

Press release

EBU welcomes the Council conclusion on the "Ongoing development of inland waterway transport (NAIADES III)"

The European Barge Union (EBU) welcomes today's adoption of council conclusions on the "[Ongoing development of inland waterway transport \(NAIADES III\)](#)". By doing so, the Member States of the European Union recognise the important role of inland waterway transport to deliver the sustainability goals of the EU policy. The conclusions in particular emphasise the need to shift more transport from road to waterways that offer free capacity to absorb much higher volumes.

In recognizing the strong impact of climate change on inland waterway transport, in particular on navigability, operations and water management, as evidenced by ground-water level changes but also by the severe droughts and periods of heavy rainfall in recent years, the conclusions underline the need to improve navigability by implementing the Good Navigation Status in line with the TEN-T guidelines.

EBU applauds the adoption of these conclusions. "*They emphasise the need for further actions at EU level to fully materialise the potential of the sector to the benefit of society and economy.*" underlines EBU's President Philippe Grulois.

Where IWT needs a reliable, safe, cost-effective, and climate-resilient **infrastructure network**, EBU in view of the revision of the TEN-T regulation, considers the proposed minimum parameters **as very unambitious** and as such as an absolute minimum. EBU advocates to lift these minimum standards within the corridor approach to more ambitious parameters enabling the sector to materialise the modal shift goal. It calls upon the negotiating parties to take these proposals into consideration.

IWT is an enabler to absorb much higher volumes and to deliver the ambitions of the EU Green Deal.

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About EBU

The European Barge Union (EBU) represents the inland navigation industry in Europe. Its members are the national associations of barge owners and barge operators of 9 European inland navigation countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Romania and Switzerland). Besides it represents the interests of a number of international organisations dealing with IWT and Short Sea Shipping. www.ebu-uenf.org

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