

Newsletter July 2017

Estonia's Council Presidency includes the digitalisation of transport among its priorities

Estonia replaced Malta at the helm of the EU Council. Being an insular nation with a strong shipping history, Malta gave great relevance to maritime policy during its 6 months presidency. Estonia, for its part, as the tech-savviest EU Member State, shall use its Presidency as an opportunity to foster the transformative effects of digitalisation on society.

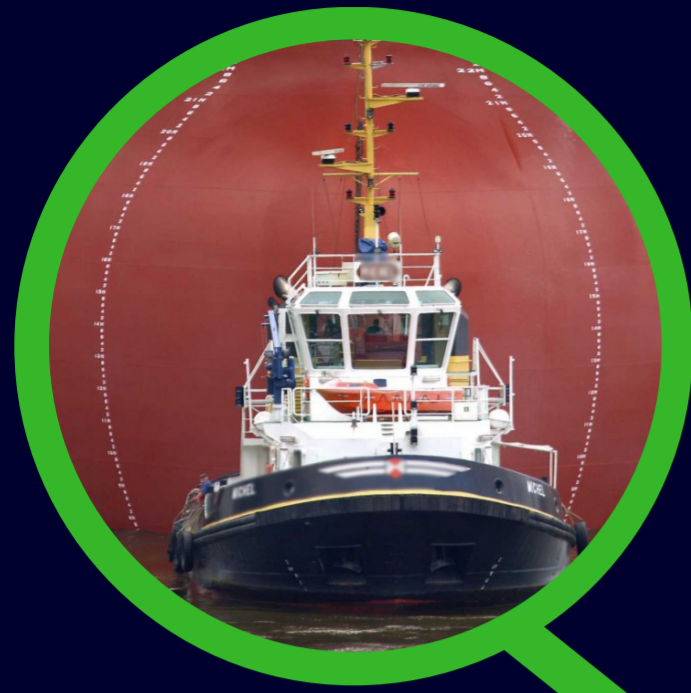
Digitalisation is one of the horizontal priorities for the Presidency, and thus, it will work to reach a set of Conclusions to "bring about further efficiency and administrative simplification within and between the transport modes". This Council work should be complemented by the European Commission with the presentation of the Reporting Formalities Directive revision proposal at the end of the year.

Moreover, the Estonian Presidency will steer the debates on the revision of the Port Reception Facilities Directive with an aim to achieve maximum progress and if possible, reaching an agreement.

The Estonian Presidency also intends to play an important part in facilitating the debate on the IMO's roadmap to address shipping emissions. The Presidency's goal is to "make good progress towards a proportional, yet ambitious global agreement".

Finally, the Presidency's agenda also foresees a debate on the the results of the mid-term review of the Connecting Europe Facility, which funds trans-European networks and infrastructures, and starting the discussions on the future financing framework for the TEN networks.

You can read the EU Council Presidency Programme on Transport [here](#)





IMO MEPC meeting moves one step closer towards an emissions reduction scheme

The IMO Marine and Environment Protection Committee met again at the beginning of July. The Committee addressed several hot topics as the adoption of new NOx emission control areas, the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention and made important progresses in the definition of an air pollution strategy.

- Ballast Water Management Convention: The MEPC delegates agreed on a series of amendments to the Convention aiming at reaching an efficient and pragmatic entry into force of the Convention, which is scheduled for the 8th of September. Moreover, several technical guidelines were approved.
- Reduction of shipping CO2 emissions: MEPC delegates approved the first steps towards an initial strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions, which should be approved in 2018. Besides agreeing on a schedule to draft the plan, the delegates also adopted the 7 headings of the scheme's text, such as the levels of ambition or barriers and supportive measures. These headings will be the foundations of the strategy.
- Implementation of the global sulphur limit: The MEPC reached an agreement on the schedule and scope of work needed to achieve consistent implementation of the 0.50% global sulphur limit in ships' oil. This limit shall come into force at the beginning of 2020. Furthermore, during the meeting, the North and Baltic seas were designated as emission control areas as from 1 January 2021.
- Energy efficiency measures for ships: With the entry into force of MARPOL Annex VI energy efficiency measures are mandatory for ships. In order to improve the efficiency of the implementation of this convention, MEPC adopted new guidelines for administration verification of ship fuel oil consumption data and the development and management of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database and made progresses on the definition of a design efficiency standard.
- You can read more on the decisions adopted at MEPC71 [here](#)



The EC selects 152 transport projects investing €2.7billion

The EC has recently published a list of 152 key European transport projects which will receive up to €2.7 billion. This investment is made under the Connecting Europe Facility, a funding programme aimed at supporting direct investment into European transport, energy and digital infrastructures to address and bottlenecks. Among other actions, the call selected the funding of the improvement of Lemesos Port-Vasiliko Terminal, the development of several Motorways of the Sea (Venice-Patras, Rostock-Hanko..) or the upgrade of the Rijeka's port infrastructure.

[Read the list of selected projects here](#)

Next events

21-22 Sept.

Connecting Europe
Conference
Tallin

27-28 Oct.

Pilotage/Towage Services and
Technologies Congress
Izmir

30 Nov.

FEPOR 3rd
Stakeholders' Conference
Brussels

