



## PRESS RELEASE

***“Excluding dredged material from the revised Waste framework Directive will facilitate the modernization and effective maintenance of ports in Europe, ”***

The European Dredging Association\* (EuDA) welcomes the recent vote in the European Parliament on the compromise text for a new Waste Framework Directive\* (June 17, 2008) which excludes dredged material from the scope of the Directive and finally aligns the EU with the international law as reflected in the provisions of the London Convention\*. As a result of the new Directive, some 90% of all dredged material in Europe is effectively eliminated from the category of waste, an equivalent of an estimated 250 million tons per year. Only hazardous material will remain waste.

The dredging industry has insisted for many years that dredged material is a natural resource and should not be seen as waste. Such a classification has caused unnecessary delays for port maintenance, upkeep of navigation channels, provision of flood protection or other essential dredging projects. By excluding non-hazardous dredged material from the scope of the Directive, dredging projects now fall entirely under national rules. Having experienced for years problems with obtaining permits or licenses for dredging projects, ports and dredging companies trust that the new Directive will facilitate the issuing of permits. This will bring down costs of licensing, ease port maintenance work and open the door for development projects long overdue. This positive development will effectively stimulate environmentally friendly waterborne transport.

Mr. Stordiau , President of EUDA said: “The Dredging industry is relieved that EU waste law is now brought in line with good practice and common sense. ***The European Dredging Association calls on the member states to transpose the modernized Waste Framework Directive into national law in an expedient manner .***”

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**\*About the new Waste Framework Directive**

This Directive sets clearer rules for materials, substances and objects to become waste and it introduces criteria for when something ceases to be waste. The new Directive excludes from its scope all dredged material which is dredged from surface waters and put back into the water body, or which is used to build new land. Only dredged material that is hazardous will in the future still be classified as waste. A vote was held on the compromise text in the European Parliament on June 17, 2008.

**\*About the London Convention**

Dredging and disposal of dredged material in marine waters have in fact since many years been covered by international law under the so-called London Convention and the regional Conventions that build on it (OSPAR, HELCOM, ..) The London Convention allows specifically to put dredged material back into (marine) surface waters, not as being 'waste', but as 'other matter'. The fact that international law and EU law were not in agreement on this issue has been a source of frustration for the industry. The European Dredging Association points out that the London Convention and its regional daughter conventions have been ratified by all EU member states with dredging activities and each country has put in place the necessary provisions to deal with dredging permits.

**\*About the European Dredging Association (EuDA)**

**EuDA** is a non-profit industry organization for dredging companies and related organisations. It represents the interests of the dredging industry, primarily at the European institutions. The European dredging companies are world leaders in their trade. They employ approximately 10,000 European staff and create employment for more than 30.000 persons in the supply and service sectors. Approximately 750 seaworthy dredging vessels with European flag are servicing the ports and the navigation sector and are leaders in coastal protection and development projects worldwide. Founded in 1993, the Association serves its members companies on matters of European policy; the present focus is largely on Social and Environmental affairs.

For more information: <http://www.european-dredging.info/>