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Inland waterways, an asset for carbon-low and congestion-free cities



The European Commission prepares a green paper on urban transport as freight transport demand is expected to grow by 50% between 2000 and 2020. With some 80% of EU citizens living in an urban environment, cities will undergo a heavy impact, because citizens are consumers, creating a demand for more trade and goods. INE explains how a number of cities successfully rediscovered their waterways to fight congestion and pollution

as goods can reach deep into their heart. Cities are in the driving seat for concrete actions, but the EU can help to multiply such best practice and foster the set-up of positive strategies because many European cities have been founded along rivers and turned into prosperous places of trade and welfare. [More...](#)

First Marco Polo II call open until 22 June



Stronger than its predecessor, Marco Polo II is an invitation to the supply chain organisers to join efforts for more intermodal transport. In order to reduce the financial risk ran by operators and companies within the first 2-5 years of setting-up the new service, Marco Polo II provide start-up grants to make the service viable and profitable. The European Commission is confident that every EUR1 subsidy will generate more than EUR6 in terms of

social and environmental benefits to society. The call Has been opened in March 2007. The closing date for submission is 22 June 2007. The projects submitted must have an international structure, the pertaining transports have to cross at least one national border and the participating project partners must come from at least two different countries. [More...](#)

Ships and environment share Danube River



The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) in cooperation with the Danube Navigation Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the River Sava organised on 25-26 April 2007 the kick-off meeting to agree on how to maintain and develop inland waterway transport on the Danube River in

harmony with the environment. The joint initiative brings together key stakeholders from the navigation sector, governments, conservation NGOs and the European Commission. The overall goal is to reach by end 2007 a "Joint Statement on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin" laying down the basic guiding principles and criteria to ensure currently planned infrastructure projects are developed in an environment-friendly way and within an overall framework for the entire Danube Basin. This especially includes projects under the EU Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) programme. The next meeting will be held in late June and October, public release of the Joint Statement is expected by the end of 2007. [More...](#)

Ambitious Plan Rhône 2007-2013



The National Company of the Rhône (CNR), the Rhône regions, Voies Navigables de France and ADEME have signed end March a contract of inter-regional projects with the aim to promote sustainable development in the river valley, to enhance flood protection, to develop river transport and to improve water quality, involving the riverside population. The ambitious contract covers the time period 2007-2013 and partners will bring together a total of EUR 614 million to carry out the planned tasks. The part on navigation will be piloted by the regional directorate Rhône-Saône of Voies Navigables de France and covers EUR 160 million. [More...](#)

Clean fuel lubricates better than heavy shipping diesel



The Dutch Foundation Projects Inland Shipping (SPB) sent samples of heavy diesel currently used in inland shipping and cleaner low-sulphur diesel to the lab for comparative examination. The results are unambiguous: thanks to additives, clean EN590 fuel lubricates better than heavy shipping diesels containing sulphur. This will take away the last doubts of shipowners fearing that the switch to road diesel will harm their ship engines, and clear the way for a rapid EU-wide introduction of ultra-low sulphur fuel helping to cut harmful NOx and particulate emissions by 85-95% in inland shipping. [More...](#)

Platform of European Sea and Inland Ports to be launched



The European Federation of Inland Ports (EFIP) and the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO) have recently decided to set up a "Platform of European Sea and Inland Ports" which aims to strengthen the cooperation between both organisations, reflecting market developments in the field of logistics (strategic partnerships between sea and inland ports) and their common agenda on EU policy (port policy, co-modality, environment, security, etc.). Under the platform both organisations will keep their own identity but will express opinions in common wherever feasible. On 16 May, the Chairmen of ESPO and EFIP will make a first joint declaration at the international workshop on the restoration of the public image of ports, organised by the European Institute of Maritime and Transport Law (EIMTL) in cooperation with The Institute of Transport and Maritime Management Antwerp (ITMMA). More on [ESPO](#) and [EFIP](#)

Port of Vienna to become a logistics hub for middle and eastern Europe



In 2009, the Port of Freudenu (formerly called "Winterhafen") in Vienna will be equipped with a state-of-the-art cargo terminal, including a 4-track connection, 2 portal cranes as well as a traffic management system and a new container-crane runway to enable more efficient transshipment between road, rail and water. In parallel, the Winterhafen-bridge will connect the port with the the southern, eastern, and western high-quality rail network. The municipality of Vienna pre-financed this demanding full-scale project with EUR 122 million to initiate the realisation of these two logistics projects with crucial significance for the future, increasing annual transshipment capacity to 400,000 TEU. In the last 6 years, the port of Vienna has more than doubled its container transshipment. [More...](#)

New inland port in the Netherlands



At the beginning of April the new inland port Zuiderzeehaven in Kampen was officially opened providing an open connection between the new port and the IJssel. First ships, including coasters of up to 2,000 tonnes, can be offloaded mid 2007, turning Kampen into a new logistics node for inland shipping in the east of the Netherlands. It also offers possibilities of a strategic alliance with the Harlingen and Amsterdam seaports. Total capacity will reach 5 million tonnes a year, annually avoiding 100,000 truck movements and saving 45,000 tonnes of CO2. The industrial site covers some 50ha and provides space for 30 enterprises active in transport, ship construction and bulk industry. The Zuiderzeehaven was set up as a public-private partnership between 3 companies, 2 municipalities and the province of Overijssel, and will create 1,500 jobs. [More...](#)

