Executive Agency
EXPLORATION AND MAINTENANCE
OF THE DANUBE RIVER

70 YEARS TOGETHER FOR THE DANUBE

Challenges and Perspectives for the Development of Navigation on the Danube River

21 October 2026 Ruse, Bulgaria



Time:	**9:30 - 16:00**	**Place:**	**Grand Hotel Riga - Hall 1,** 22 Pridunavski Blvd.

9:30	**Registration**
10:30	**Commemorative Postmark Ceremony for the 70th Anniversary of Executive Agency "Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube River"**
11:00 – 11:45	**Welcome & Opening Remarks**
11:45 – 13:00	**I. Current challenges and strategic priorities for navigation on the Danube /panel discussion/**

Confirmed Panelists:

- **Margarida Marques** – European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube European Transport Corridor
- **Manfred Seitz** – Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission
- **Markus Simoner** – Coordinator of EUSDR Priority Area 1a "Inland Waterways"
- **Antonio Stoean** – Senior Policy Officer, Pro Danube International

Key Topics for Discussion:

1. A Reliable Danube – Can We Ensure Year-Round Navigability?
2. Climate Change – Is the Danube Ready for the Future?
3. From Bottlenecks to Solutions – Where Should We Invest First?
4. The Next Five Years – What Should Be Our Top Priority?
5. From Strategy to Action – What Needs to Change Now?

13:00 - 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:30	**II. International Cooperation and Project Implementation for Sustainable Inland Navigation**

- **Advancing Infrastructure Development on the Danube** /Andreas Bäck – viadonau, Austria/
- **Bulgarian-Romanian Cooperation on the Maintenance and Improvement of Navigation on the Danube River** /Ivelin Zanev - EAEMDR, Romeo Soare - AFDJ Galati, Romania/
- **Innovative Flexible Infrastructure Elements for a Climate-Resilient Danube** /Andreas Bäck – viadonau, Austria/
- **Digital Solutions for Danube Navigation – River Information Services** /Elitsa Dragozova-Paneva - Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company/

15:30	**Closure of the conference**
19:00	**Celebration dinner** *(Crazy Fish Restaurant on the board of "Sofia" ship, Ruse quay, Pontoon 11)*