

PRESS RELEASE
Degassing: France becomes the 5th Contracting State
to ratify the amendment to the CDNI



Source: Secretariat of the CDNI

Strasbourg, 07.06.2023 – The **French Republic** 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 Diégo COLAS, Director of legal affairs at the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs. The deposition took place on Thursday 7 June 2023, at the Palais du Rhin in Strasbourg. It was made to the Secretary General of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (**CCNR**), Mrs Lucia Luijten, who is the depository of the CDNI.

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: they 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**.

After the [Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg](#), the [Kingdom of the Netherlands](#), the [Federal Republic of Germany](#) and the [Kingdom of Belgium](#), the French Republic is the fifth Contracting State to deposit its instrument of ratification. The ratification procedure is ongoing in Switzerland: the instrument should be deposited before the end of the year. 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>.

About the CDNI (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 1st 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.

Contact

CDNI Secretariat c/o CCNR
Palais du Rhin – 2, Place de la République – CS10023
F-67082 STRASBOURG CEDEX
Tél : + 33 (0)3 88 52 96 42
Email: Secretariat@cdni-iwt.org
Web: <https://www.cdni-iwt.org/>

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