



# Cooperation to overcome differences

Example of inland waterway transport

J.G. Kwakernaat

# Importance of inland shipping for EU transport

- **13 out of the 28 EU Member States have interconnected waterways;**
- **Much idle capacity of waterways;**
- **Actual IWT performance about 150 Bln tonkms. Forecasted performance in 2040 between 200 – 250 Bln tonkms;**
- **Energy efficient.**

# IWT sector from a social point of view

- **Sector is very fragmented:**
  - **9579 IWT enterprises in 2010;**
  - **Majority has only 1, or 2 - 9 employees;**
  - **Low level of organisation;**
  - **At the moment there are about 50.000 persons in total employed in the IWT sector, of which 35.000 (70 %) in the Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxemburg.**

# **Different regulations and problems arising therefrom**

- Specific regulations regarding the professional qualifications of the crew and the manning of inland ships;**
- Differences and also overlap in these regulations between Member States and River Commissions like the CCNR for the river Rhine, and the Danube Commission for the river Danube;**
- This gives problems regarding mobility of employees, job attractiveness and safety.**

# Cooperation to overcome the differences

- **Common expert Group:**
  - **Representatives of EU countries, river commissions, EDINNA and social partners;**
  - **Co chaired by EC and CCNR;**
  - **11 meetings from September 2012 till November 2014;**
  - **Working on: recognition and modernisation of professional qualifications in inland navigation by changing Directive 96/50/EC regarding the conditions for obtaining boatmasters' certificates;**
  - **Goal: from experienced based to competence based qualifications.**



# Results

- **Step to new regulations. Benefits:**
  - **Assurance of same professional qualification of crewmembers (boatmaster, boatman) within Europe;**
  - **Increase of their mobility;**
  - **Increase of safety;**
  - **Possibility to shorten the period to get the necessary qualification, and so making these jobs more attractive, while maintaining the right level of safety;**
  - **Make the use of inland shipping simulators possible.**

**Hopefully this step to new regulations can be converted into formal regulations of the EU as soon as possible!  
The IWT sector really needs it.**