



- New INE website online
- Danube at heart of Austria's policies
- Flanders in footsteps of EC action plan
- Free navigation on Walloon rivers and canals
- Traffic accelerates on French waterways
- EP discusses EC plan to promote inland shipping

#### **New INE website on-line**



Inland Navigation Europe's website has been undergoing a major transformation to provide web visitors with user-friendly access to targeted information:

- Objectives and activities of INE; membership
- Benefits of using waterways for moving freight
- Shipping contacts & grant opportunities
- Facts & figures
- EU policy

#### **Danube at heart of Austria's policies**



The strategic importance of the Danube waterway has prompted Austria to develop a National Action Plan Danube Navigation. It is Austria's political tool for the implementation of the Commission action plan Naiades. With the emergence of dynamic economic areas along the Danube since enlargement, Austria wants in cooperation with all Danube countries a sustainable strengthening of Danube navigation over the next ten years in order to relieve the burden on national roads. The action plan is a comprehensive catalogue of 10 chapters and 40 measures. [More...](#)

#### **Flanders in footsteps of EC on Naiades**

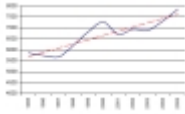


In follow-up of the Commission action plan Naiades to promote inland waterway transport, the Flemish government of Belgium plans an integrated policy for inland shipping. With the strong growth over the last years, barge transport in Flanders proves to be an adequate answer to the imminent traffic gridlock. The proposed measures focus on better access to capital to foster innovation and to attract new entrepreneurs. [More...](#)

#### **Free navigation on Walloon rivers and canals**



As part of a strategic policy to give a strong boost to the regional economy, the Walloon government has cancelled the navigation dues on waterways in Southern Belgium. The decision aims at making the use of inland waterway transport more attractive. Waterway transport is on the rise in Southern Belgium. The Walloon government actively supports innovation and multi-modal transport with the introduction of the third Walloon Plan. [More...](#)



### Traffic growth accelerates on French waterways

Last year, inland water transport traffic increased by 7.4% in France. The container market literally boomed with an increase of 20% on the Rhône and 40% on the Seine. The strong performance is the result of a supportive policy of the French government. The French government plans a new canal in northern France to link its waterway network to the Benelux in order to enable an increase in trade exchanges notwithstanding rising congestion on motorways. The project will be finalised by 2012 and will be financed by public-private partnership. For more information, click on [VNF's press statement](#), or go to [VNF's website](#)

### European Parliament discusses EC plan to promote inland shipping



The transport committee of the European Parliament started the debate on the Commission action plan to promote inland waterway transport in the EU. Dutch MEP Corien Wortmann organised a hearing on 20 April 2006 to hear the views from operators, ports, waterway managers, river commissions, transport workers and environmental NGOs to prepare a balanced report and to urge the Council to take the necessary measures. [More...](#)

INE ■ Inland Navigation Europe  
Koning Albert II-laan 20 ■ office 6G65 ■ B-1000 Brussels  
[info@inlandnavigation.org](mailto:info@inlandnavigation.org) ■ [www.inlandnavigation.org](http://www.inlandnavigation.org)