



Donaukommission – Commission du Danube – Дунайская Комиссия – Danube Commission

Austria Bulgaria Croatia Germany Hungary Moldova Romania Russia Serbia Slovakia Ukraine



## DANUBE COMMISSION

Danube Ports Days 2023-Knowledge Exchange and Action Plans for Danube Ports

**The Danube ports– Joint Statement of the Danube Port Authorities and Ports Stakeholders**

Dejan Trifunovic

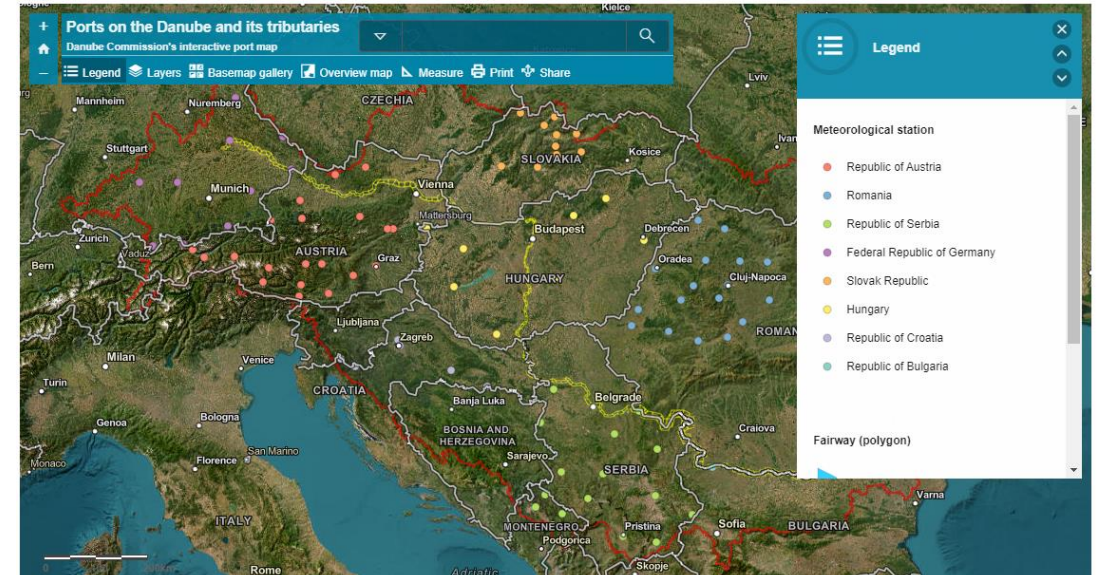
24 November 2023, Vienna



# Danube river and seaports – statistics and port infrastructure

- DC database on Danube ports with map visualization:
  - <http://www.danubecommission.org/dc/en/danube-navigation/danube-ports-map/>
  - 75 ports and 198 terminals covered by the dataset, regularly updated, more than 240.000 visits in 7 years;
- Total cargo throughput of Danube ports 76.5 million tons in 2022 (+3.2% to 2021); Q1+Q2/2023 - 45.7 million tons; Most important EU-UA Solidarity Lane-more than 25 million tonnes in the current year;
- Further develop the existing information into a full GIS based database on port infrastructure;
  - Adding additional port infrastructure parameters;
  - Upgrading web interface
  - Full operation as from 20 June 2023;
  - Cooperation with TEN Tec database;
- DC SEC will present progress in next EG Ports meeting (12 March 2024);

*Danube ports infrastructure database could become valuable instrument for promoting & monitoring port development*



COUNTRY:  RKM:  RIVER:  SHORE:   
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COUNTRY	PORT NAME	RKM	RIVER	OPERATOR	ADDRESS
Austria	Linz Handelshafen	2130.700	Danube	Linz Service GmbH	4021 Linz, Wiener Straße 151
Austria	Linz Tankhafen	2128.100	Danube	Linz Service GmbH	4021 Linz, Wiener Straße 151
Austria	Linz Voestalpine	2127.160	Danube	Voestalpine Stahl Linz GmbH	4020 Linz, Voestalpine-Straße 3
Austria	Linz Felbermayr	2124.730	Danube	Felbermayr Transport & Hebeteknik GmbH & Co KG	4031 Linz, Lunzerstraße 97
Austria	Ennshafen	2112.000	Danube	EHG Ennshafen GmbH	4470 Enns, Donaustraße 3
Austria	Ybbs	2057.670	Danube	Schaufler GmbH	3370 Ybbs, Am Donauspitz 4
Austria	Krems	1998.000	Danube	Mierka Donauhafen Krems GmbH & Co. KG	3500 Krems, Karl Mierka Straße 7-9



## Main goals of DC Expert Meeting on Ports

- Creation of dedicated Expert Meeting on Development of Danube ports and Port Operations (EM Ports);
- First meeting: 30 September 2021 in Budapest; Meetings in 2022 and 2023;
- Monitor port policies of European Union and DC member states as well as related documents;
- Contribute to port policies and related documents on European level, providing feedback in public consultations, information exchange with DC member states;
- Provide & exchange information among the members of the expert group on port policies, good practices in port development and port operations; in cooperation with professional organisations for the port sector;
- Facilitate & monitor studies and projects related to port development, greening and digitalization of inland ports;
- Facilitate port infrastructure development (physical, digital, environmental) as part of Danube transport corridor development; energy transition and greening of ports and port operations; implementation of AFIR and development of the electrification (OPS/Swappable Battery Containers), methanol and H2 in inland ports; Status of liquefied natural gas (LNG); CESNI process-technical requirements for the use of alternative fuels in inland waterway vessels to be included in the draft of ES-TRIN 2025;
- Chairman of EM Ports in the period 2021-2023: Mr Werner Auer, Managing Director Ennshafen Port-Austria; New chairman in the period 2024-2025: Mr Vuk Perovic, Director of Port Governance Agency of Republic of Serbia;
- **"Joint Statement of the Danube Port Authorities and Ports Stakeholders" – Initiative of the DC Secretariat. Progress since 2022;**



