



Newsletter April 2017

ETA 2017 Conference, highlighting the towage sector contribution to maritime safety

ETA 2017 Conference will focus on the different aspects linked to maritime safety and how the towage sector plays an essential role to reach the highest standards. "Safety is our Business" is the central theme of the conference taking place on the 8th of June within the framework of the 54th ETA Annual Meeting, which this year is hosted by Tripmare in the Italian city of Trieste. Different high level keynote speeches will set the scene and give the conference participants a view on the latest EU initiatives to improve maritime safety including environmental protection and humanitarian operations.

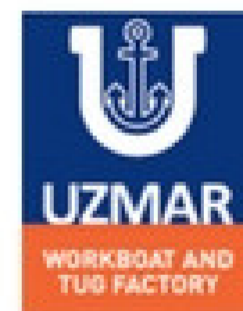
The afternoon sessions will be dedicated to the technical side of tugboat operations safety. Several ETA Associated members will describe the new trends and technical innovations which are making tugs better equipped, safer more efficient and sustainable.



ETA 54th Annual Meeting is hosted
by Tripmare



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The EU to fund sustainable maritime transport initiatives

The EU Council approved the *funding* of several transport projects which will help develop sustainable and efficient maritime transport in Europe. These will receive a total amount of €22.1 million through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The actions include supporting the development of LNG facilities in the Motorway of the Sea Zeebrugge-Gothenburg or assessing the feasibility of building two LNG regional hubs in the ports of Valletta and Gdansk.

Moreover, the European Investment Bank will sign an agreement with the Dutch bank ABN Amro that shall boost the funding for greener shipping. The investment facility is open for actions aiming at improving the performance of existing vessels and the construction of new ships with a green innovation aspect. This initiative is part of the EFSI, the European Fund for Strategic Investments. Projects should be proposed to the ABN Amro Bank and these will be subject to their eligibility and risk acceptance criteria. [Read more here](#)



The European Commission launches a new initiative for the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean

This EU initiative is the culmination of years of dialogue between the Western Mediterranean countries from both sides of the sea. The action will foster the cooperation between the EU and neighbouring countries in order to work together to increase maritime safety and security, promote sustainable blue growth and jobs, and preserve ecosystems and biodiversity. Regarding the first main goal, a safer and more secure maritime space, the priorities include the cooperation between national coast guards and the common response to accidents and oil spills.

EU Members States and Maghreb countries will develop several projects aiming at improving the traffic monitoring infrastructure, data sharing and capacity building. The initiative will be funded by different and existing international, EU, national and regional funds which will complement each other to attract further private investment. [Read more here](#)

Next events

18-19 MAY

EU Maritime Day Conference
Poole, United Kingdom

23-24 MAY

Tugnology
Rotterdam

7-9 June

ETA Annual Meeting
Trieste

