



Dear Madam, dear Sir,

at the beginning of Austria's EU-Presidency, the European Commission is going to launch a European Action Programme for the promotion of Inland Waterway Transport. This means taking concrete steps towards the exploitation of the great potential of Inland Navigation as well as the enhancement of its market image.

We are therefore pleased to invite you to attend the **European Inland Navigation Summit**, taking place from the **13th to the 15th of February 2005** in Vienna, Austria.

13th February:

17:00-19:00 Pre-Registration for the Industry Congress, IV-Federation of Austrian Industry, House of Industry,

Schwarzenbergplatz 4, 1031 Vienna

19:00 Welcome Reception, IV-Federation of Austrian Industry, House of Industry, Schwarzenbergplatz 4, 1031 Vienna

14th February:

9:00-16:30 Industry Congress, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ), Wiedner Hauptstraße 63, 1045 Vienna

19:30 Gala Dinner, City Hall of Vienna, Lichtenfelsgasse 2, Feststiege I, 1010 Vienna

15th February:

9:30 - 16:45 High-level Meeting, Conference Centre Hofburg Redoutensäle, Josefsplatz, 1010 Vienna

The Summit will take place as follows:

14th of February 2006 - Industry congress (open to everyone interested in the inland navigation business)

The Industry Congress on 14 February 2006, hosted by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber seeks, among others, to be a forum for discussion of pan-European interest. The congress is open to everyone interested in the inland navigation business. The focus of the congress will be a discussion on the proposed measures of the EC Communication from the point of view of the shipping industry.

In the framework of parallel workshops, the conference will address its main fields of action.

-Create favourable conditions for services

- Stimulate fleet modernisation and innovation
- Promote jobs and skills
- Improve image and co-operation
- Provide adequate infrastructure
- Improve the institutional framework

The large variety of speakers, coming from different fields and countries should present the most varied views from the European landscape on the importance of inland navigation and its future role as a strong partner for the European economy.

15th of February 2006 - High-level Meeting (for officials of Member States only)

The High-level Meeting will be hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit) and addresses high-level officials of Member States, candidate countries, relevant non-EU countries and organisations representing the industry. The aim is to reach conclusive statements for the Transport Council, which will be held between the 8th and 9th of June 2006 in Luxemburg. The finding paper of the summit in Vienna will be used as a central input in this political process. Taking into consideration the results of the first day, the High-level Meeting will help define the next steps for the implementation of the EC Communication on the community level.

Enclosed you will find a general information package concerning the congress.

For further information and conference registration please consult the following link:

<http://www.via-donau.org/eu2006>

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