In accordance with the mandate given by the Ministerial Declaration of 17 October 2018 in Mannheim, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) developed a roadmap aiming at largely eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants of the inland navigation sector by 2050, a long-term vision which is also shared by the European Union (EU).

Built on the CCNR study on the energy transition towards a zero-emissions inland navigation sector, this roadmap shall be understood as the primary CCNR instrument for mitigating climate change, fostering the energy transition and contributing to the European IWT policy (IWT, Inland Waterways Transport). As this energy transition represents a crucial challenge to Rhine and European inland navigation, the aim of the roadmap is to contribute to a reduction in emissions from Rhine and inland waterways navigation by:

- setting transition pathways for the fleet,
- suggesting, planning, and implementing measures directly adopted or not by the CCNR,
- monitoring the intermediate and final objectives laid down by the Mannheim Declaration.

The roadmap aims to outline two transition pathways for the fleet (new and existing vessels). A more conservative transition pathway, based on technologies that are already mature, cost efficient in the short-term but with uncertainties on the availability on certain fuels, and a more innovative one, relying on technologies still in their infancy stage but providing more promising emission reduction potential on the long run. The two transition pathways are both sufficiently ambitious to achieve the objectives of the Mannheim Declaration. A key conclusion points to the absence of a “one size fits all” technology solution adapted to all types of vessels and navigation profiles. A technologically neutral approach appears therefore relevant to achieve the energy transition.

The CCNR has developed an implementation plan taking into account economic, technical, infrastructure, social and regulatory aspects. This plan aims at suggesting, planning and implementing measures to be adopted directly or not by the CCNR, as well as monitoring the intermediate and final objectives laid down by the Mannheim Declaration. The CCNR will undertake, to report, by 2025, on the progress in the implementation as well as the need to update and, if necessary, revise the roadmap and the corresponding action plan by 2030.

The CCNR hopes that this roadmap will contribute to developing a common vision of the energy transition and the associated challenges within the inland navigation sector, as well as to generating support and acceptance for related political measures.

The roadmap is available and can be downloaded in French, German, Dutch, and English on the CCNR’s website at the following address: https://roadmap.ccr-zkr.org. A summary document is also available on the dedicated roadmap web page.

Happy reading!

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.