Dutch inland shipping sector can handle climate change



The inland shipping sector in the Netherlands is confident it can perfectly adapt to climate change. Global warming will probably result in more frequent peak floods in winter and longer low water levels in summer. Shippers however need not worry. Dutch research to assess the effects of climate change on water levels concludes inland navigation will be affected, but all inland and seaports will remain accessible up to 2050. By increased maintenance and the building of lighter vessels, negative effects of low water levels can be further avoided. This is important as almost 50% of the hinterland traffic from the seaports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam travels by water (around 200 million tonnes a year), and no other feasible alternatives are available. [More...](#)

New Seine-Nord canal mobilises private partners



The new French canal will be the centrepiece of the planned trans-European Seine-Scheldt link. In recognition of the expertise which private stakeholders can bring in the implementation and management of a large-scale infrastructure project, a public-private partnership is the way forward. The French waterway manager Voies Navigables de France therefore considers favourably all opportunities for close cooperation with private stakeholders across Europe, from design, construction, financing, and maintenance of the project to the development of additional activities along the canal in the field of water, transport, energy, environment or agro-industry. A first roadshow will take place in London on 22 May followed by further events in Madrid (5 June) and Germany (12 June). [Contact...](#)

Wallonia links to Seine-Scheldt



To connect to the planned Seine-Scheldt link, the Walloon government (southern Region of Belgium) has decided to upgrade its 450km waterway network to 2,000 tonne vessels. Apart from investing EUR 270 million in infrastructure works between 2007 and 2015, part of the Lys will be turned into a large-gauge river and the canal Condé-Pommereuil will be finally dredged. These investments will go hand in hand with the modernisation of the statutes of the Walloon inland ports of Liège, Namur, Charleroi and Centre-Ouest, enabling more dynamic and business-driven management in order to attract private investors. [More...](#)

New promotion agency in Romania



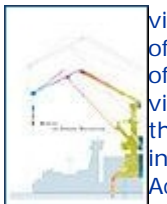
RIA, the new agency for the promotion of waterborne and intermodal transport has been founded upon initiative of the Romanian Ministry of Transport together with public authorities and private companies. The center is a professional non-profit entity to promote and develop the integration of shortsea shipping and inland transport in the supply chain from the provider to the beneficiary. The tasks of RIA will cover inter alia a one-stop-shop information service on intermodal transport, advocating policy measures which make more co-modality for operators and users more attractive, promoting innovative intermodal projects, facilitating better communication, identifying and attracting funds and enhancing business-oriented training. [More...](#)

Austria and Romania conclude Danube cooperation agreement



Austrian State Secretary Christa Kranzl and her Romanian colleague Alexandros Galiatatos decided on 19 April 2007 to bundle forces on activities to promote inland waterway transport on the Danube and the development of necessary infrastructure. The more intensive cooperation will focus on harmonised implementation of river information services (RIS), support to the development intermodal transport between lower and upper Danube and the promotion of the Danube waterway. [More...](#)

via donau publishes its manual on Danube navigation



via donau, the Austrian waterway manager is traditionally committed to display the potential of Danube navigation and to collect, disseminate and generate knowledge about this means of transport. Presenting an up-to-date English version of the manual on Danube navigation, via donau aims at increasing awareness on water freight. Unfavourable conditions still hinder the growth of Danube navigation. In 2006, a sequence of ice, floods and dry periods resulted in less traffic. via donau is currently working on the implementation of the NAP, a National Action Plan which will decisively improve the framework requirements for Danube navigation. [More...](#)

Austria celebrates the second "Day of the Waterways" on 11 May 2007



After the great success of the First Austrian "Day of the Waterways" a year ago, the national inland shipping organisation OEWSV organises a second edition on May 11, 2007 in Krems-Stein. The theme this year is the relevance of the Danube from the perspective of Bavaria, Austria and Hungary. Austrian State Secretary Christa Kranzl, Hungarian State Secretary Balász Felsmann and a representative of the Bavarian government will give their views on this issue. Moderation will be assured by ORF TV anchorwoman Christa Kummer. The event takes place on a conference ship and will take VIP's on a roundtrip, including a sightseeing tour of the Port of Krems as well as a visit of the construction site of the bioethanol facility in Pischelsdorf. [More...](#)

Upstream, looking into the future of European inland navigation



The Flemish Promotion office, Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen, organises on 4 October 2007 in Brussels in cooperation with the European Commission an inter-active event on the future of inland navigation in Europe. Interested participants can already now make their voice heard by letting know the organisers which questions they would like to see answered about the future of inland navigation in particular with regard to markets, fleet, skills, image and infrastructure. The result of the interactive brainstorming exercise on the basis of the European Commission's Naiades action plan will determine the views, questions and situations on which all those present will vote on 4 October. [More...](#)

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