



Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) Press Release

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CCNR launches Vision 2018 at its 5th International Congress

Strasbourg, 06.12.2013 – It was at the Maison de la Région Alsace in Strasbourg that the 5th Congress of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) was held on 3 and 4 December, under the French Presidency, with the title “Bringing together the competences for sustainable inland navigation”.

At this 5th Congress, the CCNR presented Vision 2018, a road map in which the organisation sets itself strategy guidelines for the next five years. They are ambitious but feasible, and taking them into account will contribute to the sustainable development of inland navigation in ecological, social and economic terms. The purpose of this initiative in favour of navigation on the Rhine and elsewhere in Europe is to be of help in implementing the European Commission’s Naiades II action programme while taking account of the difficult economic context affecting the sector. Vision 2018 calls for coordinated action on the part of all the stakeholders in order to achieve objectives in eight major areas over the next five years. (For more information on the initiative, visit www.vision-2018.org.)

More than 200 participants concentrated their thinking on the topic of the sustainable development of inland navigation. Two round-table discussions were held specifically on the social aspect of this. The subject had been under discussion for more than a year prior to the Congress.

A number of CCNR’s partners have already demonstrated their support for Vision 2018. Ms Theresia Hacksteiner, Secretary General of EBU-UENF and IVR, Mr Hans Peter Hasenbichler, Director General of via donau, EFIP, represented by its President Mr Jean-Louis Jérôme, and Mr Arjen Mintjes, President of EDINNA, all emphasised the relevance of these objectives for the sustainable development of the sector at the 5th CCNR Congress, and they have already identified possible areas for collaboration with a view to achieving the initiative by 2018. The European Commission, represented by its Head of Unit Ports and Inland Navigation Mr Dimitrios Theologitis, stressed the complementarity of the action programmes of the Commission and the CCNR in the field of sustainable development.

Lastly, the closing ceremony held at the Town Hall in Strasbourg provided an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Strasbourg Convention, with an address by Mr Jean-Marie Woehrling, former Secretary General of the CCNR. He recalled the importance of the Convention, which revised the Mannheim Act of 1868 and enabled the CCNR to renew the full relevance of its founding document; 2018 will see the 150th anniversary of the Mannheim Act.

About the CCNR (www.ccr-zkr.org)

The Central Commission is an international organisation that exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is active in the technical, legal, economic and environmental fields. In all its areas of action, its work is guided by the efficiency of transport on the Rhine, safety, social considerations, and respect for the environment. Many of the Central Commission's activities now reach beyond the Rhine and are directly concerned with European navigable waterways more generally. The Central Commission works closely with the European Commission and with other river commissions and international organisations.

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