

Joint declaration by the world's authorities with responsibility for inland navigation, meeting in Marseille at the 2012 World Water Forum



On the occasion of the World Water Forum being held in Marseille (France), a number of major stakeholders in inland navigation around the world met on 13 March 2012 on the initiative of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine. During this meeting, the representatives of authorities with responsibility for managing navigable waterways in various parts of the world were able to meet and discuss their experience.

It was noted that inland navigation has become increasingly important in many parts of the world. It constitutes a forward-looking, competitive mode of transport of cargo and passengers that meets high standards of safety and environmental protection. The social dimension of, in particular, the transport of passengers in certain regions has been stressed.

Emphasis was placed on the need to support the promotion of inland waterways throughout the world in a integrated water resource management approach, looking to the future and giving specific attention to necessary adaptations in view of climate change. Waterways are still generally under-utilized as a mode of transport, and only receive limited attention in international discussions..

An awareness of the global dimension of the navigation sector constitutes an important element for the sharing of technological innovations, industrial solutions, and logistics management procedures, offering investors a much wider market. The development of modern fleets, the exchange of educational skills for navigation

personal, the spread of techniques for developing navigable waterways, and the availability of tools for monitoring the economy of the navigation in the different river basins, would all benefit from a more global approach to this type of transport. The global stakeholders in inland navigation present in Marseille reaffirmed their determination to seek forward-looking solutions in an increasingly globalised economy through dialogue with the innovative sectors.

The need to strengthen cooperation among the global stakeholders in inland navigation was acknowledged; pooling their information, their experience, and their influence could contribute to the successful development of river transport throughout the world. It was noted in this respect that the tools for communication and exchange among the stakeholders in the major waterways around the world need to be improved. An initial step in this direction could take the form of an information and discussion platform on the Internet. It would appear that further meetings of the authorities concerned are desirable. These measures will make it possible to raise the global profile of transport by water by highlighting its comparative advantages.

Participants noted the proposal made by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine to provide the secretariat for the creation of the digital platform for exchanging information on inland navigation around the world, to closely cooperate with existing global platforms and PIANC in particular and to organise further meetings of the international managers of navigable waterways. They expressed their support for these initiatives and encouraged other river basin authorities and organisation to take part in the network

Marseille, 13 March 2012

The USACE Institute for Water Resources
The Mekong River Commission
The China Waterborne Transport Research Institute
The Indian Ministry of Transport
The Brazilian Ministry of Transport
Pan-European Transport Corridor VII
The Danube Commission
The Moselle Commission
The Sava Commission
The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine
