

## **PRESSE COMMUNICATION**

### **EBU – Enlargement and Seminar 2008**

#### **New Romanian member**

The European Barge Union (EBU) welcomed during its latest Board meeting on 17 December 2007 in Vienna the Romanian Association of Barge Owners and Port Operators (AAOPF) as a new member. This means that the national associations of meanwhile eight European countries are member of the EBU.

The EBU represents the interests of the inland navigation industry on a European level dealing with all questions arising out of the future development of the inland navigation industry and inland waterway transport. Its main focus lies on the improvement of the competitiveness of inland navigation as well as the social economic framework conditions and the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure.

Currently EBU is actively involved in the implementation of the NAIADES action programme and to translate it into concrete measures to promote inland navigation.

#### **SEMINAR 2008 – TOGETHER AGAINST CO<sub>2</sub>**

Following a successful first seminar in January 2007 EBU will organise another seminar on 3 March 2008. This seminar will focus on the recently published communication on freight logistics and the role of inland navigation within the logistic chain. The green corridor concept that is part of this communication will be dealt together with the development of the inland waterway priority projects on the TEN-T list. The recently appointed coordinator for these projects, the former Dutch Minister of Transport, Mrs. Karla Peijs will act as one of the key note speakers.

Both the communication on freight logistics as well as the maintenance, improvement and renewal of infrastructure intend to contribute to overcome the huge and increasing European transportvolumes in the coming years as well as their impact on the environment. Inland navigation, due to its environmentally friendly image, can substantially contribute to fight the emissions and has a positive impact on mitigation.

Regarding the Commission proposal on lowering the sulphur content in fuel, EBU not only welcomes the proposed time frame of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 in which the fuel directive is scheduled to come into effect but even more advocates a lowering of the sulphur content from 1000 to 10 ppm in one single step.

Inland navigation as part of the transport chain has a positive impact on the environmental performance of transport. The low CO<sub>2</sub> emission of inland vessels compared to other modes of transport together with the recent measures to further improve the environmental performance in terms of emissions and lowering the sulphur content in fuel considerably contribute to mitigation.

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#### **Mailaddress:**

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

#### **Address:**

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 4116070 • F +31 (0)10 4129091  
Email: [info@ebu-uenf.org](mailto:info@ebu-uenf.org) • Internet: [www.ebu-uenf.org](http://www.ebu-uenf.org)