

## PRESS RELEASE

### NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED AND PRIORITIES AHEAD

EBU's Board of Directors on 13 February 2013 elected Mr. Lubomir Fojtu, president of the Czech barge owners association, as its new president and Mr. Didier Leandri, representative of the French Barge Association CAF as Vicepresident. Under its newly elected president EBU will focus on the continuation of NAIADES II and the priorities to support inland waterway transport within the European and national transport policies.

#### IWT policy

EBU is encouraging the European Commission in its effort to release a new NAIADES programme. The past years have shown that the Commission's action program lead to a stronger positioning of IWT within the entire transport chain. As this program comes to an end it needs continuation to benefit of its first initiatives and turn them into concrete results. The initial support actions need continuation, reason why the Commission intends to release its new proposal shortly.

#### Greening transport

One of the main challenges in the new inland navigation policy in the coming years will be the greening of the fleet. To keep pace with the new technologies and sail towards even more environmental benefits for society the sector is contributing to the European Strategy 2020 by introducing new technologies. In this respect LNG is considered the most promising future development as regards new vessels. EBU therefore strongly encourages to promote and stimulate the introduction of LNG as alternative fuel. To allow vessels to sail on LNG the necessary regulatory framework needs to be realized asap at European level. To stimulate the use of LNG by vessels the necessary supply facilities need to be realized along the whole waterway network without delay.

EBU counts on the European Commission and the Member States to provide the appropriate regulatory and financial support for the greening of the fleet in the coming period.

#### Seminar "Greening the corridors"

To emphasise the importance of this issue EBU will dedicate its annual seminar on **10 April 2013** to the greening of the corridors. The green vessel which already sails on low sulphur since a couple of years will steadily move towards alternative fuels like LNG in the next years. Vessels will supply industry with green energy on green corridors. While legislation is still lacking behind practice, the first inland vessels are sailing on LNG and are awaiting a broad distribution infrastructure along the waterway corridors. At this occasion **Vice President and Commissioner for Transport Siim KALLAS** will once again deliver a key note speech.

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