

## CCNR FORGES AGREEMENT WITH CEN AND CENELEC TO ADVANCE STANDARDISATION OF INLAND NAVIGATION

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The [Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine](#) (CCNR) has entered into an agreement with [CEN and CENELEC](#) to advance standardisation of inland navigation. This collaboration aims to improve standardisation processes and safety measures in inland waterway transport. It has been formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the three organisations on 24 April 2024.

The CCNR exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is composed of the delegations of its Member States – Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland – which are responsible for drawing up Rhine regulations. In 2015, the CCNR – in cooperation with the European Commission – established the [CESNI](#), the European committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation. This European committee was set up in order to adopt technical standards in various fields, in particular concerning vessels, crew and information technology. The respective regulations at the European and international level, including those of the European Union and the CCNR, may refer to these standards.

A key focus of the collaboration between CEN, CENELEC and CCNR (CESNI) is the transition to alternative propulsion systems and fuels in inland navigation to meet environmental goals. Hydrogen, methanol or batteries emerge as promising solutions for the greening of the fleet. Regulations, supported by partnerships such as the one defined in the MoU, are identified as crucial drivers for this transition. This is expected to contribute significantly to the coherent and effective implementation of the CCNR and EU policies, such as the EU's Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation and the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

The strategic collaboration between CEN, CENELEC, and CCNR (CESNI) closely conforms to CEN/TC 15 'Inland navigation vessels'. It establishes a formal cooperation framework to enhance complementarity and facilitate the joint evolution of their combined work. Essential for fostering innovation, it addresses challenges aligned with the environmental and climate protection objectives set by the European Union ([Green Deal](#)) and the CCNR ([Mannheim Declaration](#)). This collaboration constitutes a critical advancement in standardisation efforts for inland navigation that are dedicated to ensuring safety, interoperability, and environmental sustainability across European inland waterways.

### ABOUT CEN AND CENELEC

*CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are recognized by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as European Standardization Organizations responsible for developing standards at European level. The members of CEN and CENELEC are the National Standardization Bodies and National Electrotechnical Committees of 34 European countries. European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables adopted by CEN and CENELEC, are accepted and recognized in all these countries. European Standards (ENs) contribute to enhancing safety, improving quality, facilitating cross-border trade and strengthening the European Single Market.*

### 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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