

## **European Danube Region Strategy** Priority Area 11 – “Security”

### **Expert Meeting on Security in Inland Waterborne Transport (EM SEC)**

Hybrid Meeting | Danube Commission | 12 March 2025



**For information and understanding,  
a brief review and focus on last year's  
tasks of Priority Area 11 as part of the  
processing of measures for the  
EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**



## Focus on 3 areas



### Priority Area 11

CONTROL DATABASE  
M6

DEPLOYED CONTROL  
PERSONNEL  
M7

TRANSPARENCY & GOOD  
GOVERNANCE  
M8

#### **Measure 6:**

Transnational control database for navigation on the Danube - IBISweb by AquaPol

#### **Measure 7:**

Common Transnational Platform for the Waterpolice for exchanging know-how

#### **Measure 8:**

Single Point of Contact for Problem Management

## **Starting point: Water policing workshop between Priority Areas 1a and 11 with all Danube riparian states on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at the Danube Commission in Budapest**

- Kick-off event for the implementation of measure 7
- A starting point for further informations
- Development of an overview table (in Excel) to query all ten Danube riparian states.

### **Two central questions arose from this:**

1. Which international groups/organisations/agreements are used for which area of law (in the field of inland navigation), on what legal basis (if any) and what reporting channels exist for this?
2. Which organisational units are responsible for which legal areas and controls in the individual Danube riparian states?

## Measure 6: Transnational Control Database for Navigation on the Danube - IBISweb from AquaPol

### Current state of play:

- Use of IBISweb: Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania (only the Romanian Naval Transport Police and Romanian Naval Authorities, but not the Border Police).
- No use of IBISweb: Germany, Austria and Ukraine (National border guard service probably has access to IBISweb and to Aquatrack, but not the national police).
- Current query at: Croatia, Slovakia, Serbia and Moldova.
- Ongoing query due to observer status: Ukraine (since 2022), Slovakia (since 2023).

## Measure 7: Common Transnational Platform for the Waterpolice for exchanging know-how

Creation of a common transnational platform for control bodies to exchange know-how and best practices and to develop harmonised control mechanisms in the Danube region (not ADN)

### Current state of play:

PA1a developed with me a **comprehensive Excel spreadsheet** for the workshop in Budapest, which was sent in advance to all ten Danube riparian states with a request for a response. This was also the **focus** of the **workshop** on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, and the data from the still missing countries Croatia, Moldova, Serbia and Slovakia are still expected.

## Measure 7: Common Transnational Platform for the Waterpolice for exchanging know-how

This **overview** covers the following **main topics**:

- Navigation law (Police, Technical and Crew regulations)
- Environmental law (Environment regulations)
- Custom law (Custom regulations)
- Labour law (Labour regulations) and
- Criminal law.

Aim of the workshop:

- Obtaining a complete picture of national competences for all types of control procedures
- Development of a 'map'.



## Measure 7: Common Transnational Platform for the Waterpolice for exchanging know-how

The **contents** of the workshop were the presentation of the state-specific

- Tasks and responsibilities of the authorities
- Cooperation and with neighbouring authorities and organisations
- Cross-border measures and cooperation
- Control and training measures
- Electronic recording systems
- Data protection and data exchange, certification measures
- Legal issues.



## Measure 8: Single Point of Contact for Problem Management

Installation of independent single point of contact for problem management in Danube shipping which collects, actively surveys and manages feedback from shipping companies in connection with border- and nautical controls (year-long collection of feedback)

→ Goal: Increase transparency & quality of control processes

### Current state of play:

- The Danube Commission currently has **no specific complaints** from the shipping sector
- **Problem areas** concerning **shipping traffic Ukraine – Romania** are dealt with within the activities of the **Danube Solidarity Lane and not via SPOC-Problem Management Danube Commission**
- Consideration of adopting the online reporting tool of the DTP Interreg project (DANTE) for all types of administrative barriers
- Joint consideration by the DK and PDI to adopt the online tool, but it is **sufficient** to address the shipping sector about ‘administrative barriers’ by **sending an e-mail on the DK website.**

## Measure 8: Single Point of Contact for Problem Management

### Result:

- **After examination and from the point of view of the Danube Commission, it is sufficient to submit questions and problems of the shipping sector in the form of a message on the Danube Commission website presented accordingly**
- **The number of problem cases is too low for a complex online tool, which is also subject to maintenance and therefore unnecessary costs**
- **The operation of the SPOC problem management is an ongoing task under the responsibility of the Danube Commission and remains in the EUSDR-ACTION PLAN and work plan of PA1a/PA11.**

## Results from 2024 and tasks in 2025:

### **Measure 6:** Transnational control database for navigation on the Danube - IBISweb by AquaPol

- Wider use of IBIS-web is not foreseeable
- Measure 6 will be expanded
- Measure now also includes elaboration of trans- and national responsibilities of control authorities
- Measure includes visualization in a “map”
- Measure 6 will possibly be renamed
- **Measure 6 activities continue.**

### **Measure 7:** Common Transnational Platform for the Waterpolice for exchanging know-how

- Overview table of PA1a & PA11 to be completed Programme remains unchanged
- **Measure 7 will be further processed.**

### **Measure 8:** Single Point of Contact for Problem Management

- Digital website of the Danube Commission has been launched, measure or basically fulfilled
- Incoming feedback is forwarded to those responsible
- This means that the measure remains open and is the original responsibility of the Danube Commission - in cooperation with PA1a and PA11
- **Measure 8 continues.**

## Meetings currently planned for priority area 11 of the EUSDR in 2025:

- 12.03.2025: 29th Danube Commission – Expert Group Meeting ,Security‘
- 20.05.2025: 27th EUSDR – Steering Group Meeting
- December 2025: 28th EUSDR – Steering Group Meeting.

## Meetings currently planned for priority area 11 of AquaPol in 2025:

- May 2025: 1st AquaPol – Expert Group Preliminary Meeting (for Int. Vessel Inspection Week), Bratislava
- 16.10.2025: 2nd Danube – Black Sea-Hub-Working Group Meeting
- October 2025: 2nd AquaPol – Expert Group Meeting
- 03.12.2025: AquaPol – Council Meeting, Paris.

## **Planned joint working group meetings between the EUSDR priority areas 11 and 1a in 2025 (not yet finalised):**

- **April 2025: 1st EUSDR – Working Group Meeting PA 11 + PA 1a**
- **June 2025: 2nd EUSDR – Working Group Meeting PA 11 + PA 1a**
- **September 2025: 3rd EUSDR – Working Group Meeting PA 11 + PA 1a**
- **November 2025: 4th EUSDR – Working Group Meeting PA 11 + PA 1a**

## Ship inspection actions currently planned by EUSDR in 2025:

- **September 2025: EUSDR – Danube River Forum (DARIF)-Vessel Joint Operation, Mohács (HU)**

## Ship inspection actions currently planned by AquaPol in 2025:

- **September 2025: ELA/AquaPol – International Vessel Inspection Week(s)**
- **07. – 13.04.2025: AquaPol – M.A.C.O. Danube – Black Sea-Hub-Control operation „WATER SEC“**
- **06. – 19.10.2025: AquaPol – M.A.C.O. Danube – Black Sea-Hub-Control operation „CLEAN WATERS“**
- **03. – 16.11.2025: AquaPol – M.A.C.O. Danube – Black Sea-Hub-Control operation „PORT CONTROL“.**

# Thank you for your attention 😊

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Subject Field 533 – Manhunt-Assistance

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