

# Our vision on fit-for-future waterways

Vision jointly developed by



Expansion of the existing land infrastructure is challenging and expensive to meet the increasing demand for public transport and city logistics. Rivers and canals have been arteries for trade and commerce since centuries, connecting ports with inland centres of industry and consumption. Investment in the waterway infrastructure and transshipment facilities helps to decrease costly congestion in and around cities. At the same time waterways are much more than transport corridors. The waterfront is a shared and climate responsive space where it is good to live, work, enjoy and trade and burst of activities co-exist.

## Quality infrastructure

- A life cycle approach and performance upgrades of the infrastructure ensure the quality of the network.
- Reliable navigation conditions guarantee punctual arrivals and swift transfers to other modalities.
- Free capacity on waterways relieve clogged land routes.

## Modal Shift

- Inland ports serve as smart multimodal hubs leading to the most climate friendly freight transport solutions.
- Clean waterbuses, watertaxis and cruises enhance sustainable mobility for people.
- Inland shipping swiftly connects to other modes of transport.
- Full network approach based on the most efficient mode of transport.

## Green fleet & clean energy

- All ships, from large to small and for freight and passengers sail on zero-emission sources/carriers.
- Clean energy & refueling infrastructure is available and well accessible at berths along waterways, in ports and port facilities.
- New locks are standardly equipped with hydropower turbines ensuring zero-emission lock operations.
- Inland ports produce, store and supply clean fuels to all modes of transport.
- The waterway network links up with energy grids and vessels contribute to equalize the energy grid.
- Inland ports, floating wind farms and locks provide renewable energy to surrounding households and industry.

## Circular economy

- Waterside port areas are eco-industrial sites and recycling hubs attracting innovative circular economy based industry.
- Circular processing ensures that products and materials are put back into the chain.
- Creating closed loops facilitated by water transport solutions.
- Ships are 100% recyclable.



## Climate change & integrated water management

- Water bodies provide drinking water to citizens and water availability affects, nature, navigation, hydro-electricity, tourism, industry and agriculture.
- Climate-resilient design protects people and businesses against floods and droughts.
- Water basins and wetlands store water to regulate water levels in dry and high water periods.
- Locks are equipped for efficient use of water and help to regulate water levels.
- Integrated water management covers a package of infrastructure measures dealing at the same time with the requirements for reliable navigation, water supply and protection, habitat and water quality.

## Connectivity & quality of life

- A life cycle approach of the infrastructure keeps up the quality of the network.
- Better use of uncongested waterways has improved air quality, safety, living and working conditions.

## Wildlife & biodiversity

- Estuaries, wetlands, rivers, lakes and canals host a rich fauna and flora.
- Smart infrastructure such as fish passes ensure the migration of fishes upstream and downstream.
- Renatured riverbanks and parallel channels are home to a wide variety of species.

## Recreation & tourism

- The city waterfront is an exciting area of freight and leisure activities. People live and stroll around and enjoy the cityscape.
- In the countryside, fishers, cyclers and sailors enjoy the rich waterfront heritage and beautiful water environment.

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