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Date: 21/07/2015 12:05
Subject: RE: Public Consultation on ICPDR Management Plans - deadline 22 July 2015

Dear Mr. Zavadsky,

Many thanks for reminding us on the public consultation of the ICPDR Management Plans. We would like to take this opportunity to share some comments on it with you, which refer to the following paragraphs:

2.1.5. EBU welcomes that Hungary is elaborating a proposal to review its sediment management system in close cooperation with ICPDR, Austria and Romania. EBU offers all possible support for this improvement of the maintenance policy in the Hungarian stretch.

6.4. Referring to the part of inland navigation and environment reference is made to the "Manual on good maintenance in Waterway Planning", which currently is updated by PLATINA II. The sector welcomes this initiative that is of particular interest to the Danube area. Furthermore, the integration of the Danube river basin and the core inland ports as multimodal nodes in the TEN corridors need to be taken into account both in the interaction of environmental protection with navigation and in the field of economic development and sustainability in the DRB waterbodies.

Finally we also want to emphasise the importance of inland waterway transport to contribute to the development of sustainable transport solutions in the Danube countries, which is recognised in your Management Plans.

The current lack of fairway maintenance on the Danube is a pressing issue for the inland waterway sector and the industry using it. The failure to maintain the Danube and its navigable tributaries however threatens the safe and cost-efficient navigability of the river and the development of sustainable transport.

To overcome this challenge the Ministers of the Danube Riparian States recently endorsed the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its Navigable Tributaries, which was developed in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). It identifies critical maintenance locations which currently limit the navigability of the Danube and analyses the underlying issues and the financial needs required to resolve them.

We are convinced that these initiatives will contribute to the benefit of economic and ecological solutions to address the challenges in this field.

With kind regards | Mit freundlichen Grüßen | Met vriendelijke groeten

Theresia Hacksteiner
Secretary General