



ROUND TABLE

Communication and language in navigation on inland waterways
invitation

The Secretariat of the Central Commission would like to invite you to take part in a Round Table to be held at the Palais du Rhin in Strasbourg on Tuesday, 17 February 2009. The Round Table will be devoted to the language used in navigation on inland waterways, with the aim of both assessing the present situation which features the activity on the Rhine of an increasing number of boatmen using different languages and exploring ways in which the conditions for efficient, reliable communication may be ensured.

Communication constitutes an essential element of the operations involved in navigation on inland waterways.

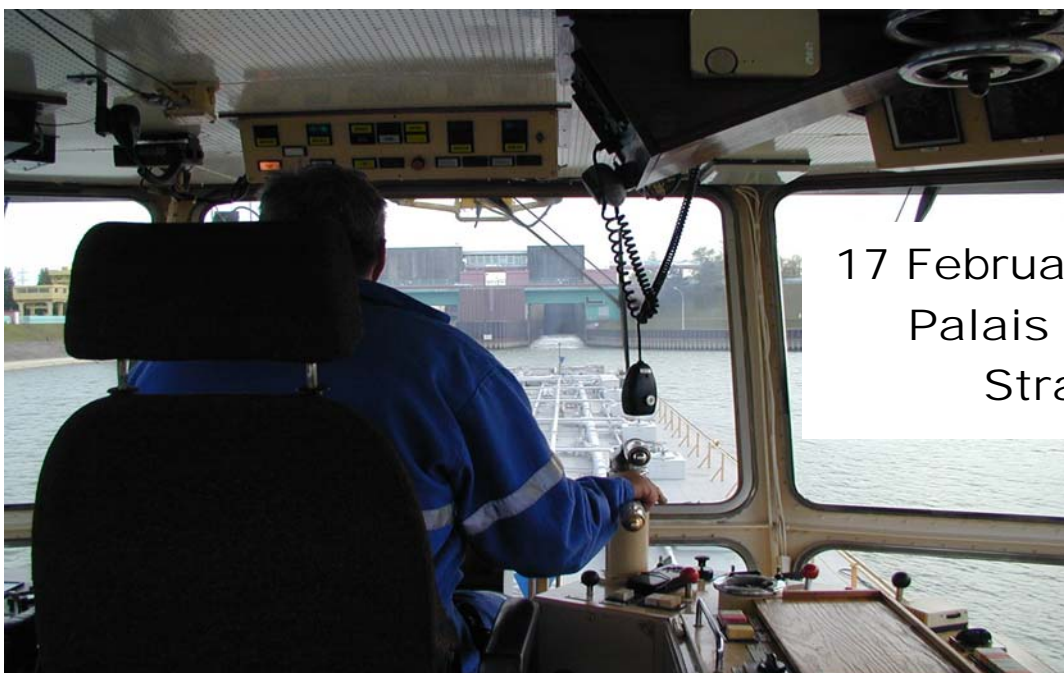
A distinction may be drawn between communication:

- on board, among members of the crew;
- between vessels with a view to clarifying aspects in relation to navigation;
- between vessels and services on land, more particularly in terms of infrastructure and the civil engineering structures that form part of it;
- between a vessel and installations on land during the loading and unloading of cargo.

Since the opening of markets, including the employment market, constitutes an essential element of European integration, the inland waterways landscape also reflects European diversity in terms of the languages used.

In addition, the labour shortage on the traditional employment markets has given rise to the recruitment of a growing number of citizens of non-European countries.

Verbal/oral communication is a key aspect of maintaining a high level of safety in the operations involved in navigation on inland waterways. It is therefore important to draw up an inventory, to identify the trends observable in practice, and to embark on consideration of possible follow-up to the issue of the languages used in this sector. In view of the complexity of the issue, the aim of the Round Table is not to identify a universal language to be imposed on all operators, but rather to determine the conditions necessary to ensure fluid, simple and efficient communication.



17 February 2009
Palais du Rhin
Strasbourg

This is a theme which concerns a number of parties – firstly the profession itself, particularly in view of ensuring the proper functioning of navigation, secondly the administrations that are responsible for maintaining the high level of safety through regulations, and lastly the teaching institutions whose training courses constitute a key instrument for the future coordination of language in this area.

The Round Table should also allow a pooling of experience in other neighbouring sectors on the theme of communication through language.

PROGRAMME

Chair: Michael WEMPE, German Commissioner
President of the WSD West

Working languages: DE, FR, NL (EN)

9.30 Opening

CCNR Secretariat

Communication and safety in navigation

Awareness of a safety issue; general introduction

Peter VAN DALEN, Director, IVW (Netherlands)

Traffic control and communication with the fleet

The experiences on the level of traffic operations

Ko GOUD, DG Rijkswaterstaat, Waterdistrict Zeeuwse Delta

Mobility of navigation personnel

Language and employment in a European context

Rob PAUPTIT, Nautilus NL, on behalf of ETF

Composition of crews and communication on board

The examples on the Rhine and on the Danube

Ronald VERSLOOT, CBRB, on behalf of EBU/ESO

Capt. Peter STEINDL, Austrian Economic Chamber

Elementary communication requirements

The possibility of enforcing requirements on communication

Ad HELLEMONS, AQUAPOL

12.30 – 14.00 lunch

The interface between two systems

„Tool kits“ of ISGINTT and CEFIC

Kurt PÖTTMANN, ISGINTT (STOLT-NIELSEN)

Marc TWISK, SQAS-manager, CEFIC

Communication in maritime navigation

The “Seaspeak” toolkit

Gurpreet S. SINGHOTA, Head of Operational Safety Section of IMO

Teaching and language

Practices and prospects in terms of training for navigation on inland waterways

Arjen MINTJES and Rob van REEM, EDINNA

Discussion on the prospects for a better framework for communications in navigation on inland waterways and possible follow-up

16.45 - 17.00

Conclusions of the Round Table; Closure