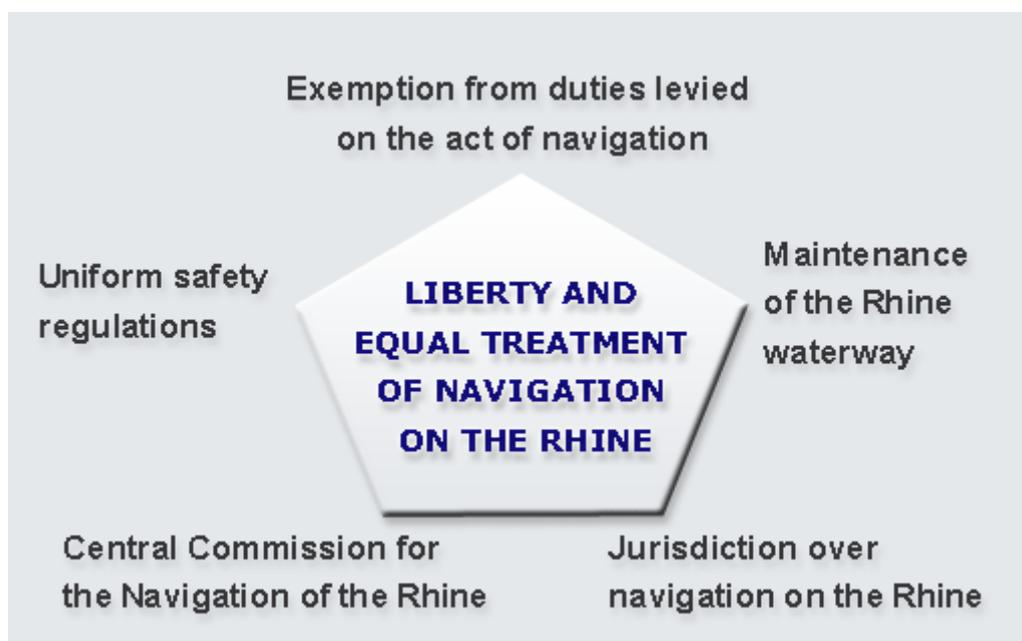


150 YEARS MANNHEIM ACT

The Mannheim Act (MA) of 17 October 1868 constitutes the legal basis for the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR). It is applicable in its latest revised version which entered into force on 14 April 1967 and has been amended by seven additional protocols, which partly have not entered into force yet.

Member States are Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. The CCNR in December 2017 in its strategy confirmed its unrestricted support to the MA, which guarantees freedom of navigation on the Rhine.

PRINCIPLES AND SCOPE



The MA introduced the principle of free navigation on the Rhine and its tributaries. This means that in application of Article 3 of the Mannheim Convention, the Member States must refrain from imposing any toll, tax, duty or charge based directly on the fact of navigation. This rule has not prevented the prescription of a fee for services rendered or taxes on another basis, such as added value.

To supplement this arrangement, an additional agreement to the Mannheim Document was adopted on 16 May 1952 on the Customs and tax scheme for diesel oil consumed as fuel by vessels using the Rhine. Under this agreement, the CCNR Member States do not receive any Customs duty or other tax in respect of diesel oil consumed as fuel by vessels on the Rhine

FRAMEWORK FOR PROVISIONS REGARDING THE RHINE NAVIGATION

The MA is considered as framework based on which the CCNR has elaborated regulations to guarantee the safety of the navigation on the Rhine. Some of these regulations are meanwhile the basis for (pan-)European regulations which together with or under the umbrella of other international institutions are further developed. The regulations cover:

- technical prescriptions concerning vessels (Regulations on the inspection of vessels on the Rhine) – since 2015 development of joint CESNI standards
- rules on the people involved in inland navigation (Regulations on navigating personnel on the Rhine) – since 2015 development of joint CESNI standards
- rules governing traffic conditions (Police Regulations) and River Information Services (RIS)
- rules governing the transport of dangerous substances (ADNR Regulations) - since 2001
- rules governing waste treatment – CDNI convention of 1996 (entered into force 2009)

“CESNI” - European committee for drawing up common standards in the field of inland navigation

The in 2015 established “CESNI” Committee (European committee for drawing up common standards in the field of inland navigation) to promote the development of uniform rules of the CCNR and the European Union, elaborates technical standards in in various fields, in particular as regards vessels, information technology and crew to which the respective regulations at the European and international level, including the European Union and the CCNR, will refer with a view to their application.

CHAMBER OF APPEAL

Under the terms of the revised MA the CCNR’s Member States agreed on the means of legal redress to be provided in the event of infringement of the police rules on navigation or in the event of a dispute in connection with damage caused in the course of navigation on the Rhine.

For this purpose, each Member State is required to designate the courts of first instance and the appeal courts competent to deal with such disputes.

An alternative to lodging an appeal before the competent national court of appeal was provided for as early as the Mannheim Document – the appeal may be taken directly before the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine. This establishes a unique situation in which an international body has competence that is similar and in competition with that of the national courts of appeal.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE CCNR

The CCNR has brought about the adoption of a number of international conventions involving inland navigation:

- [International conventions regarding private law aspects in inland navigation \(CMNI, CLNI\)](#)
- [ADN agreement on the transport of dangerous substances by inland waterway;](#)
- [CDNI convention on the treatment of waste produced during inland navigation;](#)
- [International agreement on social security arrangements for boatmen on the Rhine;](#)
- [Regional arrangement on radiotelephone services in inland navigation](#)
- [Recognition of equivalence of non-Rhine boatmaster certificates](#)

More information:

- www.zkr-ccr.org
- www.cesni.eu
- www.cdni-iwt.org