

## PRESS RELEASE

### Degassing: Belgium has deposited the instrument of ratification of the amendment to the CDNI



*Source: Secretariat of the CDNI*

**Strasbourg, 25.08.2022** – The **Kingdom of Belgium** has ratified the amendment to the Convention on the collection, deposit and reception of waste produced during navigation on the Rhine and inland waterways (CDNI). The **deposition of the instrument of ratification** is a new **important step** towards the entry into force of the amendment. This major amendment to the Convention aims to **protect the environment and maintain air quality** by means of strict regulation of the **degassing of inland navigation vessels**.

The instrument of ratification was deposited by Ambassador Jean-Cédric Janssens de Bisthoven, Belgium's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, on Thursday, 25 August 2022, at the Palais du Rhin in Strasbourg. The deposition was made to the Secretary General of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (**CCNR**), Mrs Lucia Luijten, who is also the depositary of the CDNI. During the same ceremony, the Kingdom of Belgium also deposited its instrument of ratification of the Strasbourg Convention of 2012 on the limitation of liability in inland navigation (CLNI 2012).

The amendment aims to **introduce a gradual prohibition of degassing in the scope of application of the CDNI** to prevent harmful gaseous cargo residues being released into the atmosphere. After certain volatile organic compounds have been removed, these vapours remain behind in tankers' holds

and need to be disposed of before loading the next cargo, when they cannot be evacuated into a tank ashore by means of a vapour recovery system. The six Contracting States of the CDNI adopted these new regulations which provide for the **necessary procedures for receiving and handling these gaseous residues**.

The Kingdom of Belgium is the fourth Contracting State to deposit its instrument of ratification after the [Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg](#), the [Kingdom of the Netherlands](#), and the [Federal Republic of Germany](#). The ratification procedure is in progress in France and in Switzerland. The amendment will come into force six months after the last instrument of ratification has been deposited.

Additional information on the new degassing provisions and their implementation is available at: <https://www.cdni-iwt.org/part-b-degassing/?lang=en>.

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#### **About the CDNI ([www.cdni-iwt.org](http://www.cdni-iwt.org))**

*The Convention of 9 September 1996 on the collection, deposit and reception of waste produced during navigation on the Rhine and inland waterways (CDNI) has been in force since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009. It has six Contracting States (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland) and aims to protect the environment, and especially water. To this end, the CDNI establishes the rules for:*

- **encouraging the prevention** of waste production,
- **directing this waste to a network of dedicated reception stations** throughout the navigable waterway network,
- **providing international financing** for these initiatives having regard to the “**polluter pays**” principle
- **monitoring** compliance with the bans on discharging the waste in question into the surface water.

*One amendment to the convention, currently being ratified, concerns the receipt of gaseous residues of liquid cargoes with the aim of protecting the atmosphere.*

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*The CDNI's Secretariat function is provided by the Secretariat of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR).*

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