

**PRESSRELEASE****“RIVER ELBE MUST BE PART OF THE CORE OF IWT NETWORK”  
EBU MEMBERS TODAY DECIDED IN THEIR BOARD MEETING IN PRAGUE**

**In the framework of its Board meeting EBU on 29 November 2011 in Prague discussed the importance of the integration of the river Elbe in the core network of the TEN-T. In a press conference EBU's President stressed the need of a strong implementation of inland waterways in the multimodal corridors under the new TEN-T concept.**

EBU successfully advocated the possible integration of the river Elbe as part of the core network of the recently released TEN-T guidelines which now will depend on the commitment of the Czech government. According to EBU's President, André Auderset, the development of the Elbe as navigable river is essential for unlocking the waterborne access of the Czech Republic and to allow it to be linked with the sea. Apart from that the Elbe-project fully fits into the multimodal corridor approach as put forward by the European Commission.

The development of inland waterway transport is needed to meet the growing transport demands in a sustainable way; the modal shift advocated in the white paper of the European Commission cannot be met with rail transport only. EBU therefore believes that the development of the Elbe that provides for a natural transport link between the North Sea and the Czech Republic is a logic part of the policy of the European Commission in favour of inland waterways as part of its vision for a competitive and sustainable transport system.

**TEN-T conference and EBU seminar**

EBU will advocate the inland navigation industries demands during the stakeholders meeting in the course of the TEN-T conference organized by the European Commission on 30 November 2011. Infrastructure will also be high on the agenda during the next **EBU-Seminar on 17 January 2012 in Strasbourg** where both Vice-President Siim Kallas of the European Commission and Director Jean-Eric Paquet from DG MOVE will deliver a key note speech.

The event, at which EBU will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be hosted by the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine in its Palais du Rhin in Strasbourg.

PRAGUE, 29 NOVEMBER 2011

**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 • Internet: www.ebu-uenf.org