



Newsletter October 2019

The EU makes new commitments for clean, healthy and safe oceans

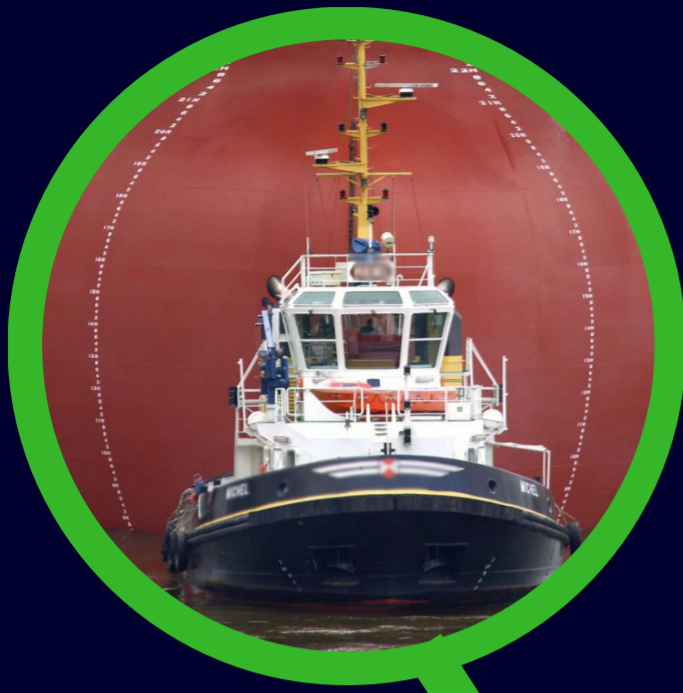
The European Union announced a list of 22 new commitments at the 2019 edition of Our Ocean conference, which took place in Oslo, Norway on the 23-24 October. These EU commitments aim to strengthen ocean governance, in particular with regard to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The 22 EU commitments consist of concrete actions with a total budget of almost €540 million to tackle key ocean challenges, such as the impact of climate change and to promote the development of the sustainable blue economy. Some of these commitments have a direct impact on the towage sector:

Supporting ocean research: Under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation program, €250 million will be dedicated to boost new technologies for tackling marine pollution or decarbonising shipping.

Boosting the blue economy and innovation: more than €100 million will be dedicated to promote research and the further development of a blue economy in Europe.

Fighting against marine pollution by promoting the reduction of waste generated on board ships and managing of waste in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner.





New European research programme shall fund green shipping innovation

The European Commission and Member States approved in principle the establishment of a co-programmed partnership zero-emission waterborne transport in the framework of Horizon Europe (the EU's future research and innovation programme).

This partnership is key as it will allow the strategic European waterborne transport sector to develop knowledge, technologies and solutions that will enable zero emission shipping for all ship types and ship services.

A co-programmed European Partnership is a public-private partnership between the EU, Member States, and/or other stakeholders, based on Memoranda of Understanding. This Partnerships pool public and private resources to tackle the biggest challenges and encourage greater private investment in research and innovation.

EU member states agree on CO₂ data collection rules

Ambassadors of EU states agreed on updating rules for the maritime transport sector in order to partially align the European rules with the global data collection system for ship fuel oil consumption of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The main objective of this initiative is to amend the EU MRV Regulation in order to take appropriate account of the new global IMO DCS, with a view to allow for streamlining and reducing administrative burdens for companies and administrations, while preserving the objectives of the EU MRV Regulation. The Council also added a clause which asks the Commission to review the functioning of the regulation and take action if necessary. The EU Parliament still has to reach a position on this dossier.

ECSA publishes two strategic documents on shipping policy and maritime jobs

The European Community Shipowners Association published its Strategic priorities for EU shipping policy 2019-2024. The publication outlines ten priority areas which the European shipping industry will be focusing on, these are following: Climate and sustainability, trade, competitiveness, internal market, innovation and digitalization, human resources, safety, legal affairs, taxation and better regulation.

Moreover, the Association published as well its Maritime growth plan for sustainable maritime jobs, growth and competitiveness. The document gives a holistic and common EU vision for actions to be taken at EU, national and local levels in fields such as skills, gender diversity, social dialogue, mobility, or labour conditions.

Next events

7-9 October 5-8 November 7 November

Digital Transport Days
Helsinki

Europort
Rotterdam

ETA 2nd Autumn Conference
Rotterdam