## Rationale for Joint Statement

DC Secretariat initiative:

### **“Joint Statement of the Danube Port Authorities and Ports Stakeholders”**

#### Rationale for the initiative:

- The Danube region’s river and sea ports are important logistics and transport nodes in supply chains and contribute substantially to regional economic development and cohesion as industrial hubs;
- In the context of the energy transition, ports have significant untapped potentials to become hubs for clean energy production and distribution as well as for the development of the circular economy;
- Paris Agreement, the EU Green Deal and non-EU Danube States with similar national commitments have set ambitious climate goals for 2030 and 2050 that require immediate and targeted action to decarbonise all sectors of the economy;
- The EU Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy underline the need to increase the modal share of IWT by 25% by 2030 and by 50% by 2050 and recognize that IWT together with rail transport is central to the decarbonisation of the European transport system;
- Port authorities, port administrations, port operators and other port businesses need to implement concrete measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure sustainability of port development and operations;

**There is a strong need for intensive cooperation and coordination between port actors at a given port location as well as between ports, across borders, but also across economic sectors, and at transnational level.**



## Joint Statement Framework

### Framework conditions:

- The ports in the Danube region have different organisational, financial and governance conditions;
- Although the climate goals are the same, the pathways to reach them are different and depend on many factors;
- Port authorities/administrations can decide on the greening of their own activities and jurisdiction, but have limited possibilities to influence green behavior of port users (terminal operators, transport companies, etc.);
- Ports can also be an important partner of surrounding communities and regions in achieving higher levels of sustainability and supporting the energy transition;
- There is extensive experience from the work of ESPO for sea ports (EcoPorts Initiative encompassing Port Environmental Review System (PERS) and Self-Diagnosis Method (SDM); see also: ESPO Green Guide 2021, Manual for European Ports towards a green future), which can be used as input for the work of the Danube ports;
- Port Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) and specific green port policies can be valuable tools to ensure port sustainability;

**Port authorities/administrations are required to take an active role (the lead) for both the greening of the port authority/administration and the greening of the entire port area. They have to play an important role in coordinating activities and ensure high stakeholder participation.**



## Objectives - Green Danube Port Joint Statement

### Objectives of the proposed Joint Statement:

- Initiate a comprehensive, transnational public-private initiative supporting Europe's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 and a high level of sustainability in port development and port operations in the Danube region's river and sea ports;
- Align port stakeholders of the Danube region on the principles and measures needed to decarbonise river and sea ports of the Danube region and to ensure sustainability of port development and operations;
- River and sea port administrations as well as private port owners and operators agreeing to the Declaration demonstrate their commitment to take concrete measures to achieve Europe's climate goals;

### **The proposed Joint Statement will:**

- **Provide a platform for cooperation among ports in the Danube Region;**
- **Support the sustainable and smart development of inland waterway transport, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy transition and circular economy;**
- **Trigger the creation of a project pipeline that will feed into the European Union's funding programs;**
- **Raise awareness on all political levels in the member states and at EC level.**



## Implementation steps of the Joint Statement

- Initial steps in 2022
  - Start of initiative in EM PORTS 9 March 2022, consultation process, verified by WG TECH in April;
  - 97th session of the Danube Commission (15 June 2022) confirmation of initiative;
  - On 24 June 2022, port authorities/administrations, private port owners and port operators of the DC member states were invited to sign the “**Declaration on Decarbonisation and Sustainability of River and Sea ports in the Danube Region**”
  - Complex general situation in 2022 (the armed conflict, the energy crisis and the postponement of the EM PORTS);
  - Objections regarding the use of the term "Declaration“;
- Relaunch of the signing procedure on 2 February 2023 as “"Joint Statement of the Danube Port Authorities and Ports Stakeholders"”
  - Renewed invitation to all stakeholders to sign;
  - Port authorities will work to promote the JS and to convince port operators, associations and other interested parties to sign;
  - The first results were presented at the EM Ports, 21 March 2023;
  - By 31 October 2023, 6 port authorities/operators/stakeholders have signed up;
- Interaction with EU projects & project generation
  - The initiative shall interact with EU projects supporting the greening of ports;
  - The initiative shall facilitate a pipeline of implementation projects.



## Proposed priority topics EM Ports 12 March 2024

- Preparations for next meeting - 12 March 2024 (hybrid)
  - Drafting preliminary agenda in close cooperation with a new chairman (Mr Vuk Perovic, PGA)/ Selection of external speakers;
  - Collecting contributions from EG group members (presentations, project proposals, good practices, etc.)
    - EM Ports shall function as information & communication platform
- *Update on policy and regulatory framework relevant for Danube ports (TEN-T, AFIR, CTD, eFTI);*
- *Existing / submitted / planned projects for greening and digitalization;*
- *Progress of the “Joint Statement of the Danube Port Authorities and Ports Stakeholders”;*
- *Ensuring skilled labor for Danube ports and social issues in scope of inland ports;*
- *EU – Ukraine Solidarity Lanes;*
- *Close cooperation with the SEANERGY project;*
- *Follow-up of the development and support of the Green Inland Ports Study - cooperation with Ecorys - (one of the workshops in 2025 should be held in Budapest-DC/EM Ports);*



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Thank you for  
your attention!

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Commission

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