

Workshop EU environmental legislation requirements and inland waterway navigation projects

WebEx, 16 March 2021, 9h00-13h00 (tentative date)

Targeted participants: Transport and Environment Ministries representatives and experts from Rhine-Danube Corridor countries, and invited countries

Welcome by European Coordinator Inés Ayala Sender

Intro HoU INEA and HoU DG ENV (Hans Stielstra, Clean Water unit, Deputy Head of Unit)

Moderator Désirée Oen, Senior Expert and Advisor to Inés Ayala Sender

1. River biodiversity and ecosystems (15' + 10' Q/A session) -Przemyslaw Oginski (DG ENV, D3)
 - Multi-functionality of EU rivers; ecosystem benefits and threats
 - Priorities of EU Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (restoration decade) and their implications for rivers and inland waterway sector, including from the project perspective
2. Nature Directives' requirements (15' + 10' Q/A session) (Przemyslaw Oginski, DG ENV, D3)
 - SSCOs requirements and state of play of their development in MS, AA of plans or projects in view of sites' SSCOs, Art. 6.4 HD requirements - projects and overriding public interest, alternatives and compensation measures, strict species protection and IWT projects
3. WFD requirements (15' + 10' Q/A session) – Jeanne Boughaba (DG ENV, C1)
 - objectives of the WFD, requirements and guidance on how to set objectives in Heavily Modified Water Bodies, requirements regarding new projects (article 4.7)
4. EIA requirements (15' + 10' Q/A session) -Slavitza Dobрева De Schietera Slavitza (DG ENV, E1)
 - EIA Directive requirements and its application in large scale transboundary projects

20' (or 15') break around 11am

5. Good practices examples (10' per example + 15' Q/A session)
 - AT project presented by Gert-Jan Muilerman, PA1a/Viadonau
 - RO project presented by Claudiu Staicu
 - Integrated approach presented by Frank Serpentier, Project Leader Seine-Schelde Investeringen – De Vlaamse Waterweg)

6. Key factors for a successful integration of environmental policies (and requirements) in inland navigation projects (30' + 15' Q/A session)
 - Presentation of lessons learnt in the context of previous METEET trainings, by the Rhine-Danube coordinator (Manfred Seitz, Director General of the Danube commission)
 - Round table (representatives MS of case studies) – what are the key factors for successful integration
 - o Inter-sectoral dialogue in planning inland waterway's development (Karin De Schepper, Director Inland Navigation Europe)
 - o Integrated planning and design of inland transport projects/plans (Gert-Jan Muilerman, PA1a/Viadonau)
 - o Address both environmental and navigation related objectives in a consistent way in the Seine Escaut project (Frank Serpentier, Project Leader Seine-Schelde Investeringen – De Vlaamse Waterweg)
 - Discussion led by Jasna Muskatirovic and Georg Rast

7. Closing by European Coordinator