

**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA
UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
and
YUGOSLAVIA**

**Convention concerning the regime of navigation on the
Danube (with annexes and supplementary protocol).
Signed at Belgrade, on 18 August 1948**

Russian and French official texts communicated by the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations. The registration took place on 12 August 1949.

**UNION DES REPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIETIQUES,
BULGARIE, HONGRIE, ROUMANIE,
REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE SOVIETIQUE D'UKRAINE,
TCHECOSLOVAQUIE
et
YUGOSLAVIE**

**Convention relative au régime de la navigation sur le Danube
(avec annexes et protocole additionnel). Signée à Bel-
grade, le 18 août 1948**

Textes officiels russe et français communiqués par le représentant permanent de la Yougoslavie auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 12 août 1949.

TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 518. CONVENTION¹ REGARDING THE REGIME OF
NAVIGATION ON THE DANUBE. SIGNED AT BEL-
GRADE, ON 18 AUGUST 1948

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian Republic, the People's Republic of Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Republic of Czechoslovakia and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia,

Whereas the Council of Foreign Ministers on 12 December 1946 decided to convene a conference, composed of representatives of the States mentioned, to work out a new convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube, and

Desirous of providing for free navigation on the Danube in accordance with the interests and sovereign rights of the Danubian States and in order to strengthen the economic and cultural relations of the Danubian States among themselves and with other nations,

Have resolved to conclude a Convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube and for that purpose have appointed the undersigned plenipotentiaries who, after presentation of their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Navigation on the Danube shall be free and open for the nationals, vessels of commerce and goods of all States, on a footing of equality in regard to port and navigation charges and conditions for merchant shipping. The foregoing shall not apply to traffic between ports of the same State.

¹ Came into force on 11 May 1949, date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification with the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, in accordance with article 47.

Dates on which the instrument of ratification was deposited by each of the signatory States:

Bulgaria	22 February 1949
Czechoslovakia	23 February 1949
Yugoslavia	23 February 1949
Romania	5 March 1949
Hungary	14 March 1949
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	11 May 1949
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	14 May 1949

Article 2

The regime established by this Convention shall apply to the navigable part of the Danube River between Ulm and the Black Sea through the Sulina arm, with outlet to the sea through the Sulina channel.

Article 3

The Danubian States undertake to maintain their sections of the Danube in a navigable condition for river-going and, on the appropriate sections, for sea-going vessels, to carry out the works necessary for the maintenance and improvement of navigation conditions and not to obstruct or hinder navigation on the navigable channels of the Danube. The Danubian States shall consult the Danube Commission (art. 5) on matters referred to in this article.

The riparian States may within their own jurisdiction undertake works for the maintenance of navigation, the execution of which is necessitated by urgent and unforeseen circumstances. The States shall inform the Commission of the reasons which have necessitated the works, and shall furnish a summary description thereof.

Article 4

Should a Danubian State be unable itself to undertake works within its own territorial jurisdiction which are necessary for the maintenance of normal navigation it shall be bound to allow the Danube Commission (art. 5) to carry them out under conditions determined by the Commission, which may not entrust the execution of such works to another State unless the section in question of the waterway forms the frontier of such State. In the latter case the Commission shall decide the conditions on which the works shall be carried out.

The Danubian States agree to afford the Commission or the State executing the said works all necessary assistance.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Section I. The Danube Commission

Article 5

There shall be established a Danube Commission, hereinafter called "the Commission", to consist of one representative of each Danubian State.

Article 6

The Commission shall elect from among its members a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary for a term of three years.

Article 7

The Commission shall determine the times of its meetings and its own rules of procedure.

The first meeting of the Commission shall be held within six months after the entry into force of the present Convention.

Article 8

The jurisdiction of the Commission shall extend to the Danube as defined in article 2.

The functions of the Commission shall be:

- (a) to supervise the implementation of the provisions of this Convention;
- (b) to prepare a general plan of the principal works called for in the interests of navigation on the basis of proposals and projects presented by the Danubian States and the Special River Administrations (articles 20 and 21), and likewise to draw up a general budget in connexion with such works;
- (c) to execute the works in the cases provided for in article 4;
- (d) to consult with, and make recommendations to, the Danubian States in respect of the execution of the works referred to in paragraph (b) of this article, with due consideration for the technical and economic interests, plans and possibilities of the respective States;
- (e) to consult with, and make recommendations to, the Special River Administrations (articles 20 and 21), and to exchange information with them;
- (f) to establish a uniform system of traffic regulations on the whole navigable portion of the Danube and also to lay down the basic provisions governing navigation on the Danube, including those governing the pilot service, with due consideration for the specific conditions obtaining on particular sections;
- (g) to unify the regulations governing river inspection;
- (h) to co-ordinate the hydro-meteorological services on the Danube, and to publish a single hydrological bulletin and short-term and long-term hydrological forecasts for the Danube;

(i) to produce statistics on aspects of navigation on the Danube within the competence of the Commission;

(j) to publish reference works, sailing directions, navigational charts and atlases for purposes of navigation;

(k) to prepare and approve the budget of the Commission and to fix and levy the charges provided for in article 10.

Article 9

In order to carry out the tasks referred to in the foregoing article, the Commission shall have its own secretariat and the necessary office services, the staff of which shall be recruited from nationals of the Danubian States.

The organization of the secretariat and services shall be determined by the Commission itself.

Article 10

The Commission shall draw up its budget and approve it by a majority vote of all its members. The budget shall provide for the expenses for the maintenance of the Commission and its services, to be met by equal contributions of the Danubian States payable annually.

In order to defray the cost of executing special works for the maintenance or improvement of navigability, the Commission may establish special charges.

Article 11

The Commission's decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members present, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this Convention (articles 10, 12 and 13).

Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Article 12

The Commission's decisions on matters provided for in article 8, paragraphs (b), (c), (f) and (g) shall be taken by a majority vote of all members of the Commission but without outvoting the State of the territory on which the works are to be carried out.