



European
Barge
Union

UN ECE HIGH LEVEL ITC MEETING 2021-02-23

PRESENTATION BY THERESIA HACKSTEINER

EBU, ITS MEMBERS AND MISSION

The **European Barge Union EBU** is the European association representing the inland navigation freight and passenger carrying industry on a Pan-European level including River-Sea shipping.

EBU's mission is to contribute to the development of a sustainable and efficient pan-European transport system via a larger share of inland waterway transport.



Impact of COVID-19 and possible recovery actions

IWT HEAVILY AFFECTED BY COVID-19

1. **passenger transport (daytrip & cruise) collapsed** after lockdown, slightly recovered during summer period but again suffers from national restrictions and lack of coordinated European cooperation
2. **Freight transport: estimated overall decrease of volumes of some 20-25 % depending on the segment.**

INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT IS a VITAL sector FOR the SUPPLY OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND ECONOMY AND CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ITS SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC. IT IS however CRUCIAL TO GUARANTEE FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND CREW MEMBERS IN EUROPE without restrictions FOR WHICH WE WELCOMED SEVERAL INITIATIVES AT THE LEVEL OF THE EU AND THE RIVER COMMISSIONS.



ROADMAP TOWARDS RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

EBU WARMLY WELCOMES THE GOAL OF THE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE TO MAKE THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM MORE RESILIENT VIA INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ADAPTED POLICIES.

IT SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTES TO RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY IN EUROPE AS IWT

1. has a huge modal shift potential on the entire European network of waterways and already today has very low CO₂ emissions compared to road.
2. is known as safe, clean and energy efficient mode of transport



ROADMAP TOWARDS RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

AS REFERRED TO BY PREVIOUS HIGH LEVEL SPEAKERS INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT IS KEY TO DELIVER THE GLOBAL AND EUROPEAN SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES AND IS ABLE TO ABSORB MUCH HIGHER VOLUMES OF FREIGHT AND PASSENGER CARRIED ON its network of navigable WATERWAYS . To realise these goals this requires

- EXCELLENT PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT CHAIN
- MOVING MORE TRANSPORT TO INLAND WATERWAYS – by Creating smart, safe and sustainable mobility with the support of the involved state parties



IWT is ready to deliver on its rivers of opportunities

