



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE DANUBE CONVENTION
Belgrade, 29 June 2018

The “*Ministerial Conference on the Occasion of Marking the 70th Anniversary of the Signing of the Belgrade Convention Regarding the Regime of Navigation on the Danube*” took place in Belgrade, on 29 June 2018.

The Conference was held under the heading “*Strengthening Partnerships for Freedom of Navigation on the Danube*” and was opened by a statement of H.E. Ms. Zorana MIHAJLOVIĆ, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia.

Statements were made by Mr. Gordan Grlic RADMAN, President of the Danube Commission, and by the heads of delegations of the Member States of the Commission, assessing the latter’s activities and putting forward ideas and proposals for improving the common regulations in order to enhance the safety and security of the Danube navigation.

In his intervention, the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador CHEBELEU, highlighted the readiness of BSEC PERMIS to enhance its cooperation with the Commission of the Danube, based on the Memorandum concluded between the secretariats of the two organizations on 8 June 2010.

At the end of the Conference a Communiqué was adopted summarizing the main ideas put forward in the interventions.

In the afternoon of the same day, the regular “*90th Session of the Danube Commission*” took place.

The Commission adopted the Working Plan for the forthcoming period of one year, as of 30 June 2018. The latter makes a special reference to the continued cooperation of the Danube Commission, based on the arrangements in force, with the International Sava River Basin Commission and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

In the margins of the above meetings, Ambassador CHEBELEU had informal discussions with Mr. Petar MARGIĆ, Director General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission. They agreed to remain in contact and discuss concrete possibilities of cooperation between the two organizations, in particular cooperation on the development of the “*Motorways of the Sea*”, taking into account that some Danube ports were included to the MoS Concept, and on launching a trilateral cooperation between BSEC - Danube Commission - Commission of the Black Sea in the area of environment protection.