Perspectives for IWT in the Danube region from an NGO point of view

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General remarks

WWF

- has participated in the development of the Joint Statement
- supports the document as agreed
- strongly committed to promoting JS
- committed to participating in implementation on the basis of the agreed guidelines and procedures
WWF‘s viewpoint on process up to date

- Little or no progress with on-going projects regarding „integrated approach“ (chap.3) and „recommendations“ (chap.4) of JS
- Transparency and participation for interested and obligatory parties very limited
- Base data and intention to properly apply environmental legislation (e.g. WFD) still weak or missing
WWF’s viewpoint on process up to date

- JS does not yet cover all navigation development projects from big scale structural projects to maintenance works at local/regional level
- poor cooperation of key govt. institutions (e.g. MoTransport, MoEconomics, MoENV)
- SEA application missing or weak
All free flowing Danube river stretches are at risk by unsustainable IWT development…

- areas of high ecological value
- priority sections for inland navigation (EU TEN-T axis No 18)
- other navigation projects (supported e.g. by EU EAR, ISPA, Ukrainian government)
Sediment extraction ➔ channel incision ➔ threat for environment and IWT
Example of plans on Lower Danube along RO-BG

Severe irreversible impact on river ecosystem

This cannot be a sustainable development of IWT
Perspectives for IWT from WWF‘s viewpoint

• Danube waterway a major European route for IWT but not with one general minimum draught
• Future development based on container traffic and better intermodel transport links
• Short-term: waterway development focused on improvements by non-structural means and temporary fairway maintenance (no-regret)
• Better integration of govt. bodies
Perspectives for IWT from WWF‘s viewpoint

• Development plans are based on
  - SEA at different levels (river sections, national, international)
  - EU env. legislation enforced and provides a reliable framework for assessment of impacts
  - principle guidelines of JS respected
  - case by case approach (draught, width, period of year)
Perspectives for IWT from WWF‘s viewpoint

• development of detailed recommendations as JS annex
• monitoring TOR: who/how/when (national and intern., involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders)
• transparent processes
• maintain flexibility in order to accommodate Climate Change effects by focussing on non-structural no-regret measures
Let’s make Joint Statement come alive!

Thank you for your attention!