WORKSHOP ON CYBERSECURITY IN INLAND NAVIGATION
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Bonn, 5 September 2019 – On 5 September 2019, the first international workshop on cybersecurity in inland navigation was held in the Rhineland city of Bonn, under the auspices of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) and in partnership with the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) and the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC). The 11 high level presentations and two inspiring round tables clearly demonstrated to over 100 participants, from both public and private institutions and organisations, the need for all players in the waterway sector to address the complexity of challenges on the topic of cybersecurity in order to succeed in the digital transition of inland navigation. The workshop also made it possible for the CCNR to collect a great deal of information, advice and concrete proposals for its future work on cybersecurity in inland navigation.

With the adoption of the Mannheim declaration on 17 October 2018, the ministers of the CCNR Member States call to promote the development of digitisation, automation and other modern technologies in order to contribute to competitiveness, security and sustainable development in inland navigation. In this respect, the workshop devoted to cybersecurity in inland navigation aimed specifically at reinforcing the level of information on cybersecurity for the different players in inland navigation, while also fostering exchanges and cooperation between the different players in the sector. It was indeed fundamental to start some coordinated thinking and to find a consensus on how to minimise the risks that affect the reliability of the digital environment of inland navigation.

Mr. Achim Wehrmann, President of the CCNR and Head of the Federal German Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure’s Shipping section, welcomed the participants to the BMVI. In his address, he stressed that inland navigation must be well positioned in terms of cybersecurity in order to benefit from the advantages of digitisation. He also invited the participants to submit their many suggestions on the topic of cybersecurity in inland navigation to the CCNR. In his welcome speech, Mr. Geert Van Cappellen, Secretary General of PIANC, expressed his strong belief that inland navigation will be able to manage the IT risks if it cooperates at the international level. For the first time, major players in the field of cybersecurity were brought together – including the European Commission (DG CONNECT), the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) and representatives from the maritime and rail sector – as well as experts on inland navigation from public administrations, classification societies and private enterprises in 11 European countries.

The importance of cybersecurity in inland navigation was substantiated during the workshop, backed up by general presentations on different aspects of cybersecurity, sessions devoted to the public and private sector and the positive exchanges during round table discussions. The speakers and participants held an in-depth discussion on possible measures that could be taken. Over and above a strong need for awareness, training and information among the different players and users of the waterways on topics such as cybersecurity and cyber-attacks, the question of cooperation was specifically highlighted. It is in fact essential to put in place common and standardised solutions that are the fruit of exchanges between the different stakeholders at the international level, the public and private sector level, and at the level of manufacturers and operators. In this regard, inland navigation would be able to rely particularly on the experience and good practice of the maritime and rail sector. The achievements of ENISA, in supporting the implementation of the “NIS Directive” (European Directive concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems), will also be valuable in the development of a concept for cybersecurity in inland navigation.

Many of the participants expressed the wish that the CCNR, together with its partners, take a leading and central role in the domain of cybersecurity in inland navigation, for example, as a coordination platform that would bring together both the major players in inland navigation and experts in cybersecurity. Questions relating to cybersecurity should be the subject of an in-depth analysis in the framework of the new working group of the European Committee for drawing up Standards in the field of Inland Navigation (CESNI) dedicated to information technology (CESNI/TI). In addition, ENISA has shown itself to be favourable in supporting future work linked to cybersecurity in inland navigation.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Nils Braunroth, President of CESNI/TI and of the workshop, thanked all the speakers and participants for their commitment, as well as for all the information, conclusions and recommendations that had been gathered. The CCNR will take this into account and, as a first step, will make the workshop presentations and reference documents on the topic of cybersecurity available via the following link: http://cybersecurityworkshop-inlandnavigation.eventum-site.com. The detailed minutes of the workshop and other communications on cybersecurity in inland navigation will also become available in the coming weeks.

ABOUT THE CCNR

The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is an international organisation that exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is active in the technical, legal, economic and environmental fields. In all its areas of action, its work is guided by the efficiency of transport on the Rhine, safety, social considerations, and respect for the environment. Many of the CCNR’s activities now reach beyond the Rhine and are directly concerned with European navigable waterways more generally. The CCNR works closely with the European Commission as well as with the other river commissions and international organisations.