

PRESS RELEASE

CHANGE OF PRESIDENCY AND EBU EVENT

At its Meeting of the Board of Directors on 12 April 2018 Paul Goris was elected President of EBU. He succeeded Dr. Gunther Jaegers who presided the organisation during the past two years during which the establishment of the European Inland Waterway Transport Platform together with ESO was realised.

Change of Presidency

Dr. Gunther Jaegers stepped down as President of EBU after having presided EBU in the past two years which lead to the strengthening of the sector at European level. “In the second year of my presidency EBU succeeded to enforce its cooperation with ESO by establishing the European Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) Platform. This platform puts an additional layer on the two associations representing the inland navigation industry at Union level and aims to strongly contribute to all areas of importance to the sector. We consider this cooperation as crucial in strengthening the inland waterway transport sector in the future and playing an even more important role in the entire logistics chain”, he emphasised at the end of his term.

His successor Paul Goris, President of the Dutch member association CBRB and elected President of the European IWT platform will be challenged by this heritage. “I owe my predecessor many thanks for paving the way towards these developments. In the coming two years as EBU President I will build on this important achievement. One of the major focuses will be the labour market of our industry as well as innovation and greening of the sector”.

EBU-EVENT AND PRIORITIES IN THE COMING YEARS

The newly elected President welcomed many participants and high level speakers, amongst them Hendrik Wüst, Minister of Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Achim Wehrmann, President of the Central Commission of the Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) and Henrik Hololei, Director General of DG MOVE of the European Commission.

In the Year of Multimodality the policy focus is on the promotion of and shift to sustainable modes away from road. IWT is very well prepared to increase its share and contribute to the mitigation of the negative effects of transport. At the event EBU discussed the possibilities and challenges of multimodal transport with EU decision makers emphasising the crucial role IWT plays in this field.

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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. As such IWT is a crucial player in the multimodal transport chain. As environmentally friendly mode of transport it substantially contributes to the European and global sustainability goals.

EBU welcomes the Commission's initiative to amend the **Combined Transport Directive** which is the only legal instrument at Union level to incentivise the shift from road freight to lower emission transport modes such as inland waterway transport. The objective of the initiative is to further increase the competitiveness of combined transport compared to long-distance road freight transport which should reduce the share of transport externalities from freight transport and thus directly contribute to sustainability goals as laid down in EU policies as well as COP 21. It is addressing mainly the container sector which is of increasing importance in the field of Inland Waterway Transport.

MFF AND VISION 2030

In the past year the preparations for a new Multi Financial Framework started. EBU in a broad coalition with all parties involved in the entire logistics chain started to prepare the lobby for MoreEUBudget4Transport which was presented at the TEN-T days in Tallinn. Together with the inland navigation and ports stakeholders it released its Vision2030 as contribution to the negotiations of the new Connecting Europe Facility and the preparation of a NAIADES III program.

We are convinced that green, smart and congestion-free transport and logistics will only be a reality tomorrow if they can build on a solid policy strategy supported by sufficient and effective implementation tools. In this, our focus lies on the need of **coordination, investment, legislation and innovation.**

Where the sector is challenged in the various areas EBU President Goris called on the support by the various decision makers, both on the European Commission as well as Member States side, to achieve the ambitious goals of the EU policy.

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