Joint Statement on Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin

Philip Weller
Executive Secretary, ICPDR
The Process

• Workshop 1: Initial Facts and Exchange of Views and Experiences; visit of first example site

• Workshop 2: Agreeing upon technical ways to achieve ecology-friendly IWT; visit of second example site

• Workshop 3: Finalisation of the Joint Statement

• Presentation of the Joint Statement
Workshop I Results

- Strong support by all participants to this Danube IWT process
- Cooperation between Basin and Navigation Commissions is proven as mutually beneficial
- River ecology requires a very dynamic landscape and is seriously deteriorated along the Danube
- IWT is an envir.-friendly transport and has a growing market
- Danube IWT has to respect the legal framework (WFD, FFH)
Workshop I
Results

- Danube river landscape has to serve many functions, i.a. IWT
- Each river section has its individual character and needs its own management and development
- Danube has free capacities for IWT but needs to respect and adapt to the river ecology
- IWT projects should not further deteriorate the riverine landscape but aim at improving/restoring it (e.g. GES)
- IWT projects need to be multi-functional and multi-disciplinary: a thorough preparatory process (planning guidelines) can lead to win-win situations
Workshop 2

- Specifics of Lower Danube Area
- Focus on technical solutions to secure environmentally IWT:
  - Presentations
  - Working Groups
- Agree on the next steps in the process