

**SPEECH**  
**by Deputy Director - General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission**  
**Pjotr SUVOROV**  
**at the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement**  
**on the Sava River Basin**  
*(Bled, Slovenia, 7 June 2018)*

**on item 4 of the Provisional Agenda**

Esteemed Mr. President, esteemed colleagues!

On behalf of the President of the Danube Commission, Mr. Gordan GRLIĆ RADMAN, I would like to welcome you to this event and to wish you every success in your work.

The efficiency and development of international European inland navigation is largely determined by the nature and intensity of inter-basin interaction.

The interaction between the Danube Commission (DC) and the International Sava River Basin Commission builds on the Memorandum of Understanding, which provides for cooperation on key issues related to the safety of navigation, common approaches to infrastructure development and environmental protection.

We take part in various bilateral events, sessions, expert meetings and exchange information on issues common to both commissions. We interact within the implementation process of the Joint Statement, bringing together three Commissions, and count on the successful outcomes of these undertakings supported by the European Commission.

We cooperate in addressing the challenges related to the development of pan-European inland navigation, in particular at the level of the Priority Area 1a) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), CESNI Committee for drawing up new European Union and Parliament Directives on technical requirements for inland navigation vessels and standards of professional qualifications.

Our intention is to further expand the range of issues of our interaction.

In line with this, I would like to note the following concrete proposals:

1. In 2012, the Danube Commission launched a new project on **Market Observation of the Danube Navigation**. At present, this project is an integral part of the umbrella project on **Market Observation of the European Inland Navigation**, in which the Danube Commission partners with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) as regards to the preparation of special quarterly market reports. We are now ready to release market observation report for 2017. I am particularly pleased to note that we have recently received a special study "Basic information on the initial collection, statistical processing, and analysis of data about goods transport in the Sava river Basin", prepared by the Sava Commission. In this regard, I would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Željko Milković for the excellent work he has done. If you agree, the Danube Commission will include this study in the next market observation report, making reference to the Sava Commission.

2. By the Decision of the 83<sup>rd</sup> session, the Danube Commission approved the document "Recommendations for ensuring the security of navigation on the Danube", which has become a pioneer in this complex and important problem of the European inland navigation. Further to this, with the assistance of the experts from the DC member states, the shipping industry and special bodies and with the support of the DG Move of the European Commission, we have prepared the document "Working platform for the development of the security system for inland water transport", which aims to create a common security system of navigation on the Danube, including cooperation in the fields of safety (river surveillance) and security as well as on the safe carriage of dangerous goods. The two expert meetings, held in 2017 and 2018, with the participation of the Coordinator of the Priority Area 11 (Security) EUSDR showed that the real implementation of our theoretical developments requires the involvement of other river commissions. Based on this, we suggest that the Sava Commission take part in this work.
3. In 2015, the Danube Commission commenced work on creating an education and training program for boatmasters related to the safe navigation in critical navigational conditions: ice phenomena, flood, shallow water and strong wind. This program was developed within the Danube Commission as a result of the analysis of typical cases and errors in navigation that occurred in:
  - 2012 and 2017 – river freezing;
  - 2011 and 2015 – critical shallow water;
  - June 2013 - critical rainfall flood.

We have already received a positive feedback on the paper from the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, management team of the Danube Skills program; within CESNI/QP - Working group on professional qualifications, it was also proposed to initiate joint work on the relevant draft standard corresponding to the regulatory framework of the draft EU Directive on professional qualifications of boatmasters. We also encourage you to participate in this work.

In concluding, I wish to thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to gain insight into your activities that are of utmost importance for the Danube navigation.

Thank you for your attention.