

Workshop on the Follow-up of the

Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin

Danube Commission, Budapest
January 29-30, 2009

Welcome

by Igor Sergejewitsch Savolskiy, President of the Danube Commission

On behalf of the Danube Commission I would like to welcome all the participants of this workshop, in the building of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission.

In my capacity as a president of the Danube Commission it is my privilege to thank you for coming to our workshop giving attention to the Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin.

This Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin was developed in 2007 through a process of intensive, cross-sectoral consensus building between stakeholders with responsibility and interest in navigation, river ecological integrity and water management in the Danube river basin. The process included three stakeholder and expert workshops in April, June and October 2007.

During this process the participating stakeholders generated a common understanding on the protection of the riverine environment and the necessary processes and conditions for conducting and developing sustainable inland navigation (including the maintenance of existing infrastructure and the development of new navigation projects).

The stakeholders involved in developing this Joint Statement underline that the full respect of the existing legal framework, including all relevant transport and environment legislation (national legislation, EU directives and international requirements), is a pre-condition for any activity in the Danube region.

All organizations involved in this process will ensure the endorsement, promotion and utilization of the Joint Statement.

The ICPDR, Danube Commission, and International Sava River Basin Commission, including relevant stakeholders, will meet yearly to discuss specific navigational and environmental developments and to highlight good practices in river maintenance projects.

Projects being currently implemented or under concrete planning should apply the principles outlined in this Joint Statement. Progress and development of this implementation process should be reported to the ICPDR, Danube Commission and International Sava River Basin Commission by the responsible authorities and/or countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen! With these ideas I wish you a fruitful exchange of views on today's conference.