Since the structural reorganisation carried out in the 1990s and the integration that has marked this market, waterways transport has developed very considerably, involving the various segments of the market, its integration in logistics chains, its scale in geographical terms, and for the fleet technology and productivity.

As a result, this mode of transport now seems to be reaching the limits imposed on it by the restrictions that are being felt in the employment market.

This round-table discussion should make it possible to identify a common denominator for all the parties concerned as to the priority and the scale of the various issues, with a view to promoting a more dynamic employment market, and the ways in which they may be approached.

Apart from the public administrations of the Central Commission’s Member States, Observer States and the international organisations, the invitation to take part in this round-table discussion is being extended to organisations of the social partners and to vocational training and education establishments in the inland waterways transport sector.

19 June 2008
Palais du Rhin
Strasbourg

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Chair: Jean-François DALAISE, President of the ANFPPB  
Working languages: German, English, French

9.30 am opening
Presentation of the participants and general introduction
Jean-Marie WOEHRLING, Secretary-General of the Central Commission
Jörg RUSCHE, Bundesverband der Deutschen Binnenschifffahrt e.V.,
Coordinator of the PLATINA work package "Jobs and Skills"

9.45 am the employment market at the European level
constraints and challenges  
Jan VELDMAN, ESO/EBU advisor

10.10 coordination of vocational training in Europe
presentation of the conclusions of the conference held on 17and18 June 2008
Arjen MINTJES, Director of Maritime Academie (Netherlands)

10.30 job descriptions at the European level
proposals from the social partners  
Karl-Heinz BIESOLD, Ver.di Head of department

11.00 break

11.30 conclusions on job descriptions and follow-up
discussion

11.45 access to jobs in the inland navigation sector
greater recognition of equivalent competencies for lateral entry
from the training institutes' perspective  
Rob van REEM, STC Rotterdam (Netherlands)
discussion

12.30 lunch (buffet)

2.00 pm harmonisation and modernisation of regulations regarding crew
structures, qualifications and official documents according to the needs
of professionals
initiatives in favour of the harmonisation of boatmasters' certificates and
boatman’s booklets  
Cécile TOURNAYE, legal advisor to the CCNR
the representatives of the professional organisations are invited to comment the
existing options regarding the recognition of non-Rhenish registers of service
current studies of the European Commission regarding the Community
boatmasters' certificate and crew regulations  
Janeta TOMA, administrator of Inland Navigation unit of DG/TREN European
Commission
options regarding modernisation in view of technical progress in inland navigation
discussion  
Hans VAN DER WERF, deputy Secretary-General of the Central Commission
the representatives of the professional organisations are invited to introduce their
guidelines regarding possible harmonisation and modernisation
discussion

5.00 pm conclusions of round-table discussion

5.15 pm end

Mr Arjen MINTJES, Director of the Maritime Academie, has the pleasure to invite all
participants to a dinner-cocktail on board of MS Princes Maxima, from 6.30 PM.
Dock: 7 rue du Havre, Pont Vauban (Shuttle service from the Palais du Rhin)