
Energy transition & financing of future-proof inland waterway transport in Europe

Online Meeting: Teams

Tuesday 28 Sept 2021, 11:00-12:30 CEST

SEArICA has the pleasure of organising a webinar dedicated to inland waterway transport (IWT) following the European Parliament's own-initiative report "*Towards Future-Proof Inland Waterway Transport in Europe*".

European countries have a variety of different fleets of inland vessels, which makes inland waterway transport very convenient and useful for transporting different types and large quantities of cargo to different destinations on either large or small rivers. The European Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Mobility (SSMS) and the NAIADES III program, as part of the EU Green Deal, both seek to increase the share of IWT by 25% by 2030 and by 50% by 2050. At the same time, one of the main challenges for the IWT sector is to make the necessary energy transition and to look for alternative energy sources and propulsions. For this, a solid business case is needed. The IWT sector consists mostly out of family businesses and smaller SMEs, which means that new financial instruments are needed, such as a dedicated European inland waterway fund.

On 3 June this year, several studies commissioned by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) are published looking into the different alternatives for sustainable technologies as well as possible financing and funding instruments. The conclusions of the study represent input for the start of discussions at European level on the energy transition in European inland waterway transport.

In this context this webinar organised at the initiative of MEP and SEArICA Member Caroline Nagtegaal aims to identify the barriers to overcome and the way to move the sector forward.

11.00-11.10 Welcome by MEP **Caroline Nagtegaal**, Member of the Intergroup

11.10-12.20 Making inland waterway transport a key driver for the EU Green Deal: How to move forward?

Moderation by **Caroline Nagtegaal**

- **Bruno Georges**, Secretary General at CCNR
presentation of studies on energy transition & financing
- **Martin Quispel**, Project Coordinator at Platina3
options for a European inland waterway fund and blue print for a European emission index / label in inland navigation
- **Dr Vasile Pipirigeanu**, Coordinator of the Green Danube Project, co-funded by the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) of the European Union, Romanian Maritime Training Centre (CERONAV)
- **Theresia Hacksteiner**, Secretary General at European Barge Union
views from the sector on the energy transition and introduction into research on potential of the modal shift for inland navigation
- **Vojtech Dabrowski**, chair of the European Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation (CESNI)
role of CESNI and standard setting in greening and energy transition & the role of the European Parliament in this regard

Respondents from EU institutions:

- **Magda Kopczynska**, Director Waterborne Transport at European Commission, DG MOVE

12.20 – 12.30 Conclusions by **Caroline Nagtegaal**