

**SPEECH BY THE INCOMING PRESIDENT MR. PHILIPPE GRULOIS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IVR ON 21 MAY 2010 AT VIENNA.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

The importance of an organization as IVR is the unique cooperation between different industries being the inland navigation industry, insurers and surveyors as well as other related and interested parties. This cooperation has proven its success during the past decades and seems to fulfill a certain demand. Besides its services the organization is providing a platform, at which members of the related industries can meet on a regularly basis and exchange their experiences and views on the various developments.

When it comes to the concrete issues IVR is dealing with, they are related to and concentrated around everything which lies in the common interest of these industries. These are

- Damage prevention
- Legal harmonization and unification in the field of transport and
- The management of a centralized registration of vessels in Europe

The results of these activities in the past years have been highlighted by the secretary general and can be found in the annual report 2009.

Following the realization of the aims of our association in the past under my predecessors I would like to continue on this path and to concentrate on some key issues. It is therefore of great importance that you today have approved the new strategy which shows us the path for the coming decade in which we will follow your advice.

In close cooperation with my colleagues in the executive board and the secretary general therefore I would like to concentrate on the further elaboration of the key-tasks and their translation into concrete actions.

**Strategy 2010 – 2015**

**Membership and Forum role**

Key words regarding the discussion on the future strategy is the further enlargement of our association. I would like to focus on this development by attracting representatives of the inland shipping and insurance community and their associations from central and Eastern European countries to become member of our association, reason why – as already stressed – we decided to organise our annual conference in the centre of Europe. IVR already introduced special terms and conditions for these organizations which should lead to a stronger representation of the industries in these countries.

IVR offers the unique forum and platform to deal with a number of important issues between the different industries. The exchange of information, experience and know how within this circle is crucial to the evolution of the organisation and its activities. For this reason we will continue to organise workshops and seminars dedicated to actual subjects. This should be further elaborated and deepened in the next years.

**Centralised management of vessel data**

As already stressed by the secretary general the registration of ship's particulars is the core task of the association, which underlies her original establishment in the year 1874.

The centralised management and publication of data of the vessels admitted to the inland shipping industry is important both for the inland shipping sector and for the sectors related to inland shipping. It provides an insight into the size and composition of the fleets referred to and provides actual information about the relevant ship's information such as ship's documents, ownership proportions and information about the ship's hull.

In view of the current developments in the field of the introduction of River Information Services (RIS) and the new characterising of inland vessels, IVR aims to continue its activities in this field. In



view of these developments the Executive Committee has made it her aim to gain an **official mandate for the management and publication of a centralised European hull data bank**.

Following the efforts of my predecessors I will continue to focus on the realization of this key-aim of our association.

Based on years of experience and on the know-how of IVR in that field, the developments in connection with the introduction of the new unique identification number and the river information services as well as the interest in the development and availability of a current, sizeable and reliable hull data bank of inland vessels in Europe were the reason for IVR to offer her services in that field to the competent national and international institutions, especially the **European Commission** and her Member States.

We hope that the European Commission, - today represented by our key note speaker Mr. Fotis KARAMITSOS, will take this experience into serious consideration and will accept our co-operation in this field. We are ready to negotiate this issue with you.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me finally thank you for once again having elected me as president, for the first time in IVR's history even for a term of 2 years. I would kindly ask you for your support in the realization of my aims during my presidency.

Let me express on behalf of the members my sincere thanks to my colleague and predecessor Jeffrey Piarrat for all his efforts and work during his presidency.

Last but not least I would like to thank the chairs and members of the committees for all their work and support and hope to continue the fruitful cooperation under my presidency.

Philippe Grulois  
President IVR  
21 May 2010, Vienna