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French waterway manager ambitious about waterway development



At his re-nomination as chairman of Voies navigables de France, François Bordry issued ambitious guidelines for his new tenure. Building on the current pro-active policy to bolster growth on the French waterway network, he identified 3 main priorities for the coming years: turning the waterway into the development actor of the waterborne regions, linking French waterways to Europe through the construction of Seine-Scheldt and the implementation of Naiades, and strengthening sustainable development policies at all levels. [More...](#)

UK Parliament opposes government cuts on British Waterways



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the UK has reduced British Waterways' grant by 15 per cent, leading to a job loss of 180 British Waterways' staff and the closure of several canals. Parliament has already expressed its concern about this state of events in view of the fact that waterways were being used more and more for recreational and freight transport in the past years. It calls upon the Government to reinstate the cuts and to ensure long-term funding to enable continued investment and restoration of the waterways. [More...](#)

Germany plans to encourage introduction of low emission engines



Germany will launch an innovation programme in support of the introduction of low exhaust engines in inland waterway transport. The programme will run for five years and for the financial year 2007 EUR 2 million have already been set aside. The programme will refund part of the extra cost of a pollution-free engine as compared to a conventional engine at a level of 30 % and/or 40 % as a non-refundable grant by means of a fixed-amount financing. [More...](#)

Austria launches aid scheme for multimodal terminals



The Austrian ministry of transport decided to support environmentally sound transport modalities such as barge transport on the Danube through the promotion of multimodal freight terminals. Capital assets expenditures are to be supported for the set-up, extension and modernisation of transshipment facilities linking road, rail and waterways transport for the period 2006-2012. [More...](#)

Walloon government tests automatic data transfer on waterways



On the waterways in Wallonia, ship operators can now announce ship journeys over the internet via a dedicated web portal. Allowing automatic data transfer between operators and authorities is part of the implementation of the traffic management system RIS (river information services). The up-to-date information can be used to better plan voyages and calculate more reliable time schedules, enhancing optimised use and monitoring of resources. An identification system guarantees the confidentiality of the transmitted data. [More...](#)

IRIS online



The official website of the international implementation project "IRIS Europe" is now online. IRIS Europe stands for the implementation of the waterway traffic management system RIS across Europe, maps the necessary measures of the EU RIS directive and outlines the development of new RIS services and the required national infrastructure.

Apart from general information about River Information Services (RIS), you can follow the progress on uniform implementation in Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, Belgium and France. 50% of IRIS Europe is co-financed by the European Union, as part of the TEN-T programme. [More...](#)

European Commission allows higher subsidies for small firms



The amount of individual subsidies governments can pay out to businesses, without seeking EU approval has been raised from EUR 100,000 to EUR 200,000. This follows a decision by the European Commission to simplify the rules in a bid to help small firms. Small enterprises represent 99% of all European businesses and 70% of EU GDP.

Companies involved in inland waterway transport also fall under the exemption. Subsidies for companies in difficulty and those for which the amount cannot be calculated in advance have been excluded, to prevent distortion of competition. [More...](#)

European Barge Union measures progress Naiades



EBU, the European Barge Union, will hold a seminar in Brussels on 30 January 2007 addressing the progress of implementation of NAIADES, the European Commission plan to promote transport by barge, by debating concrete actions which have to be undertaken in order to fully exploit the possibilities of inland waterway transport within the announced strategies. [More...](#)

INE website updated



The INE website has been recently updated. A new chapter provides the latest information on the implementation of Naiades, the European Commission plan to promote transport by barge, since its launch one year ago. New pages outline an overview of the waterway priority projects in the trans-European networks, and the section 'shipping basics' lists interesting grant information of the new EU programmes for the period 2007-2013. [More...](#)



**INE extends its best wishes
for a happy and successful 2007!**

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