



## PRESS RELEASE



European Parliament

### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BACKS INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT BY ADOPTION OF OWN INITIATIVE REPORT OF MEP NAGTEGAAL "TOWARDS FUTURE-PROOF INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT"**

EBU congratulates MEP Caroline Nagtegaal-van Doorn on the adoption of the **"Towards Future-proof Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) in Europe Report"** report by the TRAN Committee of the European Parliament on 28 June 2021. The report acknowledges the importance of IWT in the energy transition and the ambitious sustainability goals of the recent European policies and is a strong boost to increase its role.

Caroline Nagtegaal-van Doorn urges the European Commission and the Member States to shift much higher volumes to the inland waterways. In the attempt of the sector towards energy transition she calls for availability of alternative fuels and

financial support for the barge owners and operators in their innovation efforts for which a collective push in the right direction is needed.

EBU warmly welcomes this support from the European Parliament. *"The report sets the right targets and urges the Commission and the Member States to allocate much higher investments to materialise the full potential of this sector. The sector in particular welcomes the call on the Commission to set up a dedicated European inland waterway fund, including a one-stop-shop system that is easily accessible for help and assistance and has the possibility to combine projects into a single application, thus increasing the chances for funding"* EBU's president Paul Goris emphasises in his reaction.

Apart from the two main objectives it also addresses the need for a full multimodal connectivity via digitalisation and the physical nodes, being the sea- and inland ports.

Together with the support actions as recently announced in the NAIADES III action plan of the European Commission it will play an important role in the boost of inland waterway transport in the coming years.

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**The European Barge Union (EBU) is the European association representing 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. [www.ebu-uenf.org](http://www.ebu-uenf.org)**



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