



## PRESS RELEASE

### **First meeting of global stakeholders in inland navigation organised by the CCNR at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

*The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) organised on Tuesday 13 March 2012 a meeting of the global stakeholders in inland navigation at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, held this year in Marseille. The main purposes of the meeting were to pool information and experience and to sign a declaration laying down the foundations for greater cooperation among the institutions concerned in the years to come.*

**Marseille, 15 March 2012.** On the occasion of the World Water Forum being held in Marseille (France) from 12 to 17 March 2012, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine took the initiative of bringing together the world's major stakeholders in inland navigation at a side event to the Forum held on Tuesday 13 March 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to establish links among the authorities that manage the major navigable waterways, and to embark on an exchange of information, experience and good practices among these authorities on a number of issues facing river navigation today that are not yet adequately monitored on an international scale. Nearly fifteen different countries were present for the occasion, representing many vital river basins around the world, including the Mississippi, the Mekong, the Yangtze, the Amazon, the Ganges, the Danube, the Paraná-Paraguay, the Mosel and the Rhine.

A working meeting, held in the morning at Marseille's Grand Port Maritime, enabled the different representatives to present the situation in their respective geographical sectors and to agree on the drafting of a joint declaration. This was presented at the start of the afternoon at the Chanut Exhibition Centre, where the World Water Forum was being held, by Ms Belliard, President of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine.

The declaration recalls the growing importance of river navigation, which constitutes a sustainable mode of transport in global terms and ensures a much higher level of safety than the usual land-based modes of transport. The authorities present emphasised the need to work together on promoting this mode of transport; too little use is made of it on the global scale, and too little consideration is given to it in the international debate. Those present noted that, despite the specific features of each navigable waterway, they were often faced with similar issues around the world and that often the possible solutions, particularly in technological terms, were comparable. It was stressed that the integrated management of water resources and the anticipation of changes in the climate were concerns shared by the various authorities present. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of the social dimension of passenger transport on waterways in a number of the river basins represented.

Even though there are already a number of institutions and events within which inland navigation stakeholders have an opportunity to meet each other, the world's authorities on inland navigation present in Marseille agreed on the need to reinforce the conditions for exchanges among the various river basins around the world. The aim was to have more effective communication instruments in order to pool their information and feedback, the better to ensure the circulation of both technological innovations and the knowledge and skills of crew members in order to promote inland navigation on a global scale jointly. These concerns were to be

materialised in the setting up of an Internet platform for information and discussion aimed at promoting this mode of transport. To achieve this, the Central Commission has offered to organise both the Secretariat for the platform and future meetings on these topics.

This first meeting of the global players in inland navigation at a World Water Forum should make it easier to organise further similar meetings in the years to come. Other inland navigation authorities elsewhere in the world are encouraged to join the initiative; a second event could be organised in the very near future, to tie in with the SMART Rivers workshop being organised by the AIPNC/PIANC in September 2013.

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***Joint declaration by the world's authorities with responsibility for inland navigation, meeting in Marseille at the 2012 World Water Forum***



On the occasion of the World Water Forum being held in Marseille (France), a number of major stakeholders in inland navigation around the world met on 13 March 2012 on the initiative of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine. During this meeting, the representatives of authorities with responsibility for managing navigable waterways in various parts of the world were able to meet and discuss their experience.

It was noted that inland navigation has become increasingly important in many parts of the world. It constitutes a forward-looking, competitive mode of transport of cargo and passengers that meets high standards of safety and environmental protection. The social dimension of, in particular, the transport of passengers in certain regions has been stressed.

Emphasis was placed on the need to support the promotion of inland waterways throughout the world in a integrated water resource management approach, looking to the future and giving specific attention to necessary adaptations in view of climate change. Waterways are still generally under-utilized as a mode of transport, and only receive limited attention in international discussions..

An awareness of the global dimension of the navigation sector constitutes an important element for the sharing of technological innovations, industrial solutions, and logistics management procedures, offering investors a much wider market. The development of modern fleets, the exchange of educational skills for navigation

personal, the spread of techniques for developing navigable waterways, and the availability of tools for monitoring the economy of the navigation in the different river basins, would all benefit from a more global approach to this type of transport. The global stakeholders in inland navigation present in Marseille reaffirmed their determination to seek forward-looking solutions in an increasingly globalised economy through dialogue with the innovative sectors.

The need to strengthen cooperation among the global stakeholders in inland navigation was acknowledged; pooling their information, their experience, and their influence could contribute to the successful development of river transport throughout the world. It was noted in this respect that the tools for communication and exchange among the stakeholders in the major waterways around the world need to be improved. An initial step in this direction could take the form of an information and discussion platform on the Internet. It would appear that further meetings of the authorities concerned are desirable. These measures will make it possible to raise the global profile of transport by water by highlighting its comparative advantages.

Participants noted the proposal made by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine to provide the secretariat for the creation of the digital platform for exchanging information on inland navigation around the world, to closely cooperate with existing global platforms and PIANC in particular and to organise further meetings of the international managers of navigable waterways. They expressed their support for these initiatives and encouraged other river basin authorities and organisation to take part in the network

Marseille, 13 March 2012

The USACE Institute for Water Resources  
The Mekong River Commission  
The China Waterborne Transport Research Institute  
The Indian Ministry of Transport  
The Brazilian Ministry of Transport  
Pan-European Transport Corridor VII  
The Danube Commission  
The Moselle Commission  
The Sava Commission  
The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine

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