

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Secretary General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the Danube Commission

The Secretary-General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Michael Linhart, confirmed Austria's support for the work of the Danube Commission during a visit at the headquarters of the Commission in Budapest on 5 October 2017.



During the visit, Secretary-General Linhart, who was accompanied by Austria's representative to the Danube Commission, Ambassador Elisabeth Ellison-Kramer, and her alternate, was informed about the main issues of Danube navigation, as well as about the cooperation of the Commission with DG MOVE. He recalled the important work conducted under the leadership of former Director General of the Secretariat, and president of the Danube Commission, Ambassador Helmuth Strasser. "The cooperation with the Danube Commission is a very important element in Austria's relationship with the neighboring states from the Danube basin and we are delighted to have this outstanding cooperation with the organization. The Danube is one of the most important lifelines in Europe" said Linhart.

Director-General of the Secretariat, Capt. Petar Margić, stressed the importance of removing bottlenecks along the entire navigable Danube. He also referred to the METEET initiative, by which transport and environment officials from the Danube Commission member states are being trained, with the support of the European Commission, on best practices to implement legislation relevant for integrated inland waterway transport - project activities.

#### Background information

On 9 June 2017, the member states of the Danube Commission elected Ambassador Elisabeth Ellison-Kramer as Secretary of the Commission.

The Mixed Environment Transport External Expert Team (METEET) on Integrated Planning of Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) Projects was set up under a Grant Agreement concluded between the European Commission and the Danube Commission. METEET is designed to assist competent inland waterway transport authorities on a voluntary basis to foster an integrated approach when developing infrastructural projects in the field of inland navigation.