

PRESSRELEASE

FREIGHT LOGISTICS IN EUROPE TO STIMULATE WATERBORNE TRANSPORT “TOGETHER AGAINST CO2”

The European Barge Union EBU dedicated its annual seminar on 3 March 2008 to Freight Logistics in Europe and – more specifically – how waterborne transport will be stimulated within this scope. At the seminar a huge number of high ranked speakers and representatives of the European Commission, the River Commissions, Ports and the transport industry as well as stakeholders participated.

The actual discussion regarding energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change in Europe asks for additional steps towards a sustainable transport system. Inland navigation as the most environmentally friendly mode of transport is committed to support decision makers in their efforts to reach sustainable solutions. EBU is committed to move forward on emission low concepts and takes initiatives in that field.

The European Commission has recently released its first progress report on the implementation of **NAIADES**. Meanwhile, the European Commission has also come up with its **communication on Freight Logistics**, to which the NAIADES action program is closely related. The synergies between the two action programs must seriously be taken into account when it comes to further realization of the concrete measures. With the NAIADES communication the European Commission introduced an ambitious action program to promote and to stimulate inland waterway transport. **It is considered positive** that the European Commission in its communication on freight logistics acknowledged that **transport is the backbone of trade and economy**.

By making **efficient use of energy**, inland waterway transport reduces the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere. Energy efficiency goes hand in hand with environmental protection. The future scarcity of energy and the development of sustainable mobility ask for environmentally friendly solutions. According to recent publications¹ the share of inland navigation in the total energy consumption is 0,5 %. Inland navigation is an environmentally sound mode of transport. EBU and its members are committed to protecting the environment and tightening standards for the operation and construction of vessels.

¹ midterm review of the White Paper

Mailaddress:

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

Address:

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 4116070 • F +31 (0)10 4129091
Email: info@ebu-uenf.org • Internet: www.ebu-uenf.org

Fuel Directive, (COM 2007/0018)

Regarding the Commission's proposal on lowering the sulphur content in fuel EBU welcomes the proposed time frame of December 31st 2009 in which the fuel directive is scheduled to come into effect. Contrary to the Commission proposal EBU advocates a lowering of the sulphur content from 1000 to 10 ppm in one single step Europe wide.

Inland navigation as part of the transport chain has a positive impact on the environmental performance of transport. The low CO2 emission of inland vessels compared to other modes of transport together with the recent measures to further improve the environmental performance in terms of emissions and lowering the sulphur content in fuel contribute considerably to mitigation.

Modal shift towards inland shipping therefore does not only contribute to an improvement of the environmental performance of the transport chain but to developing a sustainable transport system in general.

3 March 2008

The full text of the opening speech by EBU's president and the programme, as well as the list of the participants at the seminar can be downloaded from www.ebu-uenf.org

The European Barge Union EBU was founded on 14 December 2001 with seat in Brussels and in Rotterdam.

EBU represents the interest of inland navigation on a pan European level and deals with all questions, arising out of the future development of the inland navigation industry and inland waterway transport.

To realise this aim EBU is active in the field of

- ☐ the development of the European transport policy
- ☐ the improvement of the economic position of inland navigation
- ☐ the structured cooperation with national and international institutions
- ☐ the exchange of information and experience between the parties involved

Mailaddress:

PO Box 23210 • 3001 KE Rotterdam • The Netherlands

Address:

Vasteland 12e • 3011 BL Rotterdam • The Netherlands • T +31 (0)10 4116070 • F +31 (0)10 4129091

Email: info@ebu-uenf.org • Internet: www.ebu-uenf.org