

PRESSRELEASE

INLAND NAVIGATION HIGH ON POLITICAL AGENDA

VICE-PRESIDENT KALLAS AND HUNGARIAN MINISTER VÖLNER AT EBU-SEMINAR

Vice-president Sim Kallas and Hungarian Minister for national development Pál Völner declared their full support for inland navigation at the annual EBU seminar which was held on 4 May 2011 in Brussels. At this seminar more than 100 representatives of industry, administrations and politics participated in order to discuss the European transport policy and the role of inland navigation with high level panel members.

Vice-president Kallas in his closing speech emphasized the benefits of inland navigation within the overall European transport policy. Referring to his recently released White Paper and the Mid-term review of NAIADES he gave his commitment for the continuation of the NAIADES programme together with the necessary financial support.

At the end of his speech he received the first official copy of EBU's annual report by president André Auderset, highlighting the potential of inland navigation and its contribution to the realization of the aims of the European transport policy. Inland navigation as most environmentally friendly and energy efficient mode strongly contributes to guarantee a sustainable future mobility. Besides inland navigation disposes over sufficient capacity on its waterways. EBU's president however emphasised the need of a properly maintained infrastructure for which sufficient financial means are required. In this respect he recalled the open letter to Vice-President Kallas in order to integrate the river Elbe into the core network of the TEN-T.

Minister Pál Völner gave his commitment to adopt under the Hungarian Presidency Council Conclusions in the June TTE Council meeting as regards the continuation of the NAIADES programme.

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(Note: the speeches and annual report are available on EBU's homepage www.ebu-uenf.org).

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