

## Newsletter September 2017

### UNCTAD publishes its 2017 Review of Maritime Transport

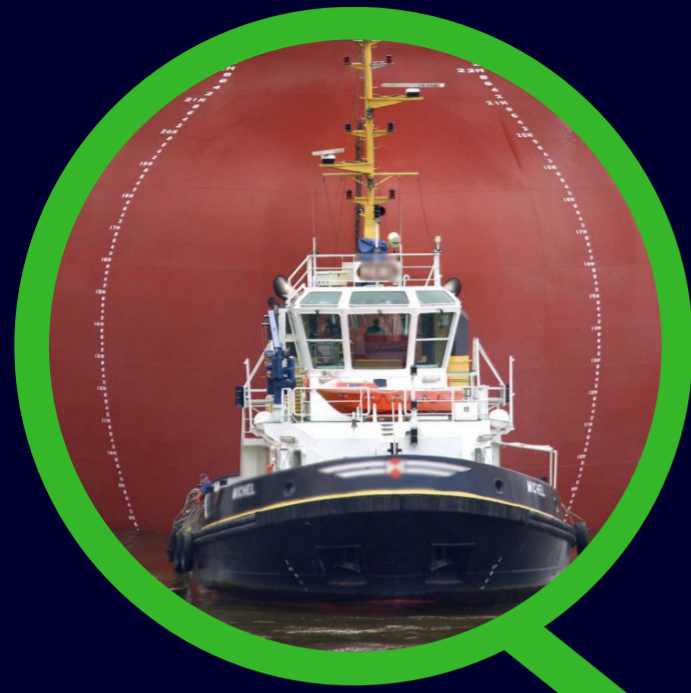
The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented the 2017 edition of its Review of Maritime Transport. The publication examines the current situation of the sector and the long-term prospects for seaborne trade.

This year edition underlines the moderate growth in the demand for shipping services in 2016. Global seaborne trade volumes expanded by 2.6%, up from 1.8% in 2015, still below the historical average of 3% registered during the last decades.

During the current decade, the growth of world trade has expanded at a slower pace compared to the global GDP growth levels. Demand for maritime transport services remains heavily dependent on the performance of the world economy, and last year, its growth was modest with a expansion of 2.2% down from 2.6% in 2015.

This small GDP growth had a negative effect on the world trade figures that experienced a limited increase of 1.9%. Trade growth was also weak in relation to world GDP growth, following the downward trend that began with the financial crisis. The report mentions “cyclical factors such as the weakness in global demand and the slowdown in economic activity, and structural factors such as the slowdown in the pace of globalization and supply chain fragmentation” as the cause for the slow growth of global trade. World seaborne trade shipments are expected to grow marginally in 2017. Still, developments like the Economic Partnership Agreement concluded between the European Union and Japan, the CETA Agreement between the EU and Canada which is provisionally into force since September or the effects of Brexit could have a big impact on the global, and especially on the EU maritime trade sector.

Find [here](#) the publication.





## The EU hosts Our Ocean international conference in Malta and leads the global action for cleaner and safer seas

The fourth edition of the Our Ocean International Conference took place in Malta at the beginning of October. Hosted this year by the EU, this event brings together politicians, academics and NGOs to discuss on the future of seas. This year edition outcome was a big success as the commitments and financial pledges made by the participating governments and organizations were unprecedented.

The European Union committed to 36 tangible actions to foster healthier, cleaner, safer and more secure seas. These initiatives, amounting to over €550 million and involving activities worldwide send a positive signal of encouragement to the rest of the world. Together with its individual EU Member States and the European Investment Bank, the EU pledged over EUR 2.8 billion, more than half of the funds raised during the conference.

Concerning the EU led actions, among other initiatives, the Union will develop new ship surveillance tools, strengthen the support for the digitalization of the maritime sector and facilitate the cooperation of the EU maritime authorities.

You can find the list of initiatives [here](#).



## ETA Secretary General participates in the Pilotage and Towage Service Congress in Izmir

Anna Maria Darmanin was one of the main keynote speakers during the 2017 Pilotage/Towage Services and Technologies Congress which took place in the Turkish city of Izmir at the end of October. In her presentation, Ms Darmanin described the work carried out by ETA; the EU maritime policy priorities; and initiatives and the trends affecting the towage sector. Moreover, she also moderated a debate on the present and future of tug building industry.

ETA members Uzmar and Sanmar, who are also sponsors of the event, were the speakers on this panel whereby they took this opportunity to present their research and development work. The event represented an excellent opportunity to discuss the challenges affecting the industry, and to have a deeper insight of the Turkish maritime industry.

# Next events

## 9 November

Portopia Final Event  
9th November  
Brussels

## 30 November

FREPORT 3rd  
Stakeholders' Conference  
Brussels