

For the kind attention of the representatives of

- The EU Commission Services responsible for transport
- The European Coordinator of the Rhine-Danube Corridor
- The EUSDR PA1a
- The Danube Commission

By email only

Vienna, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

***Call for action on co-operative fairway management***

Dear Partners working for the Danube waterborne transport,

Referring to our calls for action and co-operative and proactive fairway management, signed and submitted in September 2021 and July 2022, regrettably, we need to inform you that – according to our and our members’ predictions based on the trends and latest measurements – a similar situation is expected again in 2023.

This refers to the same Danube section as in the previous years, namely between rkm 563 to rkm 565 which has led to standstills in the past – forcing dozens of pushers, vessels, and hundreds of barges to wait for maintenance of the fairway by dredging on the relevant section.

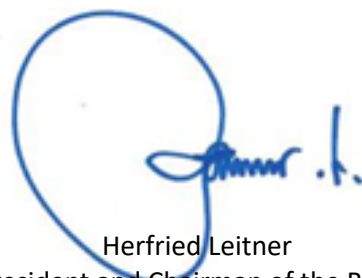
As a non-profit business association, we are working on behalf of our members coming from a wide range of industry sectors – for whom the situation in the past years was unbearable and endangering not only their business model, but the trust, reliability and sustainability of the inland waterway transport mode. The challenge is even higher since the past months, as the Danube is supposed to be one of the key transport backbones in the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes.

In our opinion, and as practiced for many years by Via Donau on the Austrian Danube section, a proactive fairway maintenance, outside low water periods, will ensure the readiness of a fairway in times of low water periods.

**Our current letter shall draw the kind attention of the experts and decision makers that from the IWT industry point of view it is inevitable to start as soon as possible with the pro-active fairway maintenance tasks, and to inform the stakeholders of Danube navigation continuously and transparently.**

At the same time, on behalf of Pro Danube International we offer again our permanent support to have regular consultation with the involvement of the experts to assess, plan and monitor fairway management and maintenance activities.

Yours Sincerely,



Herfried Leitner  
President and Chairman of the Board



Robert Rafael  
General Secretary