

## Newsletter March 2017

### ETA attends the Maritime Ministerial Stakeholders Joint Meeting in Malta

The European Tugowners Association Secretariat participated in the high level meeting which discussed the future of the EU shipping industry. The discussions analysed the current challenges affecting the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU maritime cluster. The event hosted the most relevant players within the sector representing the EU institutions, national governments and the industry. Among other participants, Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the IMO, Joe Mizzi, Maltese Minister of Transport or Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport attended the meeting.

Among other issues, the Commissioner defended the EU latest initiatives to lead the international process to reach a global emissions reduction agreement. Moreover, Commissioner Bulc advocated for establishing the highest standards concerning market access and competition at the EU and the international level.

Anna Maria Darmanin, who participated in the same panel, described the main issues affecting the EU tugowners as global competition or skills shortages and demanded further EU action to strengthen the competitiveness of the sector. Furthermore, Ms. Darmanin underlined how the towage sector is a EU based industry, where most of its technical development takes place.

### The Valletta Declaration outlines the priorities of the EU maritime policy up to 2020

The 28 national Ministers met on the 29th of March in Valletta to discuss and agree on a common vision for the future of the EU maritime policy. The Ministers backed a set of conclusions that will be the basis for EU maritime transport policy goals and priorities until 2020. These are the following:

- Competitiveness. The Declaration underlines the need for stable, predictable competitive framework conditions and international high standards.
- Digitalization as a way to reduce bureaucracy, increase efficiency and promote the development of new synergies.
- Decarbonization, the Ministers affirmed the strong support for an ambitious IMO strategy on reduction of emissions .

The meeting is one of the highlights of the Maltese Presidency, which is using its six months to put shipping and maritime policies back in the EU policy agenda. You can find the Valletta Declaration document [here](#).





## Anna Maria Darmanin participates in the last Associate Member´s Day of the International Salvage Union

ETA Secretary General, attended the 2017 Associate Member´s Day of the International Salvage Union, an organization of which ETA is an affiliate member. This year, ISU honoured the Italian Guardia Costiera for its heroic efforts saving the lives of thousands of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean Sea. During the meeting, ISU Secretariat and its associate members discuss the many issues affecting the salvage sector, from the financial performance of the industry to the technical challenges linked to wreck removal. Furthermore, the organization presented its 2016 statistics concerning pollution prevention services supplied by ISU members. The survey´s results show that there has been an important growth in the number of services which involved up to 2.5 million tonnes of potential pollutants. You can read the report [here](#).



## “I AM”, the Industry Alliance for Logistics and Connectivity agrees on priorities

During the first 2017 meeting, the 22 members of the newly-born I AM Industry Alliance of transport chain stakeholders have agreed upon their common vision regarding multimodality, connectivity, logistics and growth and decided to start to work on the following issues:

- Reduction of emissions: Decarbonisation, NOx and sulphur emissions;
- Intermodality: Combined Transport Directive, interoperability and Inland Waterways connections;
- Digitalization: E-transport documents and the Reporting Formalities Directive.

ETA is part of the Industry Alliance since its conception and actively participates in the definition of its views.

Find more information on I AM Alliance [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