservation in the Danube River Basin. The Danube River Basin preserves some of the most important sturgeon populations in the world today, with Romania and Bulgaria holding the only – still – viable populations of wild sturgeons in the European Union. These topics are part of Sturgeon 2020-EUSDR Flagship project.

Mrs. Irene Lucius (WWF DCP Austria) noted importance of joint approach and cooperation regarding the topic of sturgeon conservation in the Danube River Basin. Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) confirmed importance of this topic and emphasized key role of Romania in requirements for EU support.

Jurg Bloech (IAD) expressed a critical attitude towards stakeholders regarding the insufficient progress in topic of sturgeon conservation in the Danube River Basin especially because of the lack of financing monitoring program.

5.1.8 Overview IWT project status on the Sava

Mr. Milkovic from the ISRBC provided a presentation on the rehabilitation and development of navigation and transport on the Sava River. Information on the project status of the sectors upstream and downstream of Brcko was provided plus details about the most critical sector Novi Grad. More detailed information can be obtained from the presentation. He presented progress of Sava GIS project and concluded that for further developments is necessary more significant support of ISRBC countries. For the future period is important implementation of conclusions of the Ministerial meeting of Sava countries (July 2015).

Mr. Cesare Bernabei (DG Move) noted importance for rehabilitation of the Sava for Category IV and Va with level of investment (80.7 – 86.4 mil.eur.) are referring to Mr. Milkovic. He expressed also expressed the hope that the river Tisa gain more importance in international navigation after signing the new Hungarian – Serbian agreement.

6. Future plans and perspectives for enhancing navigation and environmental protection in the Danube and its navigable tributaries

6.1 EUSDR related developments - Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan

Mr. Gert-Jan Muilerman (Viadonau) and Mrs. Cristina Cuc (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania) provided a presentation on the EU Danube Strategy related key issues in Priority Area 1a-Inland Waterways and in that scope development on the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan. Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan initiated in April 2014 by Danube Region Strategy. Documents is prepared in close cooperation among EUSDR PA 1a, EC and Danube waterway administration. Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan was endorsed in December 2014 and has signed of Danube Transport Ministres on the June 2016. Annual monitoring reports by countries (National Action Plan) are provided. Environmental dimensions are now included and monitored. They emphasized importance of continual interplay between policy and project levels and EUSDR as connecting element. In scope of WG on Fleet Modernisation was mentonided results taken by project PROMINENT-HORIZON 2020 and of WG on administrative processes-project DARIF. More detailed information can be obtained from the presentation.

6.2 Sustainable and efficient transport on the Danube - viewpoints from an industry association

Mr. Manfred Seitz (Pro Danube International) provided a presentation Green Deal for Danube River Transport with emphasized on topics: eco-efficient and reliable transport system, logistics solution on Danube and economic potential of Danube. Priorities for Pro Danube include inter alia the engagement for better waterway maintenance, elimination of administrative barriers and active involvement in EC initiatives & programs. Besides progress in scope of LNG concept of Rhine-Main-Danube he highlighted meaning of two project which will be realized in period 2017-2019: DANTE-Improving Administrative Procedures and Processes for Danube IWT and DAPhNE-Danube Ports Network. More detailed information can be obtained from the presentation.

6.3 Interreg-Danube Transnational Programme

Ms. Ana Leganel (DTP) provided a presentation on Danube Transnational Programme and opportunities for cooperation in IWT sector. DTP represents financial instrument which support the policy integration in the Danube area below the EU-level (especially EUSDR objectives as defined in the Action Plan) and above the national level in specific fields. Project budget allocated 36,497 mil.eur. for transport project including 5 projects tackling in scope of waterways and port management. Program covers 14 countries with total EU support of 221.924.597,00 eur. There are specific rules for eligibility of partners, financial framework and expected results. Invitation in 2015, identified about 40% of the total funds of the programme and the decision will be published at the end of October this year. The new call is expected by the beginning of 2017.

By question of Mrs. Irene Lucius (WWF), Ms. Ms. Ana Leganel (DTP) confirmed participation of Moldova and Ukraine in DTP by rules of EU neighboring countries.

7. Discussion on key lessons learned and future steps in support of the implementation of the Joint Statement

Mr. Komatina welcomed the obvious progress in the Joint Statement implementation and dialog between the relevant stakeholders. He also proposed, taking into account number of the planned Environmental Protection Projects in the Danube Region which may have impact on the navigation conditions, that the representatives of the

navigation sector should be involved in the process of the development of such Projects. He reminded that the presentations of current and future projects have been presented by country representatives for the purpose of exchanging experiences and assessment of progress. Focus was on the two topics: GNS and Pool of Experts. This is positive and the process must be developed and opened new aspects of work. He raised the question on bottlenecks in the process and challenges which have to be overcome. Mr. Komatina furthermore announced that the ISRBC will organize the next Joint Statement Meeting next year in Zagreb with new positive developments. Proposed date is 13-14. September 2017.

