



OPENINGSSPEECH 9th IVR-COLLOQUIUM

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me welcome you and officially open the 9th IVR-Colloquium in Belgrade.

As you know on the 1st of July this year the CLNI 2012 convention entered into force. Serbia was the first country that ratified the convention already in 2012 after it was negotiated by 13 State parties and signed on 27 September 2012 under the auspices of the Central Commission of the Navigation on the Rhine. We wanted to memorise this fact and thus decided to organise the 9th colloquium in Belgrade shortly after its entry into force in 5 states. Therefore we are honoured to welcome the Assistant Minister of Transport of Serbia at our colloquium to support the importance of this legal instrument to his country.

Main reason for drafting a new convention on the limitation of liability in inland navigation was to enlarge its scope of application. Where the geographical scope of application of the 1988 convention was limited to the rivers Rhine and Mosel, the CLNI 2012 has an open scope and can apply to all waterways meaning it is open for ratification by any interested State. After the realisation of the connection between the Rhine and the Danube in 1992, the discussion regarding an enlargement of the scope was opened in order to introduce the system of limitation of liability also in countries situated along the Danube or other rivers in Europe.

Aim of IVR

One of the aims and responsibilities of the IVR and of its Legal Commission is the legal harmonisation. In the interests of its members it advocates inter alia the conclusion and ratification of international conventions and agreements such as the CMNI and CLNI conventions. For this purpose it has been involved in the drafting and negotiations of these conventions.

IVR started its series of colloquia in 1993, shortly after the realisation of the connection between the Danube and the Rhine in order to accelerate the harmonisation and unification in these fields on a pan-European level.

We are utmostly pleased that the representatives of the two river commissions of these important European rivers are present today. Both commissions have cooperated in the drafting of the CMNI convention which was signed in 2005 in Budapest and we hope that in particular with the support of the Danube Commission the new CLNI convention will be broadly ratified in its member states. IVR's Legal Committee has drafted guidelines to support these states in the ratification and implementation of this convention.

The colloquium will cope with the above mentioned conventions as well as other conventions that are of importance to inland navigation. Besides it will deal with General Average, a well known maritime system that is also familiar to inland navigation. By analogy with the maritime York Antwerp Rules IVR decades ago has drafted the so called IVR General Average rules for inland navigation.



All these topics will be dealt with by a number of high level speakers and experts in the very fields. The colloquium will also offer the possibility to enter into discussion with the speakers after each session or at the informal parts of the conference during the breaks and the networking dinner.

I wish you a fruitful conference and now have the pleasure inviting our official guests, Mr. Veljko Kovacevic, Mr. Felix Zaharia and Ms. Katrin Moosbrugger to deliver their welcome addresses.

Dr. Philippe Grulois
5 September 2019

