

Q&A to the presentation An overview of the project Regulation of the Danube River Waterway at Sotin from 1321 rkm to 1325 rkm

Stakeholder Forum of the project "Preparing FAIRway 2 works in the Rhine Danube Corridor"
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QUESTIONS: ARNO MOHL (WWF AUSTRIA)

- 1. How much are water levels impacted by the measures? Is riverbed deepening expected and how much? Which impacts are expected on the nearby floodplain and floodplain water system?**

Throughout the critical sector Sotin, depths of the Danube are relatively deep at the curve that is by the village of Sotin. With the building of the T-groynes and the longitudinal structure, expected result is to push this deeper water more into the fairway and to lower the depths near the bank. Floodplains are basically non-existent at this moment as throughout the last 30 or something years the erosion removed the floodplains and now even the high bank is at risk to slide into the Danube. We expect that with this structures the new coastline which should have characteristic of a floodplain will form.

- 2. How does the project comply with integrated planning approach and the win-win solution for nature and navigation?**

Absolutely yes,. It should be win-win situation both for the wildlife and the navigation, and also for the local community. As it is stated within the presentation, the project itself took a long time for the preparation and within it, for instance, we made ichtiological research (for 1 year) that showed that this particular sector fish uses for its spawning. To ease the that process for the fish, original design was changed and openings are interpolated for the fish to enter and exit the area for spawning.

3. **Prior approval of the EU funding for the project, has an obligatory compliance check been carried out by the EU with regard to the WFD and Natura 2000? If yes, what are the results and who was involved from EU side? Was DG Environment involved and approved it?**

Obligatory compliance checks were done and all relevant ministries checked it. Also one of the results of it is a production of the study of Main assesment of the impact on the ecological network (Natura 2000). On the other hand, as this process of the project preparation was not completely in our hands and there was heavy involvement of the Ministry of environmental protection and energy, I do not know exactly who was particulary from the EU side involved, for sure I am aware that JASPERS mission were and the project passed their review, but was DG Environment involved, I can not confirm. That sould be checked with our Ministry of environment protection, but knowing how they function, I am pretty sure that they did a proper job on the matter if this required DG Environment's control or review.

4. **Why is Sotin promoted prior the Fairway 2 project is finalised and its results are known?**

Sotin sector is currently the most problematic sector on Croatian part of the HR-RS stretch of the Danube, not only because of lowered depths in the fairway, what is a problem of the economy – inland navigation sector particullary, but also because of eroding of the high-coast of the village of Sotin itself. That is bringing the lives and properties of the citizens in danger and it would not be adviseable course of action to wait any longer with activities. In my opinion the project was already way too long in prepratation phase.

QUESTION: BRANKA SPANICEK (WWF ADRIA)

1. Share the **documentation regarding the mitigation measures** planned/prescribed in the Sotin project

Attachment: “4 - Mišljenja i rješenja.zip” - zip-packed file with all competent ministry's opinions, decisions and verifications (together with mitigation measures) which relate to the environmental protection)