



Press Release

Round Table of the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) "Towards low-sulphur fuel for inland waterways transport in Europe"

Strasbourg, Palais du Rhin, 3 May 2007

Environmentally friendly inland navigation requires low-sulphur fuel. Its introduction poses tremendous challenges for inland navigation. To master those together with all stakeholders is an important goal of the Central Commission. On 3 May 2007 the Commission will therefore organise a round table in Strasbourg, building on the discussions, which started during its Consultative Conference last year.

The purpose of the Round Table is to determine the conditions for introducing low-sulphur fuel that are compatible with the development of inland waterway transport in Europe. The positions of the stakeholders will be clarified and the proposal of the European Commission that may be available by then will be discussed, unresolved issues will be identified and addressed wherever possible, the need for further analysis and studies will be defined, and there will then be an attempt to reconcile the diverging points of view of the parties involved.

The Round Table will cover **technical aspects**, such as the compatibility of engines, both new and currently in use, with low-sulphur fuel (safe operation), the **operational and logistics aspects** of shifting from one type of fuel to another, including making low-sulphur fuel available throughout Europe, and **economic aspects**, such as costs incurred by the inland waterways transport profession and the possible distortion of competition.

The parties concerned by the Round Table are professionals in inland waterways transport, engine manufacturers, the oil industry, the ship-building industry, the ports, bunker services, classification societies, research institutions, international organisations and river commissions, and the competent national authorities in the CCNR's Member States and Observer States.

Arrangements will be made for **simultaneous interpreting**.

Registration is necessary as the number of participants is limited.

Information about the Round Table, particularly as regards the programme and registration, will soon be available on the CCNR's Internet site at www.ccr-zkr.org.

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