CCNR
CENTRAL COMMISSION
FOR THE NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE

SAVE THE DATE

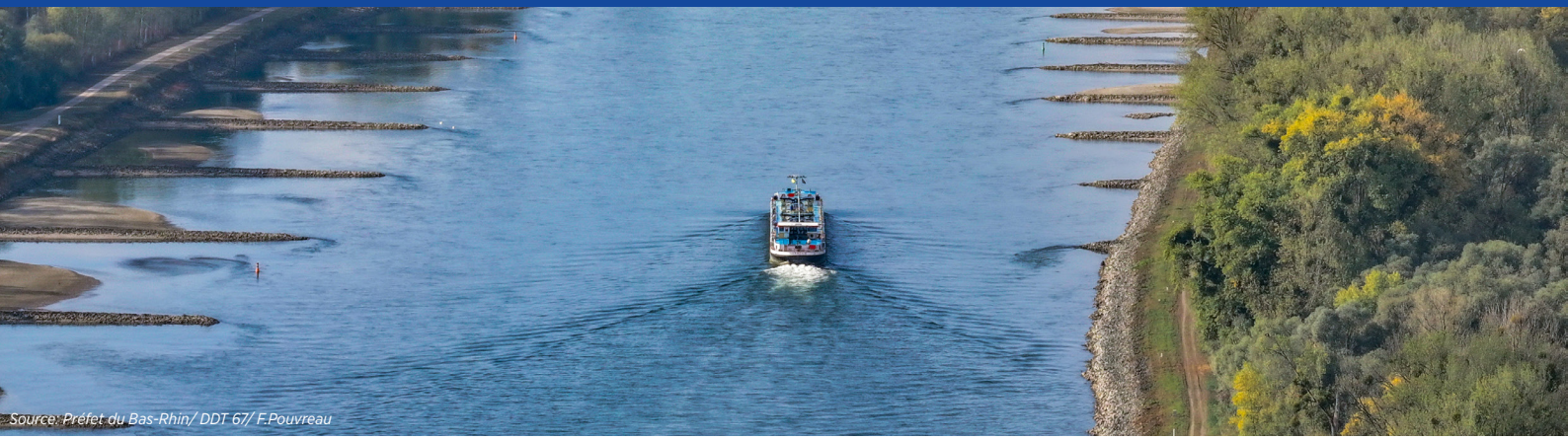
WORKSHOP: LOW WATER PERIODS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE

TEN YEARS OF LESSONS TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF THE RHINE

8 July 2027

Location: Federal German Ministry of Transport (BMV), Robert-Schuman-Platz 1, 53175 Bonn, Germany

The detailed programme of the workshop will be announced at a later date.



Source: Préfet du Bas-Rhin/ DDT 67/ F.Pouvreau

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The **Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine** (CCNR) is pleased to invite stakeholders to a workshop on **low water periods and their impact on the navigation of the Rhine**, to be held on **8 July 2027** in Bonn (Germany).

Nearly **ten years** have passed since the **exceptional 2018 low water period**, which marked a turning point in awareness of the impact of low water levels on navigation on the Rhine.

Since that time, numerous initiatives have been launched to improve the sector's ability to adapt to periods of low water. In particular, stakeholders in the public and private sectors have developed **new forecasting tools, updated their logistics practices and invested in infrastructure and fleet adaptation**. **Cooperation** has been strengthened among the various stakeholders concerned, including at the international level. At the same time, scientific research has provided a better understanding of how the Rhine's hydrological regime is likely to change as a result of climate change.

The exceptionally early and prolonged **low water period** observed in **2026** is another reminder that these phenomena remain a **major challenge for the Rhine**. Historically low levels have been observed at various gauging stations along the Rhine and in several countries. Although transport volumes have been significantly reduced, **navigation on the Rhine has never been halted completely**. Despite the fact that logistics chains have demonstrated a greater capacity to adapt than during previous crises, **navigation on the Rhine** remains **essential** to sectors such as the chemical, steel and oil industries, which cannot be supplied as efficiently by rail or road.

This latest episode also emphasises the need not only to respond to isolated events, but also to intensify **coordinated, long-term efforts to improve the resilience** of this strategic transport corridor at the European level.

OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Objectives of the workshop

The objective of the workshop, which follows on from those held in 2019 and 2023, is to take stock of the lessons learned from almost ten years' experience. The discussions will focus in particular on advances in scientific knowledge and the implications for navigation, as well as the impact on the logistics chain and, more broadly, on the economy. The workshop will also help identify potential solutions and adaptation strategies for the various stakeholders involved in navigation on the Rhine.

Deliverables

The discussions will contribute to the next update to CCNR's '**Act Now!**' reflection paper, which lists the impacts of low water and measures that could make navigation on the Rhine more resilient in the face of these phenomena. They will also help develop the Masterplan Rhine, recently launched by the CCNR, which aims to expand the understanding of the effects of climate change on navigation and infrastructure on the Rhine, identify key vulnerabilities and evaluate the necessary adaptation measures to preserve navigability and competitiveness in the long term.

Target audience

The workshop is intended for representatives from waterway authorities, ports and terminals, the inland navigation sector, shippers, logistics service providers, research institutes, environmental associations, river commissions and other international organisations that operate in inland navigation.

Working languages

The workshop will be conducted in French, German, Dutch and English.