

## EBU-SEMINAR 2013

### 1. OPENINGSSPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the European Barge Union I have the pleasure of welcoming you at our annual Seminar.

Following the policy discussions at European and CCNR level we have decided to choose “**Greening**” as topic for this year’s event and I would like to **thank our sponsors** for their support in organising the seminar.

Sustainability and greening play an increasingly important role in the European transport policy. Reference the White Paper and the preparation of a follow up NAIADES program the greening issue is high on the political agenda. Besides, a better integration of inland waterway transport into the entire logistic chain must lead to a higher share of this mode.

The European Commission within the preparation of its new IWT policy together with the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) launched the establishment of two Common Expert Groups to focus on ‘**Professional qualifications and training standards in inland navigation**’ and ‘**Emissions**’.

In the past months several meetings of these expert groups took place in which member states and stakeholders are represented. EBU was closely involved in the works and negotiations of these expert groups. The outcomes of these initiatives together with the Impact Assessment will feed into the **NAIADES II communication which we expect to be launched in late spring 2013**.

#### Challenges ahead

The industry and our members still sailed under heavy conditions in the past year. Since the start of the economic crisis IWT has severely suffered from its consequences. This collapsing market situation, which marked the past years, still continues and it will take another couple of years for the sector to recover. To cope with these difficulties different initiatives have been taken to overcome the crisis within the sector, so far without support by the relevant institutions however.

**Mailaddress:**

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

**Address:**

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 7989880 • F +31 (0)10 4129091  
Email: [info@ebu-uenf.org](mailto:info@ebu-uenf.org) • Internet: [www.ebu-uenf.org](http://www.ebu-uenf.org)

Notwithstanding these difficulties the sector unfolds **new initiatives in terms of innovation** and introduction of new solutions to cope with the challenges ahead. Examples are the introduction of the first vessels on the market sailing on LNG and pilots for the broad deployment of LNG both as fuel and as cargo. The sector is committed to pay a major contribution to the emission reduction in transport.

Since the sector has been sailing on sulphur free fuel since 2011 and due to its other characteristics it has already the lowest carbon foot print of all transport modes. Further steps however will be taken to move towards zero emission in the future.

We are very pleased that a number of representatives of the involved institutions and stakeholders were willing to reflect with us on this topic and to deliver speeches and statements at this occasion. They will focus on the greening issues from different view points and address

- the needs to fully exploit the green potential of the green corridors
- how the new TEN-T guidelines and CEF will facilitate these sustainable developments
- the challenges in terms of the supply chain and broad deployment at the fleet level
- how NAIADES will address the industry needs

To start with I would like to invite **Jean-Eric Pacquet, Director European mobility network at DG MOVE**, to be followed by **Hans Van der Werf, Secretary General Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine** to set the frame for the Greening deployment from an institutional point of view which will be followed by a panel discussion.

-----

**Mailaddress:**

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

**Address:**

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 7989880 • F +31 (0)10 4129091  
Email: [info@ebu-uenf.org](mailto:info@ebu-uenf.org) • Internet: [www.ebu-uenf.org](http://www.ebu-uenf.org)

## 2. WELCOME OF VICE-PRESIDENT KALLAS

Dear Vice-President KALLAS,

On behalf of the European Barge Union I am pleased to welcome you – again - to our annual seminar. We highly appreciate that you will address the audience and provide us with more insight in the activities of your Commission regarding the initiatives to boost Inland Waterway Transport.

After the release of your White Paper in 2011 and the revision of your TEN-T policy, which is still under negotiation, your staff last year launched a Working Document on the follow up of your inland waterway policy. Recognising that NAIADES has created a momentum for a common European inland waterway policy we are pleased that you will ensure the continuity of the implementation measures by elaborating a follow up of the existing programme.

We very much look forward to the short termed launch of NAIADES II!

In this respect we also welcome your initiatives regarding the governance aspect. When we invited you and the President of the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine to our last year's seminar in Strasbourg, we called upon you to realise **a permanent, structured and intensive cooperation between the competent institutions leading to a strong institutional framework in favour of our industry**. In your recent Staff Working Document you address this issue and further elaborate the institutional cooperation which - as we understood - will be shortly formalised by signing an official agreement between your Commission and the CCNR.

We are convinced that moving inland navigation higher on the political agenda through establishing the right framework conditions and by continuing the **NAIADES** action program – this time **with adequate financial support** - will be one of the main elements to realise your overall European transport policy goals.

May I invite you now to inform us about the Future of Inland Waterway Transport from your point of view.

-----

**Mailaddress:**

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

**Address:**

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 7989880 • F +31 (0)10 4129091  
Email: [info@ebu-uenf.org](mailto:info@ebu-uenf.org) • Internet: [www.ebu-uenf.org](http://www.ebu-uenf.org)

### **3. Summary and release of EBU's annual report**

Dear Vice-President,

Thank you very much for your speech.

We share your vision of a resource efficient and sustainable transport system. Reason why we strongly supported your proposals regarding the Trans European Transport Network TEN-T and its Financial instrument, the Connecting Europe Facility CEF.

However we are aware of the budget constraints to realise our common vision.

Therefore a focus on priorities must lead to an efficient use of the limited budget. Inland waterway transport can pay a major contribution to the overall goal as it serves huge economies. Its natural advantages such as its environmental benefits and cost- and energy efficiency hugely support the overall industry- and policy demands. Apart from that inland waterways dispose over free capacities on the existing waterway system, which can absorb high additional volumes of traffic and relieve the congested roads. Examples and best practises such as

- the challenging developments of the containerisation
- the enormous potential of passenger transport and
- the promising future development of LNG

are provided in our Annual report.

**We therefore count on your support to shape the right political framework conditions and reserve minimum 20% of the budget for inland waterway transport to move towards a sustainable transport system in the coming years.**

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to offer you the first copy of our **Annual Report** as well as a copy of the **"Power of Inland navigation"**, a just released publication on inland waterway transport providing detailed information on our industry and its potential.

Lubomir Fojtu  
President

**10 April 2013**

**Mailaddress:**

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

**Address:**

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 7989880 • F +31 (0)10 4129091  
Email: [info@ebu-uenf.org](mailto:info@ebu-uenf.org) • Internet: [www.ebu-uenf.org](http://www.ebu-uenf.org)