EBU Event 2020

Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) key to deliver the Green Deal

Organisation
European Barge Union

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EBU welcomes the release of the Green Deal of the European Commission which aims to reduce transport emissions by shifting 75% of the freight carried by road today to inland waterway transport (IWT) and rail. IWT disposes over free capacities on the European network of waterways and already today has very low CO2 emissions compared to road. It thus substantially can contribute to realise the Green Deal.

Reliable infrastructure and multimodal transport chain
EBU in particular welcomes the Commission’s proposal to better manage the capacity of inland waterways which should lead to a reliable, safe, cost-effective and climate resilient infrastructure network. This requires an integrated water policy, in which inland navigation is fully recognised as a valuable water use.

IWT is an important part of the multimodal transport chain. EBU therefore supports the efforts to revise the proposal for a Directive on Combined Transport that should enhance the multimodal integration of all transport modes.

More funding and a follow up NAIADES action program needed
Where the Commission acknowledges the huge investment needs that go hand in hand with its proposal, EBU calls for a robust programme of funding within a new implementation strategy for IWT. This should be a joint effort by the European Commission, Member States, River Commissions, International Organisations and other stakeholders realised under the umbrella of a follow up to the NAIADES action programme. The inland navigation sector itself is committed to decrease its carbon footprint, already being the lowest compared to other modes.

While the EU budget for the next financial period (2021-2028) is now being discussed, the inland waterway transport sector want to stress the importance of a strong Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which includes support for Inland Waterway Transport.

EBU will discuss these developments and its priorities with high level representatives of the European Institutions, River and River Protection Commissions and important stakeholders like inland ports and shippers.

Free registration: http://www.ebu-uenf.org/events/inland-waterway-transport-iwt-key-to-deliver-the-green-deal/