

COVID-19 in IWT

Austrian experiences and lessons learnt

Vera Hofbauer
Head of Department Shipping – Technology and Nautics
September 30, 2020

Challenges in March / April 2020

- Find out who are the competent authorities
- Get involved in decisions on new rules/restrictions and the interpretation of (vague) existing rules on different levels (regional/national/international)
- Stay in touch with the sector – find out about needs and “real world” implementation of rules
- Get the sector informed on (upcoming) new rules / restrictions – think about different ways of communication (NtS, website, Newsletter,...)
- Coordinate and exchange with international organisations (DC, CCNR, EC, UNECE, EBU/ESO, IG Rivercruise) and neighbouring countries
- **COMMUNICATION and COORDINATION !**

Lessons learnt

- Clear European guidelines (green lanes, European pandemic emergency plan in freight transport) and monitoring of guidelines
- Avoid national rules in international transport
- Enable free transport of goods, supply for vessels and crew (e.g. gas, food, repair) and crew changes
- Transparent coordination of measures (incl. non EU countries as far as possible)
- Continue authority processes (certificates, tests, exemptions where needed,...)
- Communication & Information - “one-stop-shop”, FAQs (e.g. CCNR, DC)

Recovery Opportunities

- Participation of IWT in Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) via national RRF coordination
 - Investments in Greening, Digitalisation, Resilience
 - Transport sector is mentioned in the guidelines of the RRF (eg. Investments in smart and sustainable mobility, development of waterborne infrastructures, sustainable alternative transport fuels)