The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is an international organisation which has been ensuring the freedom and safety of navigation on the Rhine since 1815. It has five Member States: Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The CCNR is composed of the delegations of its Member States, which are responsible for drawing up Rhine regulations, and a standing Secretariat responsible for preparing its work. The CCNR proceeds by unanimously adopting Resolutions which are binding on its Member States; each Member State has one vote.

A number of Observer States (Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) and a number of approved organisations are also involved in its activities.

Given the central position of the Rhine in the European transport network, the CCNR has developed a special relationship with the European Commission; it also works closely with the UN-ECE and the other river commissions, particularly the Danube Commission, the Moselle Commission and the Sava Commission, the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, and the International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine Basin. This cooperation is reflected in both the mutual recognition of regulations and a number of joint projects.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The CCNR, which is the oldest form of institutionalised intergovernmental cooperation still in existence anywhere in the world, was created in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna. The purpose of its creation was to ensure the freedom of navigation on the Rhine. The Act of Mannheim affirmed its role in 1868 and extended its area of competence to ensuring the prosperity of navigation on the Rhine and throughout Europe as well as a high level of safety for navigation and its environment. This was the first step towards the setting up of a free common market for transport, which was largely achieved a hundred years later by the European Union.

Today the activities of the CCNR are at the heart of European transport policy. Because of its acknowledged expertise, many of its activities now focus not only on the Rhine but more broadly on all Europe’s navigable waterways.
1919 STRUCTURAL REORGANISATION OF THE CCNR

1945 RECONSTITUTION OF THE CCNR

1945 Creation of the UNO

1957 Creation of the EEC


1992 RHINE CONNECTED TO THE DANUBE BY THE CANAL FROM THE MAIN TO THE RHINE

2003 & 2013 INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CCNR AND THE EU

2015 CREATION OF THE CESNI

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR DRAWING UP STANDARDS IN THE FIELD OF INLAND NAVIGATION

2023

TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE AND THROUGHOUT EUROPE

TOWARDS GLOBALISATION

BOOM IN RHINE TRAFFIC
In accordance with the Mannheim Act, the CCNR plays an essential role in regulating navigation on the Rhine. It is active in technical, legal, economic, social and environmental areas. Its traditionally close cooperation with the river profession is an essential feature of the CCNR’s activity, enabling it to respond effectively to the various needs of the market. All the areas of its activity are guided by the efficiency of Rhine transport, safety, and respect for the environment, with the aim of achieving sustainable development.

Most of the work carried out by the CCNR is in fact applied far beyond the navigable part of the Rhine; it is currently applied to a large part of Europe’s navigable waterways.
1 SOCIAL
- Working conditions for crew members
- Social security arrangements for crew members
- Regulations on crews

2 ECONOMIC
- Observation of the market for inland navigation
- Topical studies and forecast analyses
- Congresses on economic topics

3 ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURES
- Optimisation of navigation on the Rhine
- Ecological profile of inland navigation
- River information systems (RIS)
- Organised prevention and elimination of waste (CDNI)

4 TECHNICAL ASPECTS & SAFETY
- Police Regulations
- Technical regulations for construction and equipment of vessels
- Conditions for issuing the Rhine boatmaster’s certificate (‘patente’)
- Transport of dangerous goods (ADN agreement)

5 LEGAL ASPECTS
- Harmonisation of the River Law
- Court of appeal for the Rhine Law
- The law governing transport by waterway
THE RHINE, AN ESSENTIAL WATERWAY IN EUROPE

TYPE OF GOODS CARRIED ON THE RHINE IN 2021

1. Oil products 16%
2. Crude and manufactured minerals, building materials 15%
3. Solid mineral fuels 13%
The Rhine is the backbone of inland navigation in Europe. It accounts for more than two-thirds of the goods carried on inland waterways in Europe.

Rhine navigation is competitive and safer than other modes of transport. New markets are currently developing strongly: the transport of containers, heavy packages and passengers of river cruises.

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE FLEET**
**BY TYPE OF VESSEL***
* Fleet of the Rhine countries (Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg)

- **7,445 units | Vessels carrying dry bulk goods | Tonnage 10,500,000 t.**
- **1,453 units | Tanker vessels | Tonnage 3,200,000 t.**
- **1,358 units | Tugs and pusher vessels**
- **1,800 units | Passenger vessels (day-trip vessels)**
- **405 units | Cruise vessels**
884 KM
Length of the navigable part of the Rhine from Basel to Rotterdam

300 000 000 t.
Transport/year on the entire Rhine

13 700 000 t.
Total transport capacity of the Rhine fleet