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European Commission evaluates EU transport policy



The EC published its long awaited mid-tem review to adjust its transport policy laid down in the white paper of 2001 to the new situation of EU enlargement, limited economic growth and high oil prices. The main objectives of rebalancing transport modes and relieving congestion remain intact, but the EC goes for a more pragmatic approach and puts transport policy at the heart of the Lisbon Agenda. As for inland waterway transport, the NAIADES programme becomes full part of the EU transport policy. [More...](#)

Logistics on EU agenda



The booming business of logistics in Europe generates and shapes freight transport demand requirements, wielding a large influence on the shape of the European transport system. In times of worsening road congestion, the European Commission puts forward ideas in a new communication on logistics to keep goods moving in a sustainable way. The logistics communication will be a priority on the agenda of the forthcoming Finnish presidency which will organise an event early October in Brussels to discuss the four priority areas of action. [More...](#)

New freight stories in INE WaterWays



The new INE WaterWays is online. Belgian transport minister Renaat Landuyt unveils his views on the promotion of inland waterway transport and on the EC Commission programme NAIADES. In this issue, attention goes to the increasing amount of fast moving consumer goods on waterways. Hurdles to transport commodities such as water, butter, beer and other fresh goods over short distances on EU waterways are increasingly overcome. A good illustration of competitiveness and innovation in multimodal transport. [More...](#)

eLearning platform for inland waterways transport online



A group of European partners have launched INeS, an eLearning portal open to all interested logistics professionals and education institutes. The online portal covers seven learning topics, adapted for learners with varying background knowledge in the field of inland waterway transport. Furthermore, INeS offers the possibility to create virtual class rooms for schools and on-the-job training. INeS is not a finished product, it continues to expand in order to meet the learning needs of today's transport professionals, in particular with regard to the use of inland shipping in supply chains. The project is co-financed by the EU Marco Polo programme. [More...](#)

River restoration on river Lys in Flanders



In the framework of the TEN-T priority project Seine-Scheldt, the Flemish government undertakes a programme of river restoration on the Lys to preserve its multi-functional character including nature protection and recreation. For navigation, works such as lifting bridges are planned as well as a second lock nearby Ghent to enable the passage of larger ships. Flanders actively promotes inland waterway transport to maintain its logistics position in times of increasing congestion. [More...](#)

Walloon region in Belgium invests in waterways



In the framework of the trans-European networks, works will start in 2007 for 3 new locks including the 4th lock in Lanaye as part of the Rhine-Main-Danube priority project. With traffic volumes growing on the waterways in Southern Belgium, the Walloon government elaborates a 10 years plan of EUR 1 billion to ensure sound maintenance of the network which has been neglected, covering also dredging, flood protection and river restoration. [More...](#)

Are you waterproof?



In Flanders, sea and inland waterway transport decided to join forces to attract more youngsters into the sector. From June to September 2006, a team of promo boys and girls will launch a charm offensive with a tour through Flanders to sell the waterborne profession to young people. The waterborne sector is unknown or perceived as old fashioned but that does not correspond to today's reality. The team will directly address 12 years olds and older on the street to inform them on the challenging career opportunities on sea and inland waterways, both on the water and ashore. [More...](#)

Germany increases budget for training as of 2007



The German government has decided to add one more million to the training budget of EUR 1.5 million to keep pace with the growing number of apprentices in German inland waterway transport. Inland shipping operators can obtain co-financing for traineeships they organise on board, but last year demand exceeded the offer. Where the inflow of fresh blood hit a bottom low some years ago, the number of newcomers in the sector starts to pick up again in Germany. [More...](#)

Upcoming inland waterway events



After the summer, a number of events have inland waterway transport on their agenda. The season opens with the Pan-European Conference on Inland Waterway Transport on 13/14 September in Bucharest, Romania, attended by the ministers of transport. On 18-19 October, the 3rd Danube Summit will address business partners in Budapest on innovation and new market opportunities. Finally, the Smart Rivers Conference on 5 November brings together Europe and the United States on efficient waterways. [More...](#)

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