Mr. Zavadsky highlighted the progress made last years in the implementation of the Joint Statement. He stressed that at this meeting is actively involved the largest number of relevant national and international institutions and experts. The proposal which was made for the establishment of a team of experts is expected to be in need for more detailed. He expressed confidence that GNS Study and development of mechanism of Pool of expert will be finalized during next months. He recommended that presented projects would be available to all participants of the meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Margic thanked the partners from ICPDR and ISRBC and all participants for the assessment of good organization and usefulness of 7th meeting on the follow-up of the Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin. He also underlined the importance of the JS for the development of a successful infrastructure project on the Danube and constructive approach and large involvement in the discussion of all stakeholders. Besides project developments in Danube countries focus was on two topics: Good Navigation Status and Pool of Experts. Constructive approach was driven by quality discussion which will enable better further finalization activities. DC will continue dialog with DG Move regarding the topic Pool of Experts on the October 3, 2016. More strategic discussions regarding existing and future projects by countries generate development. Presentation notified also significant problems and obstacles by countries. Future challenge represents develop of JS and process of higher mandatory application of the meeting conclusions on the stakeholders and countries. Accented common approach and synergy of all parties and special contribution to the EC.

Annex 1 - Agenda



7th Workshop 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* Draft Agenda

Date: 15-16 September 2016

Venue: Danube Commission, Budapest, Hungary

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Inform about progress on the implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*
- Discuss challenges and solutions in relation to the practical application of the integrated planning approach and distill lessons learnt
- Inform and discuss new facts and perspectives of European inland waterway transport, including the EU *Danube Strategy*
- Ensure regular information exchange and presentation of new initiatives

DAY 1 • 15 September 2016

12:30	Arrival and registration of participants	
13:00	1. Welcome and introductory statements	<i>Moderator: Horst Schindler, Danube Commission</i>
	Danube Commission (DC) International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) Outlook for Danube navigation in the context of the Rhine-Danube Corridor and activities from Danube Ministers Meeting, (Rotterdam, June 20, 2016)	<i>Petar Margic, Danube Commission</i> <i>Ivan Zavadsky, ICPDR</i> <i>Dejan Komatina, ISRBC</i> <i>Karla Peijs, European Coordinator for Inland Waterway</i>
13:45	2. Inland waterways and the environment – Policy developments relevant for the Danube region	
	Danube policies on inland navigation and financing opportunities – latest developments	<i>Cesare Bernabei, European Commission DG Move</i>
	EU environmental policies relevant for Danube inland navigation – latest developments	<i>Jorge Rodriguez Romero, European Commission DG Environment</i>
	Discussion	

14:30	3. Development of technical advisory services for the implementation of the Danube part of the TEN-T Rhine Danube Corridor – Pool of Experts	<i>Moderator: Ivan Zavadsky, ICPDR</i> <i>Cesare Bernabei, European Commission DG Move</i> <i>Horst Schindler, Danube Commission_</i>
15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00	4. Good Navigation Status - Improvement of the navigation conditions respecting environmental issues. The elements of Good Navigation Status to be achieved by 2030 for the various waterways in Europe.	<i>Moderator: Ivan Zavadsky, ICPDR</i> <i>Gudrun Maierbrugger, ViaDonau</i>
	Discussion	
17:00	Conclusions day 1	<i>Horst Schindler, Danube Commission</i>
19:00	<i>Dinner – Danube Commission</i>	

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09:00	<p>5. Overview current state of IWT projects in the Danube basin countries: Experiences with integrated planning and implementation</p> <p><i>IWT projects are invited to indicate willingness to present recent practical experiences. Based on the feedback an updated agenda will be provided institutional and country presentations</i></p> <p>-Germany – Klaus Arzet, Bavarian Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection</p> <p>-Austria – Robert Togel, ViaDonau</p> <p>-Hungary - Zsolt Gerencser, Ministry for National Development</p> <p>-Croatia - Lidija Hubalek/Zdenko Tadic, Agency for Inland Waterways and Hidroing</p> <p>-Serbia – Jasna Muskatirovic, Plovput</p> <p>-Joint Bulgarian-Romanian Project - Cristina Cuc, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania/Pavlin Tsonev, Ministry of Transport-Executive Agencies of Bulgaria</p> <p>-Slovakia – Vladimir Novak, Waterbone transport development agency</p> <p>-Danube Sturgeon Task Force – Cristina Sandu</p> <p>-Overview IWT projects on the Sava - Zeljko Milkovic, ISRBC</p>	<p><i>Moderator: Dejan Komatina, ISRBC</i></p> <p><i>Project representatives of Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, DTF and ISRBC</i></p>
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	Discussion	
11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30	6. Future plans and perspectives for enhancing navigation and environmental protection in the Danube and its navigable tributaries	<i>Moderator: Dejan Komatina, ISRBC</i>
	EUSDR related developments - The Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries	<i>Gert-Jan Mulleman, Monica Cuc-EUSDR PA1a Technical Secretariat</i>
	Sustainable and efficient transport on the Danube – viewpoints from an industry association	<i>Manfred Seitz, General Secretary Pro Danube International</i>
	Interreg-Danube Transnational Program in 2015 and 2016	<i>Ana Leganel, Danube Transnational Program</i>
	Discussion	
12:30	7. Discussion on key lessons learned and future steps in support of the implementation of the Joint Statement	
13:00	<i>Closure of the workshop- Horst Schindler, Danube Commission</i>	

Annex 2 - List of participants

The 7th Joint Statement meeting
 Danube Commission, Budapest
 15-16 September 2016

List of Participants

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