

Minister Mr. Ivaylo Moskovski
Ministry of Transport, Information Technology & Communications
9, Dyakon Ignatij str.
Sofia 1000 / Bulgaria

Vienna, 2017-06-23

Subject: Urgent dredging of critical sections of Bulgarian Danube required

Dear Minister Moskovski,

our organization participated in the user forum of the EU funded project Fairway held in Ruse on 30th of May. From the hydrographic surveys of the Danube fairway which were performed recently by the Bulgarian waterway administration, it became clear that especially at the locations of Milka Island (km 569 – 567), Brashlyan Island (KM 457-455) and Popina (KM 407-405) the fairway depths will fall even below 18 dm in case of shallow water situations which can be expected for summer and autumn. These bottlenecks are well known and have created in the years 2011 till 2016 several times severe restrictions to navigation or even total blockage. As a consequence, Danube related industries in all Danube States faced massive financial losses and cargo shifted away from Danube.

Referring to the international obligations of the State of Bulgaria to ensure minimum navigation conditions and to the commitments of Bulgaria within the EU initiatives for improving maintenance of the Danube fairway – you personally signed the Declarations of the Danube Transport Ministers in Luxembourg/June 2012, in Brussels/December 2014 and in Rotterdam/June 2016 – we would like to ask you on behalf of Pro Danube and the undersigned organisations to ensure immediate dredging of the critical Bulgarian Danube sections. Otherwise, safe and efficient transport of passengers and cargo on the Danube – one of Europe’s most important transport axis - will become impossible again.

Sincerely



Alexandru Capatu
Chairman of the Board



Manfred Seitz
General Secretary

Cc: Commissioner for Transport Ms Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Regional Policy Ms Corina Cretu,
EU Coordinator Rhine – Danube corridor Ms Karla Peijs