



Newsletter May 2018

ETA returned to Antwerp for its 55th Annual Meeting

ETA 55th Annual Meeting took place in Antwerp where it returned after 19 years. More than 150 people attended the annual event, making this edition one of the biggest in the history of the Association together with the one of last year in Trieste.

During the three days, both the Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting delegates discussed the current situation of the towage sector and the future actions of ETA. They also reviewed the work carried out by the Secretariat during the last year.

The Annual General Meeting attendants also welcomed the new ETA full member delegates representing making the ETA membership reach the record number of 86 full members in 25 countries. Moreover, 6 new associated members joined ETA in the last year making ETA membership cover different maritime sectors, from shipyards and marine supplies to law firms and shipbrokers.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by the ETA Conference “Towage and digitalization” which showcased the many ways how the adoption of digital technologies may affect the towage sector and how the industry can reap the benefits thereof.

The ETA Secretariat thanks all delegates, guests and speakers for their attendance and active participation in another successful Annual Meeting. On top of that, we want to express our gratitude to all sponsors for their invaluable contribution that made possible the organization of our annual event.





EU reduces shipping pollution in European coastlines

The EU Commission presented its first report on the compliance with the Sulphur Directive. The report shows how the shipping emissions have fallen substantially, in particular in those areas where there are stricter limits in force, such as the North and Baltic Seas. EU action has more than halved sulphur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations.

According to the report, the main reasons for this success are the following:

- EU support mechanisms and technical assistance
- Combination of voluntary and mandatory tools
- EU financial support for the uptake of clean ship technologies
- Synergies with the IMO

You can read the EC report [here](#)

The EC reaches an agreement on trade with Mexico



The EU and Mexico reached an "agreement in principle" on the revision of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement. This will make almost all trade in goods between the EU and Mexico duty-free, including in the agricultural and food sectors, pharmaceuticals, machinery and transport equipment.

The agreement will also simplify customs procedures, reduce non-tariff obstacles and open Mexican public contracts to EU companies. The new agreement will also further liberalise trade in services, specifically in the the transport sector.

Still, there are technical details that need to be tied up. The agreement's full legal text is expected to be finalised by the end of the year and further on the EC will submit it for approval by the EU Parliament and the Council.

Moreover, the EC moved closer to the conclusion of the trade agreements with Japan and Singapore. Once approved by the Council, the agreements will be sent to the European Parliament, aiming for their entry into force before the end of the current mandate of the European Commission in 2019.

Next events

25 -29 June

International Tug, Salvage
and OSV Convention
Marseille