Introduction to the Process

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

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The Danube River Basin is the most international river basin in the world

- 19 countries sharing the basin
  - EU members, accession countries, non EU countries
  - very different social, economic and political situation

- catchment area ~ 800,000 km²
- Danube River length ~ 2.780 km
- population ~ 81 million

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Cooperation Necessary

- Activities in an international river basin require good cooperation, i.e.
- Regular and open-minded cooperation between countries and between sectors and actors who all share the same resources
Role of Navigation

- Inland navigation can contribute to making transport more environmentally sustainable ...

- but it can also have significant influence on river ecosystems.

- Information about navigation and its environmental aspects (good and bad!) need to be better communicated.
The way towards a Joint Statement

- General commitment to exchange information among Commissions responsible for navigation and environmental protection – September 2006
Consensus building process: navigation

→ Intensive, cross-sectoral and fact-based consensus-building

→ to improve mutual knowledge and understanding

→ to generate a joint statement on principles and criteria for sustainable navigation (incl. infrastructure development and maintenance, limits of acceptable change)
Consensus building process: navigation

• The goal of the process is to agree upon a Statement that will provide a set of guiding principles and criteria for development and maintenance of navigation in the Danube (and some tributaries), in a way that effectively protects and improves the environmental situation.
Invited Parties

- Environmental Protection / Water Management Ministries
- Transport Navigation Ministries
- EU Commission
- River Commissions (ICPDR, DC, ICPSR)
- Navigation related business
- Environmental NGOs
The Process

The process will involve 3 workshops:

- April 25-26, Austria
- June 25-26, Romania
- October (date tbd)
The Process

The process has three steps

• 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 – Drafting the Joint Statement including the agreed findings
The Process

The process will conclude with an public presentation of the Joint Statement (ca. December 2007)
Thank you for your attention

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