

PRESSRELEASE**MIDTERM REVIEW WHITE PAPER****UNDERESTIMATED ROLE OF INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

In its recent communication “Keep Europe Moving” the Commission undertook a change of paradigm’s - optimisation of the very transport modes.

It is considered positive that the European Commission understands the need to shift to more environmentally friendly modes where appropriate, especially on long distance and on congested corridors.

The European Commission also recognises that inland waterway transport still covers a too low part of the total performance of freight transport in Europe. Therefore its NAI AEDS programme sets out an action plan for promoting river transport.

Because of its relatively underestimated role, inland waterway transport suffers from a lack of political support. Inland waterway transport has met the demands of the European transport policy and the challenges of competitiveness, security and the environment while offering capacities in terms of infrastructure and fleet of vessels. Developing inland waterway transport will contribute significantly to the fulfilment of European transport policy objectives.

The new objective of the European Union sustainable transport policy is to meet society’s economic, social and environmental needs. It takes into account the importance of the transport industry and its contribution to the functioning of the European economy as a whole. Mobility of goods and persons is considered an essential component of the competitiveness of European industry and services wherein effective transportation systems are essential to Europe’s prosperity.

Against this background, inland waterway transport – harbouring considerable unexploited potential - can make a major contribution to meet the challenges of these objectives of the European Union’s sustainable transport policy.

The European Barge Union EBU represents the interests of the inland navigation industry on a pan European level and deals with all questions, arising out of the future development of the inland navigation industry and inland waterway transport.

To realise this aim EBU deals with

- the development of the European transport policy
- the improvement of the economic position of inland navigation
- the structured cooperation with national and international institutions
- the exchange of information and experience between the parties involved

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