

# Directive relating to the River Information System

After years of research by EU members, the directive relating to river information systems (RIS) is being finalised. It has just been examined by the European Parliament and should be definitively adopted by the EU Transport Council in the coming months.

This directive supports implementation of new information and communication technologies to the benefit of users of navigable waterways in Europe.

These new technologies, based on use of onboard information tools will:

- enable better planning and management of traffic and transport operations
- increase safety and control of goods
- foster establishment of interfaces with other transport methods

In concrete terms, onboard computer hardware will give carriers access to:

- network electronic maps (inland ECDIS maps)
- a vessel electronic notification system
- an electronic inland navigation notification system
- identification and monitoring systems, enabling better management of transported goods

The European nature of the "RIS" directive will enable cross-border exchange of compatible data, which will promote the safety and effectiveness of river transport operations. The fact of having a "single interface" between public and private partners will also contribute to simplification and acceleration of administrative procedures and modernisation of logistics in general.

Private users have no legal obligation to invest in this new technology but member states have committed to encouraging users to turn the benefits of the system to full account.

Transposition of the directive and setting up of technical specifications will take two years from the date the directive comes into force.