

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Dimitrios Theologitis, European Commission



Today we had a look at the 'day after'. It felt like a normal meeting, not a final conference. But sadly it is the final event of Platina 2. There will be no Platina 3 'for the moment'. We will have to try to bridge the gaps using other European instruments such as Connecting Europe Facilities.

We have already taken some follow-up actions:

- ❑ Platina 2 looked at the potential of inland navigation and multimodal nodes in the logistics chain. Studies analysed the network, where there is untapped potential and it documented best practice. The next step is to make the network more efficient and take future action.
- ❑ Digitalisation and multimodal nodes are the future challenge. We need to further fine-tune what the function of IT instruments can be and develop common standards and systems.
- ❑ IWT depends on good navigation status. In the Trans-European Network regulation, we built a whole policy and strategy around it. We need to make it easier to invest in maintenance and rehabilitation of waterways.
- ❑ We are developing 4 Innovation Centres – like the EICB – in strategic locations (near different waterways/corridors). They can stimulate to roll out innovative features.
- ❑ Last but not least, Prominent looks at environmental aspects and human elements related to navigation.

But also these programmes will come to an end. So we need to prepare the next step already now for in 2 or 3 years' time. So why not start to prepare Platina 3 as from now?

How can we make this happen?

- ❑ The European Commission needs to receive a clear indication from the sector on what is needed after the current programmes and show the need for coordination action (like Platina).
- ❑ Next, we can prepare a proposal that needs to go to the programme committee of Horizon 2020, which basically is composed of the member states. Some Member States did not support the idea of having Platina 3. To avoid their rejection, we need to lobby already now to influence your research authorities. This will increase our chances that Platina 3 will be adopted.
- ❑ In the meantime, an expert board from the sector can continue to meet with support of the Commission. This board can keep an overview of the processes in place and coordinate actions. They should work together with the Naiades committee.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Andreas Bäck for coordinating the Platina 2 project.