

For the kind attention of

By email only

- The European Commission Services responsible for transport
- The European Coordinator of the Rhine-Danube Corridor
- The EU SDR PA1a
- The Danube Commission and its Member States
- The waterway management organisations along the Danube River

Vienna, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

***Call for action on co-operative and proactive fairway management***

Dear Partners working for Danube waterborne transport,

An important milestone is about to be reached with the finalisation of the FAIRway Danube CEF action – which at the same time is the momentum to provide tangible benefits for the inland waterborne transport sector.

Pro Danube International would like to express its congratulations and thanks to all who have contributed to make FAIRway Danube happen. This was one of the greatest achievements of the past years for the benefits of Danube navigation and shows so far great results.

However, we would like to draw the attention to the current navigation hindrance at Danube rkm 565-563, namely the available water depth which practically causes the standstill of the economically viable transport on the river. At this very moment more than 30 vessels and several hundreds of barges are waiting to pass this bottleneck.

We at Pro Danube International are convinced that with the highest level of expertise and state-of-the-art equipment available and operated by great professionals at the respective waterway management organisations, such extreme challenging fairway condition changes are avoidable and the viable and safe navigation can be ensured to a higher level than we have it today.

Therefore, Pro Danube International calls for action at the side of the Danube-riparian countries' waterway management bodies

- To collaborate co-operatively and proactively
- To involve the IWT sector in the respective procedures in order to identify the most critical sections of the Danube and periods of the year, together with the surveying needs
- Come up with a common plan for pre-cautious dredging by making use of existing good practices and
- To regularly co-ordinate and act for proper waterway management that ensures adequate fairway and navigability conditions

We are certain that a well-planned, corridor approach-based waterway management along the Danube River as a complex system can tangibly contribute to create the necessary circumstances for triggering modal shift, thus ensuring the achievement of our common European goals laid down in the European Green Deal and the NAIADES 3 action plan!

We at Pro Danube International offer our support to co-ordinate with the sector and continuously provide the inputs from the business perspective, directly from the field.

We hope for the best possible solution meeting the above common objectives and stay at your disposal in all related matters.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by 'leitner'.

Herfried Leitner  
President and Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by 'Rafael'.

Robert Rafael  
General Secretary