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Verzonden: dinsdag 2 december 2008 11:34
Aan: Josee Kamphuis
Onderwerp: NEW PRESIDENCY AND ENLARGEMENT OF EBU



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NEW PRESIDENCY AND ENLARGEMENT OF EBU



Presidency

As from December 2008 Dr. Philippe Grulois (foto), representative of the Belgian delegation, will take over presidency from his predecessor, Mr. Rinus de Korte. Mr. Auderset, representative of the Swiss delegation, has been elected as vice-president of EBU as from the same period.

Focus

Under De Korte's presidency EBU worked on the introduction of the European inland navigation policy and its implementation as laid down in the NAIADES action programme. Besides, EBU continued to call upon the removal of the infrastructural bottlenecks as described in the inland waterway projects on the priority list of the TEN-T's. EBU strongly encouraged the appointment of Mrs. Peijs as TEN-T coordinator for inland navigation projects. Mrs. Peijs recently released her first annual report after her first year in action as European coordinator.

EBU-enlargement and strengthened co-operation

One of the leaving presidents efforts led to the enlargement of EBU towards the Eastern European part. During the last Board meeting which was led by Mr. De Korte, the Romanian association of barge owners and port operators AAOPFR declared to become a full member of EBU as from 2009. This means that EBU meanwhile is representing the national associations of barge owners and barge operators of eight European countries. Mr. De Korte also aimed at a stronger cooperation between the associations involved in inland navigation and realised the enlargement of the joint EBU ESO Nautical Technical Committee with the Dutch skippers association Koninklijke Schuttevaer.

Future focus

Under the new presidency EBU will continue its efforts to implement a sustainable European transport policy which should focus on encouraging transport users to switch to cleaner modes of transport and less congested infrastructure such as waterways. Transport is the key to the economy and the development of Europe. It

is therefore important to mitigate the negative effects of transport as much as possible. As a recent study proved, inland navigation holds the most positive record in terms of external costs. Besides inland navigation is the most energy efficient and cost effective mode of transport and offers capacities in terms of fleet and infrastructure.

EBU is aware of its responsibility towards the environmental protection and committed to improve its record where ever possible.

Therefore the annual **seminar 2009** will be dedicated to “**Greening Transport**”, during which the newly elected president, Mr. Grulois, hopes to welcome numerous representatives of the European and international institutions, the national authorities and representatives of related industries.

Brussels/Rotterdam, 1 December 2008

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