

RESUMPTION OF NIGHT-TIME LOCKING OPERATIONS ON THE UPPER RHINE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ref: CC/CP (20)5



The CCNR hereby welcomes the resumption of night-time locking operations on the Upper Rhine with effect from 21:00 on Sunday 10 May. As of this date, all Rhine locks will again be operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Indeed, it will be recalled that the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which hit Alsace and the Grand Est region of France especially hard, forced the cessation of lock operations on the Upper Rhine between 21:00 and 05:00 as of the night of 1st to 2nd April.

This return to normal operating conditions, in a situation that remains difficult, is thanks to the commitment of all lock operators on the Upper Rhine: *Wasserstraßen- und Schifffahrtsverwaltung des Bundes* (WSV), *Voies navigables de France* (VNF) and *Électricité de France* (EDF) and their agents.

The resumption of full service on the Rhine, which has been the inland navigation sector's fervent wish notwithstanding the ongoing pandemic, is also testimony to the CCNR's steadfast action in doing its utmost to ensure the free and prosperous navigation of the Rhine in accordance with the Act of Mannheim. Indeed, it is this common commitment to free navigation by all stakeholders that enables the Rhine waterway and the TEN-T Rhine-Alpine corridor to play their full and essential role as Europe's principal inland navigation artery, ensuring maximum supply chain flows, especially internationally. Today, these same traditional roles and responsibilities are proving to be an even greater priority as we negotiate a crisis of unprecedented magnitude.

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.



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