

DANUBE SYMPOSIUM ON INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT,

Ybbs (Austria), 13 – 14 September 2007

COMMUNIQUE

The representatives of the governments of Danube riparian countries, having an interest in inland waterway transport, meeting at the Danube Symposium in Ybbs on 13th and 14th September 2007,

PREAMBLE

- A) Considering the multi-purpose use of the Danube waterway and the potential contribution of inland waterway transport to diminish unwanted external effects of transport, for instance through a more efficient use of energy and less emission of pollutants into the atmosphere, as well as through safer freight transport operations and reduced congestion on roads,
- B) Conscious that the challenges for the development of the Danube river as a European transport axis as well as the restoration and preservation of the Danube river as a natural environment and habitat are closely interrelated and need to be considered in an integrative manner by all Danube riparian states irrespective of their membership in the European Union,
- C) Having regard to the Convention regarding the Regime of Navigation on the Danube (Danube Convention) and the activities of the Danube Commission,
- D) Taking into account the political dimension of the European Commission's communication on the promotion of inland waterway transport, NAIADES – "An Integrated European Action Programme for Inland Waterway Transport", as well as the conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 8 - 9 June 2006 and the resolution of the European Parliament of 26 October 2006 on NAIADES,
- E) Having regard to the declaration of the Pan-European Conference on Inland Waterway Transport (Bucharest, 13 - 14 September 2006), "Inland navigation: A key element of the future pan-European transport system", and

- F) Stressing the need to further develop national policies for the promotion of inland waterway transport, taking into account the European Action Programme, and to encourage regional, local and port authorities and industries to do likewise,

hereby endorse the following actions for the development of the Danube transport axis with special regard to inland navigation as an environmentally friendly mode of transport:

Markets

- 1) Consider national start-up support in order to develop new markets and innovative multimodal services.
- 2) Provide better access to capital, in order to encourage entrepreneurship.
- 3) Rationalise and simplify existing legislation in the field of inland waterway transport, while maintaining the required safety and protection levels.
- 4) Support market observation and market outlook analysis for the inland waterway transport market by making available comparable and compatible data.

Fleet

- 5) Provide funding schemes for the modernisation of the fleet in order to further improve the logistics efficiency and environmental performance of Danube navigation.
- 6) Support research activities dealing with the introduction of new technologies in inland waterway transport, specifically with a view to a further reduction of fuel consumption and emission of exhaust gases.
- 7) Strengthen the co-ordination between national authorities in order to facilitate the inspection of inland vessels and to avoid redundant control mechanisms.

Jobs & Skills

- 8) Contribute to a common European framework for education and training standards, both regarding personnel on board and logistics chain managers.
- 9) Improve working and social conditions for Danube navigation to make the profession more attractive, given the increasing shortage of qualified staff due to the advanced age of current personnel and the lack of appeal to newcomers.
- 10) Preserve and support education and training institutions in the field of Danube navigation as part of a European network for the exchange on vocational education and training programmes.

- 11) Promote the mutual recognition of qualifications by further harmonizing manning requirements and boat-master certificates.

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- 12) Support the establishment and networking of promotion and development centres for inland navigation.
- 13) Contribute to the development of a European communication and promotion strategy to stress the role of inland waterway transport as an important part of the multimodal logistics chain.

Infrastructure

- 14) Provide adequate fairway infrastructure, taking into consideration the role of the Danube as part of the trans-European inland waterway network, as well as a natural environment and habitat.
- 15) Develop spatial planning and economic policies at a federal, regional and local level to encourage the waterside establishment of industries for logistics purposes.
- 16) Continue the modernisation of Danube ports and support their development towards multimodal logistics centres.
- 17) Support the rapid implementation of River Information Services (RIS) in order to improve the safety and environmental performance of Danube navigation and to provide interfaces for logistic services.

The representatives of the participating Danube riparian states confirm that they will, in their area of competency and with a view to the specific requirements of the respective Danube sections, take appropriate measures in line with this Communiqué.

Signatures of the Representatives:



Germany – Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs



Austria – Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology



Slovak Republic – Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications



Hungary – Ministry of Economy and Transport



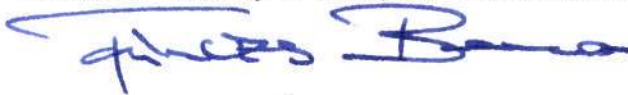
Croatia – Ministry of Transport and Communication

Serbia – Ministry of Infrastructure



Bulgaria – Ministry of Transport and Communication

Romania – Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism



Ukraine – Ministry of Transport and Communications

