

8th IVR Colloquium, Bonn (17-18 March 2016)

Dr. Petar Margic, Director General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my pleasure and honor to represent the Danube Commission at the 8th IVR Colloquium kindly hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure in Bonn. I think it is also a great challenge for the Danube Commission to be a co-patron of this important event.

We are appreciating as a beautiful and useful tradition the organization by the IVR and its partners of these colloquiums where debates on very interesting aspects of the European inland navigation are developed.

The topics which we are about to discuss are not completely new for us, they were also discussed during the precedent colloquium in Bratislava in 2013 but now we will focus more on the practical aspects. This will give us the possibility to leave the colloquium with more clarifications and with more answered questions that will better facilitate our future activities.

The Convention on the Contract of the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterways, the so called CMNI Convention has been adopted in Budapest in the year 2000 with the direct involvement of the Danube Commission, so our organization has a special interest to promote the good application of the provisions of this important multilateral legal instrument.

We are also paying attention to the new Convention limiting the liability in inland navigation, adopted in Strasbourg in the year 2012. It is easy to understand the utility of this new legal instrument that is bringing unified rules regarding the limitation of liability all over Europe. This is beneficial for ship owners and operators and the Danube Commission is supporting every measure being in the interest of the European inland navigation.

At the Danube Commission, during some technical working groups, we were already discussing with our Member States about the two conventions and about the need to support their application. After attending this interesting colloquium we will be able to bring more information to our Member States in order to help them to take the best decisions.

I conclude by wishing all of you a successful colloquium.