



PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 26th April, 2010

Inland waterways transport: + 10 % in the 1st quarter of 2010

VNF announces that the trend observed in February of this year has continued; shippers are placing more and more trust in the waterways. The inland navigation results table for the first quarter confirms this position: inland waterways freight has displayed a sustained increase at the beginning of 2010, with an increase of 11.6% in tonne-kilometres and 7.4% in tonnes for goods transported by water, compared to figures for the same period in 2009.

INLAND NAVIGATION STATISTICS						
Breakdown by N.T.S. category of goods / first 3 months of 2010 compared to the first 3 months of 2009						
N.T.S categories of goods	Tonnes			Tonnes-kilometres		
	2010	2009	variation	2010	2009	variation
0- AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	2,611,838	2,108,703	+23.9 %	475,047,649	372,411,374	+27.6 %
1- FOODSTUFFS AND ANIMAL FODDER	930,876	891,931	+4.4 %	135,895,116	126,542,366	+7.4 %
2- SOLID MINERAL FUELS	1,408,957	1,124,535	+25.3 %	187,337,138	173,658,364	+7.9 %
3- PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	1,488,923	1,411,576	+5.5 %	184,980,859	154,054,715	+20.1 %
4- ORES AND METAL WASTE	616,493	383,533	+60.7 %	61,830,711	43,569,131	+41.9 %
5- METAL PRODUCTS	401,050	370,418	+8.3 %	73,706,064	58,746,960	+25.5 %
6- BULK MINERALS, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	4,582,844	5,015,745	-8.6 %	545,412,265	553,081,172	-1.4 %
7- FERTILISERS	341,064	312,641	+9.1 %	41,614,711	43,089,765	-3.4 %
8- CHEMICALS	482,457	307,099	+57.1 %	84,910,444	60,199,367	+41.0 %
9- MACHINERY, VEHICLES, TRANSACTIONS	970,123	958,884	+1.2 %	175,676,071	176,897,082	-0.7 %
TOTAL	13,834,625	12,885,065	+7.4 %	1,966,411,028	1,762,250,296	+11.6 %

These figures give additional impetus to the continuing **revival in the use of inland waterways** initiated by VNF and its partners, and meet the ambitious growth objectives for traffic and the adoption of alternative modes of transport set out in the Grenelle I Act.

The inland waterways provide a mode of transport which, on average, offers a **4 fold reduction in energy consumption and CO² emissions** compared to road transport. It also has the added advantage of lower noise pollution, less congestion **of the road network and reduced risk of accidents, etc.**

By offering a **higher quality service and providing more efficient solutions for shippers**, VNF is continuing its intense modernisation programme which will result in substantial improvements in infrastructure, junctions, slipways and the various services of the waterways.

Increasing freight traffic: breakdown by category

The first quarter reflects the general recovery within certain sectors which, up until now had been adversely affected by the financial crisis (energy-generating products, iron and steel, and chemicals).



Hydrocarbons on the Rhine
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Cereals: this sector has seen a rise in the tonnage transported (+27 %). Therefore, the category is consolidating the inland waterways market share of its logistics.

Coal: this sector is marked by a notable increase (+25.3% in tonnes) due to restocking following the particularly "greedy" winter of 2009.

The oil market has recovered after experiencing a slight decline during the first two months; (+5.5% in tonnes) marked by the rebuilding of stocks which is currently in progress.

The construction sector is relatively confident, particularly in the Paris region and has been constant over the year.

As for **chemicals**, their spectacular rebound with an increase of more than 57% in the tonnage transported, results from the recovery of this industry.

For **high added value goods** (containers, vehicles and exceptional packages), in spite of a difficult period in terms of international trade, the volume on the waterways has remained constant, demonstrating the advantages of this mode for this particular category.

Finally, the transport of **metallurgical products** has shown a strong increase with a rise of +25% in tonnes-kilometres. The sector is showing clear recovery.

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