

Press release

EFIP welcomes two new members

Brussels, 15 October 2007 - On the occasion of its General Assembly held in Galati (Romania) on 12 October at the invitation of the Administration of the Ports on the Maritime Danube (APDM), EFIP welcomed two new members: the Giurgiulesti International Free Port (GIFP) located in Moldova, and the Hellenic Logistics Association based in Athens.

Giurgiulesti International Free Port (GIFP) on the rivers Danube and Prut is the Republic of Moldova's first and only international port facility. Starting from a maritime-river oil terminal, already operational, the port will develop further facilities towards dry cargo and passenger terminals, with one additional maritime-river berth and four river (/river-sea) Berths.

The Hellenic Logistics association expressed its wish to become member as part of its interest for inland ports playing the role of important intermodal hubs in Europe. The main scope of the association is the development of logistics science and practice in Greece and the development of the country as the logistics-intermodal hub for the Balkans. Although EFIP usually has inland ports as members, it has to be recalled that according to its Statutes, under specific conditions, it can also admit members which are not inland ports but have a strong interest in their developments.

Welcoming these two new members, Willy Robijns, EFIP President stated: *"EFIP welcomes the two new members, and I am convinced that they will bring a valuable contribution to the development of inland ports as intermodal hubs in the Balkans"*. With these two new members, EFIP extends its network and is now present in 18 countries in Europe.

The General Assembly and Executive Committee meeting were followed by the visit of the Ports of Galati, Braila and Tulcea, which are major sea-river ports located on the maritime Danube in Romania. EFIP delegates also visited the Danube delta.

Note to the editors:

EFIP was founded in 1994 and is the official voice of more than 200 inland ports in 18 countries of the EU, Switzerland, Ukraine and Moldova. Inland ports are contributing actively to attaining and maintaining long-term sustainable mobility and favouring a more efficient integration of various modes in the transport chain.

They are inland freight centres offering networking opportunities between different modes such as road, rail and inland shipping, including short-sea shipping in some major inland ports. EFIP is happy to provide you with any further information on its positions and activities via its Secretariat General in Brussels.

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