

Update works at and day time closure of lock Gabčíkovo (SK)

The Slovak Ministry recently announced works at the lock of Gabčíkovo and consequently a daily closure of the lock from 8-17 h as of 28 September 2020 until 17 January 2021. In a letter to the Slovak Minister of Transport (attachment) we expressed our concerns regarding this closure. The current situation occurred due to a long period of neglected maintenance of the locks. Meanwhile the Slovakian government is receiving EU funding for the repair and modernisation of the locks, reason why we are strongly opposing the long duration of the works and launched our complaints also towards the European Commission and the Danube Commission.

As an answer on this letter the responsible Ministry got in close contact with us and proposed weekly meetings to closely monitor the works. On our protest letter it was further more agreed to

- Shorten the daily works (**8 instead 9 hours, from 9-17h**) as of **5.10.2020**, formally announcement as of today, **without any impact on/extension on the total duration of the works.**
- Carry out **the works during 7 days a week leading to a substantial shortening of the total duration.**

Further we demanded:

- Uninterrupted continuation of works during the Christmas & New Year period in case the works would not be finalised in December (if carried out during 7 days a week)
- Guarantee of functioning of both lock chambers after the repair
- Efficiency of working hours and taking up services immediately after the stop of works as of 17h instead of 20h as we experienced meantime

The close monitoring meanwhile led to a considerable progress in works. We will remain in close contact with the Ministry and hope that the works can be finalised by mid-December or at least by the end of this year.

