

Newsletter

November 2018

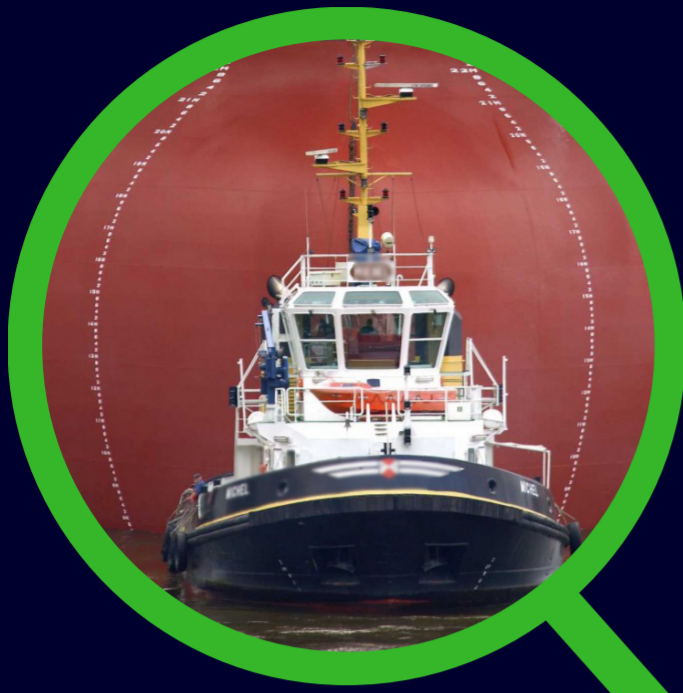
ETA organised its first Autumn Conference in London

London hosted the first ETA Autumn Conference on the 14th of November. With more than 70 participants, there was a clear indication of an interest within the industry in having further specialized events focused on the present and future of the towage sector.

The first edition of the ETA Autumn Conference was dedicated to the different aspects affecting the return on investment in towage companies, such as environmental and safety innovations. The participants had the opportunity to listen, network and discuss with a panel of experts on how the early adoption of technologies can have a direct positive effect on the bottom line of a company.

Speakers from leading companies, from shipyards and ship designers like Damen, Robert Allan, Sanmar or Uzmar, to engineering firms like Caterpillar, MTU or Rolls Royce among others, debated how the investment in technology can help companies, not only reaching the highest environmental or safety standards, but also increase the profitability of their operations.

ETA Secretariat thanks all attendants and speakers for their participation and plans to make this Conference an annual event and to enlarge its scope to reach other players of the maritime sector.





EMSA publishes its Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents 2018

The European Maritime Safety Agency has issued its Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents. The report contains statistics on marine casualties and incidents that involve ships flying a flag of one of the EU Member States, occur within EU Member States' territorial sea and internal waters as defined in UNCLOS or involve other substantial interests of the EU Member States.

The publication reveals that the number of very serious casualties has been decreasing since 2014 with 74 reported in 2017. Moreover there were 62 fatalities and 61 ships were lost. Regarding service ships, among which tugboats, there were no ship losses in 2017 but the number of fatalities remained identical. In total seven tugs sunk in the 2011-2017 period. You can find the report [here](#)



Maritime industry and trade unions partner up to EU Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills

Representatives and social partners of the maritime industry signed the EU Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills. The document assesses the current skills gaps and their effects in the sector, and especially the impact new technologies are causing on workers and companies. Moreover, it develops a sectoral skills strategy and identifies priorities and concrete solutions.

This shipping sector Blueprint will be implemented via the Skillsea project, an Erasmus + funded action. The project will identify and meet the future skills needs of the maritime sector and aims to attract greater numbers of people to work in the industry. The four year project consortium brings together the European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) with up to 27 national maritime authorities, shipping companies, maritime trade unions, education institutions, etc.



The ITF publishes a study on the impact of alliances in container shipping

The International Transport Forum, an OECD body dedicated to the study of transport policy, published a report on the impact of alliances on the maritime transport chain and its main stakeholders.

The study analyses the big leverage that global alliances have and the effects this asymmetric bargaining power has on ports and port services, including towage. The report finds that alliances have fostered destructive competition between ports and port operators, reducing their rates of return on investment. You can find the study [here](#)

Next events

20 March

ISU Associate members meeting

London