

Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways

Newsletter Juli 2024

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Danube Region Strategy,
Dear Madam or Sir,

Priority Area 1a is pleased to share the latest developments and upcoming initiatives aimed at improving navigation and infrastructure in the Danube Region. This year has seen significant progress, and we look forward to continuing our efforts in the months ahead.

We thank you for your cooperation and involvement in our activities and look forward to our continued collaboration.

With kind regards and stay safe,

Your PA1a team

News, facts and events

Revision of the trans-European transport network guidelines

The revised TEN-T Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network), was published in the EU Official Journal and entered in force starting with 18th July 2024. Member States are mandated to ensure compliance by 31st December 2030.

Key provisions include minimum navigable channel depths and bridge heights, based on reference water levels, being a significant change to the initial requirement for a consistent 2.5-meter draught year-round and updates have been made to the corridor, including the inclusion of the Ukrainian part. The Commission will issue implementing acts specifying reference levels per corridor/waterway section, thus Member States have some flexibility in defining water parameters.

The revised regulation can be found [here](#).

24th PA1a Steering Group Meeting on 16 May 2024



The 24th Steering Group meeting was held in a hybrid setting in Vienna on 16th May 2024. Representatives from 10 riparian countries, as well as the representatives of the European Commission and professional associations were participating. The main topics discussed were the navigability conditions 2023 and planned measures, the status of the review process of the Joint Statement, fleet modernisation, education and jobs and administrative processes.

Greening the Danube fleet in line with the Green Deal, aiming for zero emissions by 2050, is a pressing issue, especially regarding realisation. RED III (Renewable Energy Directive, EU/2023/2413) is a significant legal framework aiming to promote clean energy development across all sectors of the EU economy by 2030. The transport sector is expected to use 29% renewable energy or reach a 14.5% greenhouse gas intensity reduction by 2030. Each EU country must devise its own implementation roadmap, following RED III's entry into force in November 2023. Danube navigation is expected to contribute to these objectives, primarily through the adoption of alternative fuels like Hydrotreated Vegetable Oils (HVO) as a short-term solution until 2030. Furthermore, the financing of the retrofitting measures requires actions taken by the states. To facilitate better coordination and cooperation of fleet modernisation measures along the Danube, a joint workshop between the Danube Commission and PA 1a is scheduled for 8th October 2024 in Budapest, inviting Danube countries and navigation sector representatives.

The next Steering Group meeting is planned on 13 December 2024 online.

13th EUSDR Annual Forum

The 13rd edition of the EUSDR Annual Forum took place in Vienna, organised by the Austrian presidency of the EUSDR jointly with the City of Vienna. Within the event, PA 1a hosted a dedicated parallel session on "New approaches for resilient waterway management", emphasizing the environmental benefits of Danube navigation and its vital role in the European economy. Key topics included the green characteristics of Danube waterway transport, challenges from low water levels and climate change, and innovative waterway management methods to enhance resilience.

The participants had the opportunity to visit the Port of Vienna, in the really heart of operations of a container terminal and had the opportunity to discuss mobility issues for logistics in cities - ports at the venue of thinkport Vienna. These two days were complemented by some great conversations both during the event and at the evening reception.

For more information:

<https://danube-region.eu/follow-up-13th-eusdr-annual-forum-cooperation-in-the-danube-region-now-more-than-ever-shaping-transformation-creating-opportunities/>

News from the Working Groups

Danube Ministerial Conclusions 2024 – keeping IWT on the political agenda

PA1a has consistently advocated for adequate funding for waterway administrations in the Danube Region, ensuring that waterway maintenance remains visible on the political agenda. In April 2024, transport ministers from Danube riparian countries reaffirmed their commitment to implement the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan and emphasised the importance of fairway rehabilitation and maintenance, as set out in the 6th Ministerial Conclusions. These efforts ensuring improved navigation conditions for the future, complement environmental legislation and the Guiding Principles of the Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability.

For more details, read the full text [here](#).



The Danube ministerial conclusions were once again efficiently and successfully negotiated by Désirée Oen of DG MOVE. PA1a owes much to Désirée for her efforts in organizing political support for the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan. We wish her a retirement filled with happiness and fulfillment.

Danube Business Talks 2024

The 6th edition of the Danube Business Talks, organized by viadonau, took place on 15th May 2024 in Vienna. This year's motto: "Setting the course for a green future!". The event focused on three main themes: green navigation, good navigation status, and the future of crews.

Discussions centered on sustainable navigation practices, including the use of alternative fuels and eco-friendly technologies. Strategies to enhance navigation efficiency and safety along the Danube were also explored. Additionally, the event addressed the need for qualified personnel in the shipping sector, focusing on training and workforce development.

The Danube Business Dating platform provided opportunities for attendees to network and establish new business contacts. This initiative supports the goals of Priority Area 1a in the EUSDR Action Plan, aiming to promote inland waterway transport and business development in the Danube Region.

Pictures, reports and presentation can be found [here](#).

Events

Date	Title	Venue	Organized by
26-27 September 2024	15th Joint Statement Meeting	Vienna (AT)	ICPDR
8 October 2024	Joint workshop on Fleet Modernisation	Budapest (HU)	PA1a, Danube Commission
29-30 October 2024	Danube Port Days	Budapest (HU)	Pro Danube, Danube Commission
26 November 2024	FAIRway Projects Advisory Committee Meeting	Vienna (AT)	viadonau
25-27 November 2024	28th International Danube Shipping and Tourism Conference	Budapest (HU)	ARGE Donau Kreuzfahrten Österreich
13 December 2024	25th Steering Group Meeting	online	PA1a

Links to the Navigation condition

Traffic, fairway and navigation conditions, can be found on the Danube FIS Portal

Danube FIS Portal

or EuRIS Portal at the page:

EuRIS

or the web pages of the Danube river administrations:

- Germany <https://www.elwis.de/DE/dynamisch/IENC/>
- Austria <https://www.doris.bmk.gv.at/inland-encs/downloads/inland-encs-inland-ecdis-standard-24>
- Czech Republic https://geoportal.plavebniurad.cz/web/Geoportal/Index_en
- Slovakia <https://www.svp.sk/svp/default.asp>
- Hungary <https://www.ovf.hu/vizgazdalkodas-vizszolgaltatas/ienc-terkep>; <https://pannonris.hu/en/terkepek>
- Croatia <https://www.vodniputovi.hr/en/ris/enc-charts/>
- Serbia <http://www.plovput.gov.rs/electronic-navigational-charts>
- Bulgaria <https://appd-bg.org/mapris-en>
- Romania <https://afdj.ro/en/content/inland-enc>; <https://www.roris.ro/portal/ro.aspx>
- Ukraine https://charts.gov.ua/en_enc_cell.html

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