

## **Rules on observer state status**

### **I. Observer status for states**

#### **1. Conditions on which granted**

At their request, observer status may be granted by a resolution of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine to states involved in Rhine or European inland navigation.

The candidate state for observer status shall submit its request in writing and notify its acceptance of the rules governing this status.

#### **2. Prerogatives associated with the status of observer state**

- The observer state shall participate in the plenary session of the Central Commission but shall not be entitled to vote.
- The Committees shall define, each one in so far as it is concerned, the conditions under which the observer states shall participate in their meetings and shall designate as restricted those which are accessible only to CCNR member states.
- The observer state shall be invited to take part in the working groups. Certain working groups or certain of their meetings may be confined to the member states at the discretion of the Committees under which they fall.
- The agendas, minutes or other documents pertaining to the bodies or meetings to which an observer state has access shall be made available to this state in the same way as to a member state.
- The observer states shall be informed of the review and briefing meetings organised by the CCNR (symposiums, conferences, etc.) and invited to participate in the same way as the member states.

#### **3. The commitments attendant on observer status**

- The observer state shall notify the Central Commission of the names and responsibilities of the delegates authorised to represent it. The latter must be proficient in one of the working languages of the Central Commission.
- The observer state shall monitor the work of the Central Commission's bodies on a regular basis and endeavour to contribute to this work.
- The observer state shall provide the necessary information to the CCNR, in particular statistical or regulatory information.
- The observer state shall ensure that it respects the principle of the confidentiality of Central Commission debates.

- As appropriate, the observer state may be called upon to make a financial contribution in the event of additional expenses or specific services incurred as a result of its participation.

#### **4. Withdrawal of the status**

The status of observer state may be withdrawn by CCNR resolution for reasons to do with the existence of a serious divergence of interests between the CCNR and the state, because of the conduct of this state or repeated failures of the aforementioned state to comply with its commitments to the CCNR.

## **II. I. Observer status for intergovernmental organisations**

### **1. Conditions on which granted**

Observer status may be granted by CCNR resolution to intergovernmental organisations whose activities are related to Rhine or European navigation.

### **2. Working arrangements with intergovernmental organisations**

Collaboration with intergovernmental organisations recognised as observers shall be defined, in a spirit of reciprocity, for each of them, by a specific agreement, which may in particular be in the form of an exchange of letters or joint declaration. In the absence of any stipulation in the agreement, the provisions in place for observer states shall be applied.