

**Siim KALLAS**

**Johannes HAHN**

Vice-President of the European Commission

Member of the European Commission

Brussels, *M* · May 2012  
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**Subject: Your letter from 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 proposing EC action on Danube fairway problems**

Dear Mr. Capatu,

Dear Mr. Seitz,

We would like to thank you for drawing our attention to the severe navigational problems on the Danube as well as for the provision of detailed background information. In Commissioner's Hahn previous letter we informed you that we are coordinating a set of actions to tackle the problem.

The Danube waterway is an integral part of the European multimodal transport network and thus a critical factor for the economic development and creation of jobs in the entire Danube region. Therefore, EU transport policy and the EU strategy for the Danube region aim to exploit the full potential of Danube navigation, by removing the obstacles to navigability.

As the Commissioners involved, we consider insufficient waterway maintenance as a very urgent problem to be solved. We have therefore launched a process which will involve all the relevant EU Member States and affected third countries.

Together we will host a ministerial meeting in Luxembourg in the margins of the Transport Council set for 7-8 June 2012. The meeting will focus on the problems seen last year (low water, ice) and commitments to action to prevent a reoccurrence of the interruption to shipping seen in 2011.

We will offer our support if needed to improve waterway maintenance.

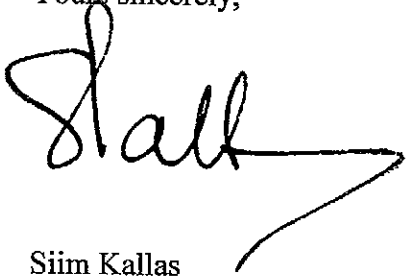
The Steering Group of the Priority Area on Danube transport will be tasked to coordinate concrete follow up measures to our discussions with the ministers in June. We would like to mention that Commissioner Hahn personally attended the next meeting of the Steering Group

Mr. Alexandru Capatu, Chairman  
Mr. Manfred Seitz, General Secretary  
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on inland waterways which took place on 3 May in Bratislava to prepare the Danube waterway administrations for this work.

We trust that with these actions and the planned measures we will be able to tackle the most severe problems and help restore safe and cost-effective navigation on the Danube effectively and as quickly as possible. The input of the private sector will be essential for the success of our actions. Therefore, we would like inform you that further contributions of your organization to the elaboration and implementation of the planned measures is welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siim Kallas', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Siim Kallas

Vice-President and  
Commissioner for Transport

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johannes Hahn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Johannes Hahn

Commissioner for Regional Policy