

**For the kind attention of Commissioner Tzitzikostas  
DG MOVE**

Dear Commissioner Tzitzikostas,

Vienna, 03.12.2024

First and foremost, **Pro Danube International** and its members would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on your recent appointment and validation as the new Commissioner for Transport. Your leadership in this role is of critical importance for the future of European transport, and we are confident that your tenure will bring positive developments for the sector.

**Pro Danube International** is a key advocate for the development of the Danube as a competitive and sustainable logistics system. Since our establishment in 2011, we have constantly acted as a competent partner for authorities and administrations, supporting the formulation and implementation of policy actions based on the insights and experiences of the private sector. Our network has grown to include companies with a strategic interest in improving infrastructure conditions and increasing public and private investments in the Danube transport and logistics system. As the core voice of the Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) industry in the Danube Region, **Pro Danube International** has successfully initiated and executed numerous projects funded by various EU programs.

IWT plays a crucial role in advancing transport towards climate neutrality. However, our sector continues to face several challenges, despite some of them being partially addressed to date. These challenges can be categorised into two main areas: Framework Conditions and Business Conditions.

**Framework Conditions**

- Fairway: ensuring Good Navigation Status with reliable fairway information services for the sector.
- Digitalisation: enhancing the efficiency of administrative procedures in both B2G (Business to Government) and B2B (Business to Business) contexts.
- Human Capital: promoting harmonised curriculum and minimum manning requirements to enhance interoperability across regions to strengthen the workforce.

**Business Conditions**

- Modal Shift: enhancing and promoting the capabilities of Danube IWT as an integral part of comprehensive supply and logistics chains.
- Funding and Financing: expanding access to viable opportunities, including the need for a common approach at EU level, such as for vehicles and handling equipment in ports.

Given that a final formal decision on Romania's and Bulgaria's highly anticipated full accession to the Schengen Area is expected to be taken soon, Pro Danube continues to advocate for a further enhancement of the multimodal transport system in the Rhine-Danube European Transport Corridor of which IWT is a key element.

We look forward to collaborating with you and your office to address these challenges and further develop the Danube Region as a vital artery of European transport. **Pro Danube International** remains committed to supporting the European Commission in achieving its goals for a sustainable, efficient, and integrated transport system.

Yours sincerely,



**Herfried LEITNER**  
President and Chairman of the Board



**Róbert RAFAEL**  
General Secretary

### About us

**Pro Danube International** represents the voice of Danube-minded businesses which are interested in the promotion of better navigation conditions, waterway infrastructure and transport services, hence being an active contributor in the political debates on transport policy, technology, and regional development fora. For over a decade, **Pro Danube International** has been involved in the initiation and execution of transnational EU-funded projects related to the development of the inland waterway transport sector in the Danube Region.

### Members of **Pro Danube International**

