

Inland Waterway Transport & Ports

Agenda 2024 Onwards



The inland waterway transport and port sector is advancing towards climate neutrality and resilience. Ensuring climate safety presents a significant challenge, one that our sector is fully committed to with your support.

Simultaneously, our focus is on the digitalisation and automation of our infrastructure, equipment and vessels. This goes hand in hand with addressing labour shortages, creating sustainable jobs and upgrading skills. This will not only enhance the competitiveness and safety of the sector but also render it more attractive to newcomers, while facilitating seamless integration into multimodal supply chains.

Removing the remaining bottlenecks in inland waterway transport and ports extends benefits well beyond the sector's boundaries. A durable shift towards waterways promises to sustain Europe's mobility, alleviate urban traffic congestion, and reinforce the competitiveness of key European industries, spanning from agribusiness to chemicals and renewables.

We advocate for a sustainable investment climate alongside a legal framework that boost innovation. We therefore call upon the European Commission and Member States to collaborate with us for solutions on 5 key priorities:

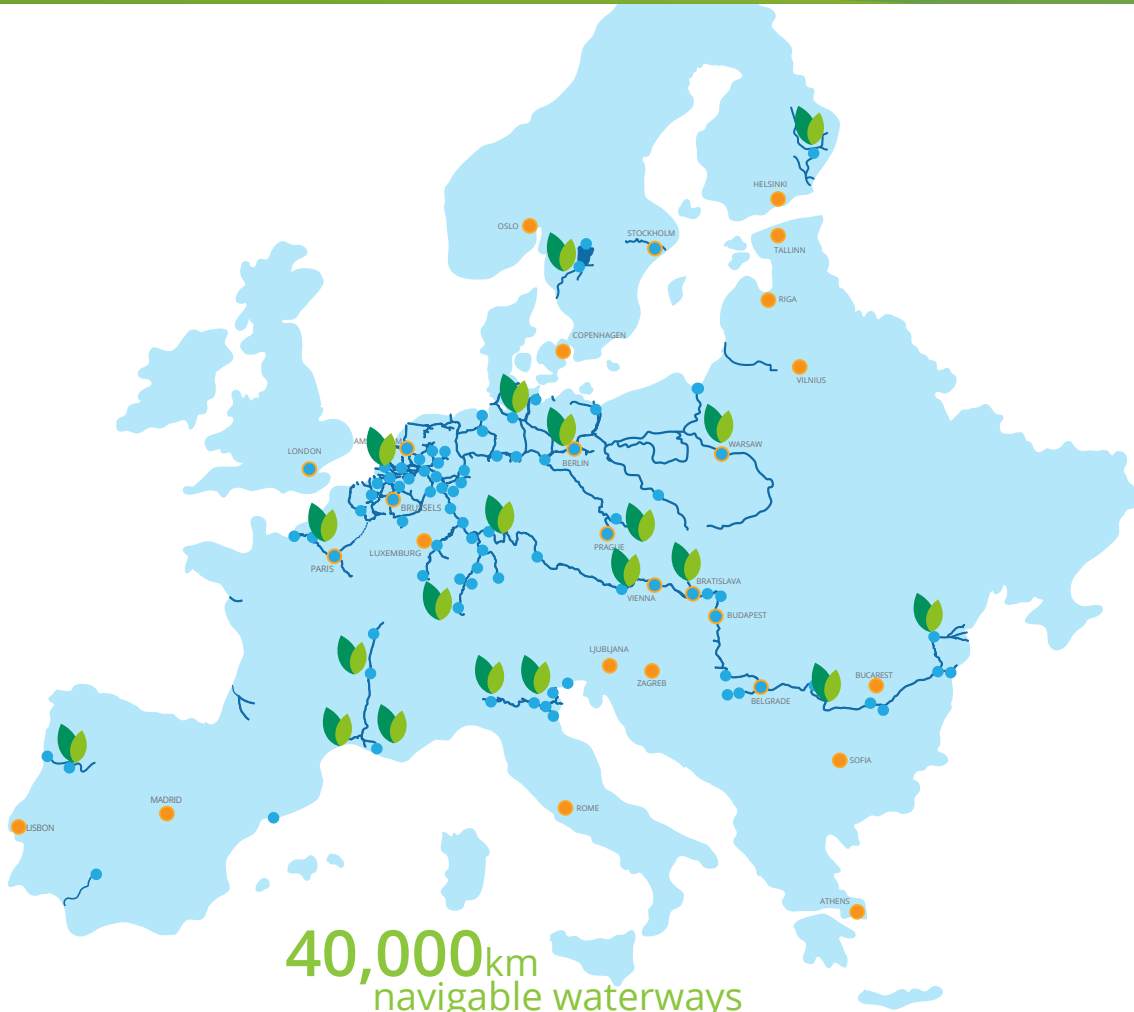
1. **Ensuring predictable and substantial investment in infrastructure**, supported by CEF3 and national funding to strengthen reliable and climate-resilient waterborne supply chains, encompassing small and large projects.
2. **Implementing multimodal shift policies** to redirect cargo away from congested roads.
3. **Establishing a robust digitalisation and automation framework** to ensure seamless interoperability across borders and modes.
4. **Introducing a fleet innovation support program**, bolstered by transition funding, to prioritize a refueling network and the availability of sustainable and affordable fuels.
5. **Modernising legislation for crewing and professional qualifications** to align with the dynamic evolution of the sector and attract fresh talent.

We look forward to collectively addressing these priorities, paving the way for a sustainable, resilient, and thriving future for the inland waterway transport and port sector, contributing significantly to Europe's economic vitality and environmental stewardship.

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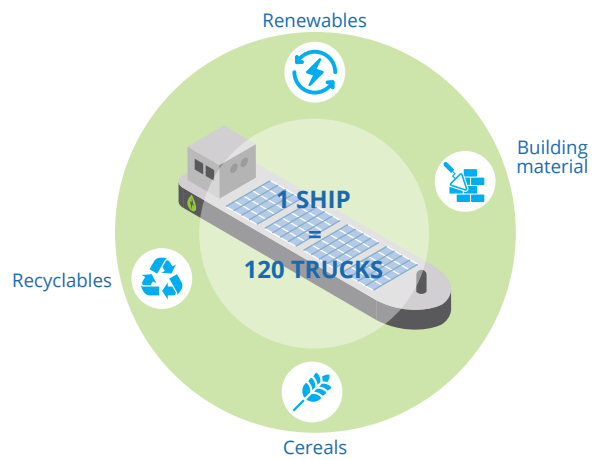
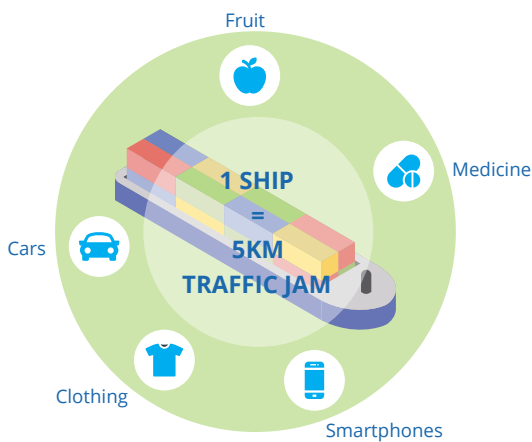
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40,000km navigable waterways
over 250 inland ports

connect major seaports, cities and industrial centres



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