



PRESSRELEASE

Inland Waterway Transport Industry Declaration handed over to the Austrian Presidency and the European Commission at the Danube Business Days on 10 October 2018 in Vienna

Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) is a key player to address mobility and sustainability goals in Europe. It is an enabler of economic growth creating many jobs and offering interesting career perspectives.

EBU and ESO, the European associations representing the Inland Waterway Transport industry, in a declaration handed over to the Austrian Minister of Transport, Mr. Norbert Hofer, in his capacity of President of the Council of Ministers of Transport of the EU, as well as to the representative of the European Commission, Ms. Désirée Oen, called for an increased political and financial support for IWT by means of a follow up programme of NAIADES II.

Inland Waterway Transport is a key player to address mobility and sustainability goals in Europe

Disposing over 40.000 km of navigable waterways and over 250 inland ports Inland Waterway Transport IWT carries some 550 million t of goods a year and is of increasing importance in the field of cruising and passenger transport. Contrary to the congested roads the network of European waterways still disposes over free capacity, offering a huge modal shift potential. Major industries in Europe are depending on a seamless transport of their goods via waterways. Given the free capacity on the European rivers and canals a much higher share can be absorbed by inland waterway transport and thus contributing to a sustainable economic growth.

Infrastructure is key to deliver on major EU policies

Infrastructure remains the backbone of the industry. This topic specifically was addressed in the FAIRway Danube session during the Inland Waterway Conference in Vienna. The proper maintenance of the Danube is of particular concern to all parties involved. In the past years different sections in the river suffered from a lack of maintenance leading to unreliability of the sector and huge losses of the industry. Where 75% of inland waterway transport is cross-border, seamless infrastructure is essential for green & smart services as part of the EU decarbonisation strategy.

With the EU goal to shift freight by 30% from road to rail and water by 2030 and by 50% by 2050 to ensure sustainable mobility, the long-term goal is to turn inland waterway transport into a synchro-modal partner in the hinterland of seaports and in continental transports.

The Inland Waterway transport industry is committed to move forward in order to modernise, innovate and contribute to a cleaner, more efficient, save, sustainable and digitalised industry. To materialize the full potential of Inland Waterway Transport Theresia Hacksteiner, the Secretary General of the European Barge Union, called upon the Austrian Presidency and the European Commission to launch an ambitious action plan as follow up of NAIADES II. "The previous NAIADES



Action Plans led to an increased awareness of the potential of Inland Waterway Transport and delivered in many areas. It is important to continue these efforts by means of an increased political and financial support together with substantial means for the industry out of MFF and its underlying funds such as CEF, research and innovation, single market and competitiveness and cohesion and regional funds”.

Minister Hofer announced that the declaration will be part of the council conclusions on Inland Waterway Transport that will be submitted to the Transport council for adoption in December.

10 October 2018, Vienna

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.