

UNECE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

ON THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Geneva, 22nd of February 2017)

The High-Level Conference on Inland Water Transport (IWT) took place on the 22nd of February 2017 in Geneva. Ministers of countries with major navigable inland waterways from the UNECE region and beyond, regional integration organizations, river commissions and other key stakeholders shared their vision for the future development of Inland Water Transport.

The Conference has been attended by the representatives from the ministerial level (Poland, Russian Federation, Niger, Vietnam), the international organizations (European Commission, Danube Commission, Central Commission for the navigation on the Rhine, European Federation of Inland Ports, European Barge Union) etc.

This was an opportunity to exchange views on key issues affecting Inland Water Transport in the 21st century as well as where the main opportunities lie for a crucial transport sector considering the contribution that inland waterways can make to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The conference was opened by the introductory speech of Ms. Eva Molnar, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division. She pointed out that, in order to use the opportunities offered by inland water transport when addressing major challenges, there was a need for uniting efforts, increasing voice for getting more investments, benefitting from available experience and knowledge, linking experts and countries and jointly making a case for inland water transport.

After Ministerial keynote speeches.



Director General of the Danube Commission, Mr. Petar Margić, marked out the most important fields of DC's activity, increased performance and expanded nautical and technical issues under consideration. He highlighted the most important developments in recent times, the signature of the Administrative Arrangement between DC and DG MOVE in 2015. This Agreement is currently under the implementation. It aims at the intensification of the DC's efforts

regarding its competencies on maintenance and rehabilitation of the waterway Danube by making best use of the institutional setting of the DC in co-operation with on-going projects (e.g. Good Navigation Status, FAIRway, DANTE Project, etc.).



Fostering the cooperation with various working-platforms and professional initiatives such as the EUSDR (in particular PA1a and PA11), CESNI and various RIS-related expert and working groups, Danube Commission will contribute to support the main objectives of TEN-T as well as the core dispositions of the Belgrade Convention.

