

Newsletter December 2017

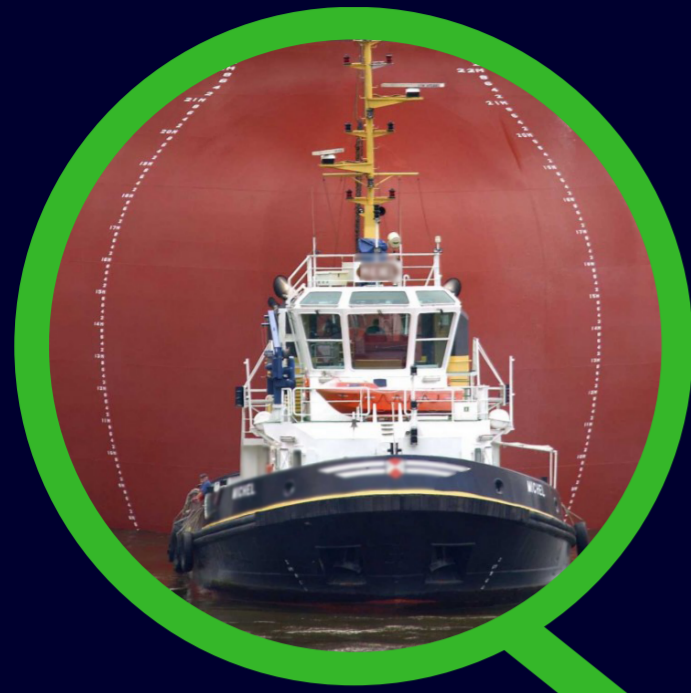
The Council calls for a new Digitalization Strategy

EU Member States represented in the Council of the EU agreed on a set of conclusions concerning the digitalization of the transport sector.

The text acknowledges the challenges and gaps the EU has to address to lead and foster the digitalization process. The document calls on the EU Commission to develop a European strategy on this matter for the first quarter of 2019. Moreover, it demands the Commission to work at IMO level to promote and define an international regulatory framework to facilitate the uptake of IT technologies on ships and the development of autonomous vessels.

The European Commission has addressed the transport sector digitalisation in several policy documents on other issues, but it has never published a comprehensive and multimodal strategy on this specific matter. For example, digitalization is one of the main topics of the 2016 revision of the EU Maritime Strategy.

In the same Council meeting, national ministers adopted Conclusions on the progress of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The conclusions examine the future investment needs and priorities for EU transport infrastructure. Among other points, the Council members demand a reinforcement of the Connecting Europe Facility as the strategic EU investment instrument for the realisation of the trans-European networks.





EU and Japan finalise the Economic Partnership Agreement

After years of intense negotiations, Japan and the EU concluded the final discussions on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The way to this historical agreement was paved by the political compromise adopted in July within the framework of the EU-Japan Summit. Japan is the EU 6th most important trading partner worldwide and the predicted increase of EU exports to Japan is between 16% and 24%. The agreement will remove the vast majority of duties and tariffs, as well as a number of regulatory barriers. The EPA also opens up services markets, in particular financial services, transport and guarantees EU companies access to procurement markets in 48 large cities.

After technical work (translation and legal verification), the EU Commission will submit the text to the approval of the EU Parliament and EU Member States. The date of entry into force is foreseen for 2019.



ETA joins Women in Transport EU Platform

ETA, together with the main shipping stakeholders signed the Declaration on equal opportunities for women and men in the transport sector, a list of commitments shared by private and institutional players in the EU transport sector to highlight the need for gender equality. At the same time, ETA participated in the launching of the Women in Transport EU Platform. The Platform brings together EU institutions, national governments and a big number of EU transport associations.

This new initiative aims at raising awareness about gender inequality in the sector and improving the opportunities for women. The platform will also act as a catalyst for good practice exchange and policy debate.



IMO Assembly adopts its Strategic Vision for 2018-2023

The new IMO Assembly's strategic plan includes a revised mission statement, a vision statement, and seven newly-identified strategic directions for IMO. The documents are in line with the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IMO's vision statement foresees the organization upholding "its leadership role as the global regulator of shipping, promote greater recognition of the sector's importance and enable the advancement of shipping, whilst addressing the challenges of continued developments in technology and world trade; and the need to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Next events

22 March

Transport & Logistics Conference 2018
Brussels

16-18 May

ETA 55th Annual Meeting
Antwerp

