
Introduction to the Process



Joint Statement on Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin

/// Deutschland /// Österreich /// Česká republika /// Slovensko /// Magyarország /// Slovenija /// Hrvatska /// Bosna i Hercegovina /// Srbija i Crna Gora /// Románia /// България /// Moldova /// Україна ///

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Danube River Basin- Overview



The Danube River Basin is the most international river basin in the world



- 19 countries sharing the basin
- EU members, accession countries, non EU countries
- very different social, economic and political situation

- *catchment area ~ 800.000 km²*
- *Danube River length - 2.780 km*
- *population ~ 81 million*

Cooperation Necessary



- Activities in an international river basin require good cooperation, i.e.
- Regular and open-minded cooperation between countries and between sectors and actors who all share the same resources

Role of Navigation



- Inland navigation can contribute to making transport more environmentally sustainable ...
- but it can also have significant influence on river ecosystems.
- Information about navigation and its environmental aspects (good and bad!) need to be better communicated.

The way towards a Joint Statement



- General commitment to exchange information among Commissions responsible for navigation and environmental protection – September 2006
- Presidents of the Danube Commission, Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR), International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR), International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) and the ICPDR agreed in autumn 2006 on more cooperation

Consensus building process: navigation



- **Intensive, cross-sectoral and fact-based consensus-building**
- to **improve mutual knowledge and understanding**
- to generate a **joint statement on principles and criteria for sustainable navigation** (incl. infrastructure development and maintenance, limits of acceptable change)

Consensus building process: navigation



- The goal of the process is to agree upon a **Statement that will provide a set of guiding principles and criteria for development and maintenance of navigation in the Danube (and some tributaries)**, in a way that **effectively protects and improves the environmental situation**



Invited Parties

- Environmental Protection / Water Management Ministries
- Transport Navigation Ministries
- EU Commission
- River Commissions (ICPDR, DC, ICPSR)
- Navigation related business
- Environmental NGOs

The Process



The process will involve 3 workshops:

- April 25-26, Austria
- June 25-26, Romania
- October (date tbd)

The Process



The process has three steps

- Workshop 1 – Initial Facts and Exchange of Views and Experiences; visit of first example site
- Workshop 2 – Agreeing upon technical ways to achieve ecology-friendly IWT; visit of second example site
- Workshop 3 – Drafting the Joint Statement including the agreed findings

The Process



The process will conclude with an public presentation of the Joint Statement (ca. December 2007)



Thank you for your attention

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