



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.02.2022  
C(2022) 1110 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions NAIADES III: Boosting future-proof European inland waterway transport {COM(2021) 324 final}.*

*The European Green Deal called for decisive action to shift a substantial part of the freight transported by road (currently accounting for 75% of inland freight) to inland navigation and rail, namely through measures to increase the capacity of inland waterways from 2021. Similarly, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy adopted on 9 December 2020 underlined the need to increase the use of more sustainable transport modes, and indicated that inland waterway transport and short-sea shipping should increase by 25% by 2030 and by 50% by 2050.*

*The Combined Transport Directive 92/106/EEC is the only EU legal instrument that directly supports intermodal transport, however it does not include any provisions on infrastructure. In 2017, the Commission made a proposal to amend the Directive 92/106/EEC. It withdrew this proposal in 2020. In December 2021, the Commission adopted a proposal on the revision of TEN-T guidelines, which includes provisions on intermodal transport terminals. Integrating intermodal terminals fully into the TEN-T network will contribute to ensuring that the necessary infrastructure for intermodal transport is available. As noted by the Senát, this may involve investments into networks, terminals and other facilities, which can be supported, inter alia, through the Connecting Europe Facility.*

*The Commission would also like to highlight that Naiades III lists several funding instruments which will support both the development of inland waterways and the ports, such as the improvement of inland waterways transport infrastructure and inland navigation conditions, the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure and digital solutions (e.g. River information Services), and the support to zero emission vessels through the Connecting Europe Facility. Equally, the LIFE programme will continue offering funding opportunities in inland waterways, mainly focusing on air and water quality, biodiversity and enhanced resource efficiency. Finally, the Horizon Europe*

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*programme will continue to support innovative projects on inland waterway transport infrastructure and fleets, in support of digitalisation and decarbonisation.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič*  
*Vice-President*

*Adina-Ioana Vălean*  
*Member of the Commission*