

PRESS RELEASE

European Parliament adopts resolution on NAIADES II – An action programme to support inland waterway transport IWT

EBU welcomes the adoption of the motion by the European Parliament. Key representatives of the TRAN committee stressed the importance of Inland Waterway Transport and called for more support for this mode via a NAIADES III Action programme.

The Parliament today urged the Commission to update and renew the NAIADES programme by 2020 and to ensure the potential of inland waterway transport as a safe, sustainable and effective mode of transport in the multimodal transport system. Stressing the huge modal shift potential of the sector It calls upon the Commission to accompany the NAIADES III action programme with adequate and dedicated funding to achieve the goals of the action programme and a well-structured policy strategy with achievable short- and mid-term goals and a concrete roadmap.

By adopting this motion the European Parliament acknowledges the significant contribution that IWT can make to guarantee mobility and to mitigate the negative effects of the transport sector as a whole. It follows the plea of the industry as submitted to the European institutions in autumn 2018 in its Industry Declaration, which in December 2018 already led to the adoption of Council conclusions.

“We warmly welcome the support of the European Parliament and count on the Commission and the Member States with regard to the necessary policy and financial framework under the new program in order to realise a stronger modal share and to tap the full potential of the sector”, ” EBU’s Secretary General Theresia Hacksteiner emphasizes after the adoption of this motion.

14 February 2019

Additional information

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The European Barge Union (EBU) is the European association representing a majority of the inland navigation freight and passenger carrying industry on a Pan-European level. Its members are the national associations of barge owners and barge operators as well as (international) associations in the field of inland navigation and related areas.

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.