

PRESS RELEASE

Participation of the Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission in the General Assembly of Pro Danube International

(Vienna, Austria, 11 March 2016)

Petar MARGIĆ, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission (DC) participated in the General Assembly of Pro Danube International, held on 11th March 2016, in Vienna, Austria.



Along with the members of Pro Danube International, the meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission (DG MOVE), Romanian Waterway Administration - AFDJ, SECI-South East Cooperative Initiative and other associated institutions.

The session updated on policy activities to ensure efficient and safe navigation on the Danube carried out on European and regional level and on related projects.

In his statement, the Director-General elaborated on the most recent activities of the DC, highlighting three priority areas of work:

- 1) *Infrastructure.* 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 and related Grant Agreement that encompass the development of technical standards with regard to the maintenance of inland waterway infrastructure, assessment of high quality projects enhancing good navigability and other initiatives in this area.
- 2) *Security of navigation.* Follow-up steps regarding the DC's Recommendations for ensuring security of navigation on the Danube of 2014, *inter alia* establishment of a field-related working group.
- 3) *Administrative and practical barriers.* Activities on enhancing collaboration with the customs authorities and border police of the riparian states, paying special attention to the legal treatment of the non-EU ones, and on coordination of bunkering possibilities on the river.

Mr. Margic also stressed the importance to reflect on both regional and local challenges of the sector. In this context, he provided information on the current situation and progress in negotiations, facilitated by the DC and its Secretariat, with regard to the common Bulgarian – Romanian section of the Danube.

Summing up his statement, the Director-General stressed the need for further reinforcement of the ongoing initiatives and expressed his hope that the results achieved so far on different levels would facilitate involvement of different stakeholders and serve as a trigger mechanism for their joint outcomes.

