



VACANCY

for the role of Secretary General of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)

Appointment (four years) starting 01.01.2026 (with possibility of extension)

About the organisation

The CCNR (www.ccr-zkr.org) is an international organisation aimed at ensuring good shipping conditions on the Rhine and promoting safe and environmentally friendly waterborne transport. It does so by adopting regulations and guidelines, coordinating policies, and making analyses. To this end, the five member states of the CCNR (Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland) work together in all relevant fields: technical, legal, economic, social, environmental and diplomatic. This is done in committees and working groups, which meet regularly in Strasbourg. Over time, cooperation with the EU, especially the European Commission, has become increasingly important. Many activities of the CCNR are therefore important not only for the Rhine, but for all European inland navigation. The CCNR also cooperates with the other river commissions and international organisations dealing with inland navigation in Europe.

The CCNR is supported by a Secretariat of over 30 people, based in Strasbourg (France). The Secretariat also carries out work for the European Commission (DG Move), and supports the implementation of some other international treaties related to inland navigation (CDNI, CASS).

The Secretariat's team is international and multidisciplinary and includes economists, lawyers, engineers, IT experts, political scientists and (administrative) support staff. All staff are nationals from one of the five CCNR Member States. The Secretariat has a management team of three: the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General and the Chief Engineer.

To lead the organisation, the CCNR is seeking a new Secretary General to take up office in Strasbourg from 1st January 2026.

Job description

As Secretary General you will be responsible for all Secretariat activities and contribute to the organisation's strategy and direction. You will be accountable to the Chair of the Rotating Presidency and the CCNR member states. You will be expected to progress work on a number of key priorities, including:

- Consolidating the CCNR's good working relationship with the European Union. You will be able to use your diplomatic skills and network to foster collaboration with the European institutions, in particular the European Commission. An important element in the mandate period is the renewal of the agreement with the European Commission for the period 2028-2034.

- Contribute to the smooth running of the CCNR. You will use your management and leadership skills to foster a supportive working environment for Secretariat staff, to actively implement a gender equality policy and to ensure CCNR decisions are implemented in a timely and effective manner.
- External representation of the CCNR and the inland waterway transport sector. You will use your network to further the interests of the organization. In this context you will take into account current events and developments in inland navigation and institutional relations between the CCNR and other international organisations and national bodies.

Key qualifications

Candidates will require:

- Diplomatic skills to facilitate decision-making within the CCNR and to manage relationships with external stakeholders, including other international organizations.
- Experience of working in an international environment. Experience of working with the European Union is an asset.
- Relevant management and leadership experience, preferably in an international context.
- The ability to represent the CCNR and the interests of the inland waterway transport sector externally.
- Good knowledge of French (language of the host country), as well as German and/or Dutch (official CCNR languages) and English.
- Nationality of a CCNR Member State

Benefits

- A four-year appointment (with possibility of extension for another four years)
- A salary cf. CCR salary table grade A6 (€ 13.133 - € 16.360 in 2025), tax exempt
- Pension.
- Allowances depending on your personal situation: moving allowance, foreign residence allowance, family allowance.
- 38-hour working week.
- Diplomatic privileges and immunities in accordance with the Headquarters Agreement.

More information and application process

Applicants should submit their application to the competent national authority in their member state by 27th February 2025 at the latest. The Member State will then make a decision on which applications to put forward. For more information, or to apply, candidates should contact their competent national authority using the following contact details:

- Germany: Mr. Christian Brunsch, ref-ws25@bmdv.bund.de
- France : Monsieur Diégo Colas, diego.colas@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Belgium: Ms. Geneviève Renaux, Genevieve.renaux@diplobel.fed.be
- The Netherlands: Ms. Jeanine Bezuijen, jeanine.bezuijen@minienw.nl
- Switzerland: Mr. Alexandros Koltsidas, entsendungen@eda.admin.ch for more information alexandros.koltsidas@eda.admin.ch