

The Following Message has Been Received from the Priority Area Coordinators for Navigation under the Danube Strategy (Mr Cucu and Mr Simoner) for Distribution at the Joint Statement Meeting

Dear Mr. Weller,

in our function as nominated priority area coordinators for the priority area "Inland Waterway Transport" we would like to forward following message to you for the forthcoming Joint Statement meeting: On the 21st of March the EC (DG REGIO) had an informal preparatory meeting with us. The EC communicated that one of the first preparatory activities of the coordinators shall be the revision of the targets presented in the respective communication from the EC on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region published in December 2010. In our function as coordinators we are fully aware that the presented targets with respect to Inland Waterway Transport have to be in line with the existing legal framework and respective international agreements.

Obviously the target related to the improvement of the waterway infrastructure needs a revision in order to be fully in line with the existing legal framework in order to be acceptable for the entire stretch of the Danube (taking into account the different AGN classification of the waterway Danube along its course). We as coordinators will propose a revised and amended version of the targets (including additional targets for the other action fields, as the fleet, the ports, RIS,...) and discuss our proposal with all relevant actors (EC, countries, international commissions: DC, ICPDR, ICSRB) until end of June 2011. On the basis of a common discussion we as coordinators will forward an updated version of the targets to the EC (DG REGIO). We hope that this clarification is helpful for the forthcoming Joint Statement meeting, and wish you a successful meeting and fruitful discussions.

In case of any questions please do contact us,

We remain sincerely,

Markus Simoner (via donau),

Serban Cucu (Romanian Ministry of Transport)