

PRESS RELEASE

NEW PRESIDENCY AND PRIORITIES AHEAD

Presidency

On 17 February 2011 **Mr. André Auderset**, representative of the Swiss delegation, has taken over presidency from his predecessor for the coming two years. **Mr. Lubomir Fojtu**, representative of the Czech delegation, has been elected as vice-president of EBU.

Focus

In the past years inland navigation has been suffering from the consequences of the economic crisis which was of an unprecedented intensity. It will take a couple of years before the industry will recover.

Recently many newly built vessels came on the market as an answer to the increased transport demands. This led to a renewal of the fleet in order to meet with ecological demands of a sustainable European transport policy. In the recent economic crisis this however led to a serious overcapacity of vessels.

Finding sustainable solutions for this problem has been a major challenge under the leaving president. At the same time the discussions regarding the new European Transport Policy and how to cope with the future challenges have dominated the recent agenda.

Future of Transport and NAIADES II

Under the new presidency EBU will continue its efforts to implement a sustainable European transport policy which aims to focus on cleaner modes of transport and less congested infrastructure such as waterways.

EBU therefore has contributed to the Commission's consultations to set a new course as regards the future mobility and the new TEN-T policy. With its recently – together with INE and ESO - published **vision document "Setting the course"**, concrete recommendations as regards the transport challenges and future solutions have been released to the policy makers.

Under the Hungarian Presidency a **NAIADES Conference** will be organized which aims to contribute to the release of a new NAIADES II program in the course of this year. EBU will participate at this conference at the beginning of April which immediately will be followed by the annual **EBU seminar on 4 May 2011** in Brussels. At this occasion both **Vice President of the European Commission Siim KALLAS** and **Secretary of State** of the Ministry of National Development of Hungary **Dr. Pál VÖLNER** will deliver a key note speech.

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