

**Address by Ms Belliard  
President of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)**

*Speech at the naming of the 'Greenrhine'*

*Rotterdam, 3 September 2013*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here this morning for a wonderful ceremony.

It is just six months since the first tanker propelled exclusively by LNG was put on the Rhine, and today we are celebrating the naming of its sister vessel, the 'Greenrhine'.

The 'Greenrhine' offers the best environmental performance available on the Rhine.

By using LNG as its sole fuel, the 'Greenrhine' is more environment-friendly in terms of both reducing greenhouse-effect gases and other pollutant emissions and improving energy efficiency. Both these aspects confirm the considerable progress for inland navigation the commissioning of vessels propelled solely by LNG represents.

As you know, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine actively encourages and supports this evolution and such initiatives in favour of a smaller ecological footprint for the Rhine fleet. This policy is also one of the priority areas of the European Commission for inland navigation in Europe.

Reducing both greenhouse-effect gases and other pollutant emissions and fuel consumption are important elements in the strategic guidelines for the sustainable development of inland navigation, and as such are among the priorities of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine.

The 'Greenrhine' is thus one of the eight vessels propelled by LNG that are already authorised by the CCNR to travel on the Rhine. Within the CCNR, work is continuing on drawing up a permanent, harmonised legal framework with a view to ensuring the safety of these vessels, their crews, and the public, particularly by promoting technical innovation.

As announced when the Dutch Minister for Transport named the sister vessel of the 'Greenrhine', the CCNR will do its utmost to ensure that effective, safe technical prescriptions for the use of this fuel are in place by the end of 2014. Our ambition is to promote the more extensive use of LNG in inland navigation.

On behalf of the CCNR, I would like to congratulate the various partners associated with this project. Thanks to initiatives and vessels of this kind, I am convinced that river transport is beginning to "go green", and that by doing so the sector is ensuring sustainable development and solid competitiveness for the years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The launching of this vessel symbolises strong commitment to the development of sustainable and environment-friendly inland navigation. I would therefore like to conclude with the time-honoured words: I name this vessel the 'Greenrhine'; may it and its crew always fare well!