

## Newsletter February 2017

### ETA participated in the 2nd European Shipping Week

The European Tugowners Association had a very active participation in the 2nd European Shipping Week. This year's European Shipping Week succeeded once more at raising the visibility of the sector and at acting as a platform for the discussion of the challenges affecting the industry. ETA, together with the Permanent Representation of Malta, organized a workshop on the role of digital technologies adapted to the maritime transport sector. The event which took place on the 27th of February, brought together more than 60 national and European policy makers, such as Joe Mizzi, Maltese Minister for Transport, and representatives of the industry.

Moreover, Anna Maria Darmanin also represented the towage sector as an industry expert in the public hearing on shipping organized by the European Economic and Social Committee. ETA and its members had a quite important presence during the policy makers visit to the port of Antwerp where they could get on board a Kotug Smit tugboat or try the newest Multiraship portable simulator

You can read more about ETA participation in the 2017 European Shipping Week [here](#)

### The European Parliament Plenary supports including shipping emissions in the ETS

The Plenary of the European Parliament backed the plans to include shipping carbon emissions in the European Emissions Trading System, scheme if the IMO fails to implement a comparable system at the global level by 2023. The decision if implemented, would force shipping companies to buy ETS allowances from 2023 or pay an equivalent amount into a new Maritime Climate Fund. The initiative has been criticized by shipowners associations and IMO for it could jeopardize the EU IMO cooperation and international negotiations. Still, this initiative could be blocked by the Member States as MEPs will now enter into negotiations with the EU Council in order to reach a common agreement.

## The European Parliament ratifies the Free Trade Agreement with Canada



An ample majority of Members of the EU Parliament voted in favour of ratifying the CETA. The agreement will remove tariffs on most goods and services, removing trade barriers to EU companies both within the public and private sectors. Canada is the 10th EU biggest partner and CETA is expected to increase EU-Canadian trade by more than a 20% when the agreement is implemented. The deal could apply provisionally on the 1st of April at the earliest. Nevertheless, as CETA is a mixed agreement it has to be ratified by the 28 Member States.



## The EC will fund new partnerships to address skills gap in the maritime sector

The EC has recently opened a call for proposals under the Erasmus + to fund a public-private partnership aiming at tackling skills gaps in the maritime sector. This partnership will translate the industry's sectoral needs in terms of skills into a comprehensive strategy for skills development as well as concrete solutions, such as designing or updating curricula and qualifications. Find more information here



## Anna Maria Darmanin features in the latest edition of Tug Technology & Business magazine

ETA Secretary General, Anna Maria Darmanin was interviewed for the latest edition of Tug Technology & Business, the main international magazine on the towage sector. The publication's latest edition dedicated a prominent space to the European towage sector with several articles dedicated to it. Concerning the interview, Ms. Darmanin described the work ETA has carried out during the last years and the many issues affecting European towage operators. You can read the interview here

# Next events

**18-19 MAY**

EU Maritime Day Conference  
Poole, United Kingdom

**23-24 MAY**

Tugnology  
Rotterdam