



# Newsletter

## November 2019

### Rotterdam hosted a successful ETA 2nd Autumn Conference

ETA 2nd Autumn Conference was a big success with more than 100 attendants representing the towage industry and its suppliers. The event gathered ETA full and associate members and stakeholders from the maritime and logistics sectors. The presentations and debates focused on successful business models in these two industries. The panellists analysed the current situation of the European towage sector and the necessary steps it will have to take in order to adapt to the disruptive changes posed by digitalization, emissions reductions and the impact of megaships.

Arnstein Eknes (DNV GL) described the disruptive impact digitalization shall have in the towage industry. Mr Eknes advocated for a smart use of digital technologies as the best way to remain competitive while reducing emissions and increasing the safety of operations.

Marten van den Bossche, (Ecorys) analysed shipping industry future from a maritime business management perspective. His presentation focused on the impact of shipping lines and megaships and how sectors like port towage are coping with the big changes posed by these business trends.

Ewout Mante (IT consultant) gave a pretty enthralling presentation on the disruptive effects of digitalization in our societies and economies.

The ETA Secretariat thanks all participants and speakers for their attendance in a successful 2nd Autumn Conference. ETA is looking forward to organizing new events in order to engage and enrich the debates on the future of shipping.





## The European Commission proposes to extend Consortia Block Exemption

The European Commission (EC) has proposed to extend the Regulation exempting liner shipping consortia from EU antitrust rules. The EC services have concluded that this legislation is effective and generates efficiency gains for the EU maritime industry and the European consumers. If approved the extension would be in force for another four years until 2024.

The EC has conducted a study to analyse the BER efficiency and opened a public consultation to collect data from companies, stakeholders or national competition authorities. According to the evaluation, "the market conditions of the liner-shipping sector still appear to necessitate the existence of a sector-specific BER. Therefore, we propose that the BER application period should be prolonged".

ETA in its response to the public consultation late last year called for amendments to be done so as to improve the regulation. However, the Commission has proposed to prolong the Consortia BER without any amendments, therefore dismissing the concerns of the wider maritime community. ETA is currently preparing a response in reply to the public consultation on the Roadmap and the draft regulation.

## Adina Ioana Valean is elected Transport Commissioner and new EC takes office

The new European Commission began its new term on the 1st of December under the leadership of EC President Ursula von der Leyen. The Romanian politician Adina Ioana Valean is the new Transport Commissioner as she received the support of the Transport European Parliament Committee. She is an expert in EU affairs as she has been an MEP for the last 12 years and a European Parliament Vice President during the last 2. During her hearing at the EP, Commissioner Valean reiterated the EC plans to extend the EU ETS to shipping emissions and promised a stronger EU action at the IMO level.

## IMO to urge member states to develop emissions reduction National Action Plans

The IMO Intersessional Working Group on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships met in November to further define the measures to be taken in order to implement its initial ship emission reduction strategy.

Among other discussions, the working group debated and agreed on a resolution text to be adopted by the next Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) on National Action Plans. The text urges IMO Member States to develop and update voluntary National Action Plan with a view to reducing shipping emissions and contributing to the IMO goals.

# Next events

17-21 February

European Shipping Week  
Brussels

27-29 May

ETA 57th Annual Meeting  
Cork

