

PRESS RELEASE

RELEASES of ITS ANNUAL REPORT WHICH PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST YEAR WITH AN OUTLOOK INTO THE FUTURE. EBU HAS BEEN STRONGLY INVOLVED IN MANY AREAS TO CREATE THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS FOR ITS MEMBERS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

One of the successes of the past year is the adoption of regulation regarding the recognition of professional qualifications which will contribute to attract more qualified people to the inland waterway transport sector. EBU in fact initiated this piece of legislation. The adoption of the regulations brings another step towards legal certainty and establishes a specifically adjusted framework to meet the needs of the sector. It will enhance labour mobility and contribute significantly to the attractiveness of the work on more than 14,000 vessels in the European Inland Waterway Transport sector.

After the successfully concluded working time agreement in the sector, EBU together with its partners in the social dialogue is reviewing a joint strategy that should contribute to an EU widely accepted social security system.

As accredited stakeholder in the recently established CESNI, the European Committee for the Establishment of Standards for Inland Navigation, EBU has been strongly involved in the standard setting for inland vessels. Due to its input and studies it could contribute to the adoption of legislation in favour of the passenger shipping sector.

EU POLICY AND ITS NEW MULTIANNUAL FRAMEWORK 2021-2027

The Inland Waterway Transport sector is characterised by its positive externalities such as a high level of safety, security and sustainability. These assets substantially contribute to the realisation of the EU policy goals in the field of mobility, environment and competition.

Therefore we welcome the recent European Commission proposal of a new long-term budget MFF for the 2021-2027 period and as part of it the different envelopes such as the **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**. We strongly support the overall aim to invest in innovation, digitalisation and decarbonisation to which the MFF aims to contribute.

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In our **inland waterways & ports declaration** we have released our vision towards 2030 with regard to all policy areas of importance to our sector. Investments in Inland Waterways per definition will contribute to the EU policy goal and to deliver on the expected outcomes.

Where the Inland Waterway Transport sector is challenged to become even more sustainable in terms of emissions we call upon the decision makers to support the sector by European funding and to take all policy and supporting measures to increase its modal share in the coming years.

26.6.2018

The European Barge Union (EBU) is the European association representing a majority of the inland navigation freight and passenger carrying industry on a Pan-European level. Its members are the national associations of barge owners and barge operators as well as (international) associations in the field of inland navigation and related areas.

EBU's mission is to contribute to the development of a sustainable and efficient Pan-European transport system via a larger share of inland waterway transport.

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