“Security of navigation = useable waterways”

Szalma Botond
Plimsoll Kft - Fluvius Kft
Inland waterway transport can contribute to the sustainability of the transport system, as recommended by the European Commission's White Paper: European Transport Policy for 2010, "Time to Decide".
Danube Commission (Secretariat) and European Commission (DG MOVE) sign arrangement to develop and improve navigation on the Danube River.

Such cooperation will be of benefit to the inland navigation sector, which needs a coherent and efficient governance framework to realize its full potential and improve navigability on the Danube River.

Coordinated maintenance of the river-infrastructure is the backbone for a prosperous future of the Danube's navigation.
Programs and magic words

The more we have the happier we are!
Dialogues – Working groups - SWOT
Stakeholders Conference – round table
Status reports - Overview – regular update
Sustainability - Environmental friendly ideas
Opinion leaders – steering groups
Declaration – progress reports – road maps
Recommendations - Projects
Final study
Fairway! Steps to be taken in order
Headaches: Smederevo and Cernavoda

- gasoil
- ropes
- cargo
- equipments
- spare parts

Migrants? = organized crime
Sooner or later we need non European skippers!

Overaged and unskilled professionals – a real danger for safety reasons as well
Guaranteed minimum standards for infrastructure based on UN/ECE – AGN are needed; with regard to fairway this means for Danube:

**minimum draught of 2.5 m**

**at least on 300 days on average per year**

These minimum standards can not be compensated by fleet innovation, ergo the slogan: (Neanderthal-man)

*“adapt the vessels to the river and not the river to the vessels”*

creates a dangerous fiction and ignores basic economic facts
Postulates

Make it clear: The Danube works for Europe as the economic backbone of it

We must have workable economic and transport concept (medium and long term)

Immediate regulation of the river Danube

The Danube Commission must have leading position (like CCNR - Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine)

Revise Belgrade Convention
Clear message to the industry and to the decision makers:

Full speed ahead!

Shipping is often sick, but never dies!