



# Newsletter March 2020

## ETA 57th Annual Meeting postponed due to COVID-19 crisis

We are very disappointed to inform you that the ETA Board has taken the decision to postpone our Annual General Meeting in Cork at the end of May 2020, until further notice.

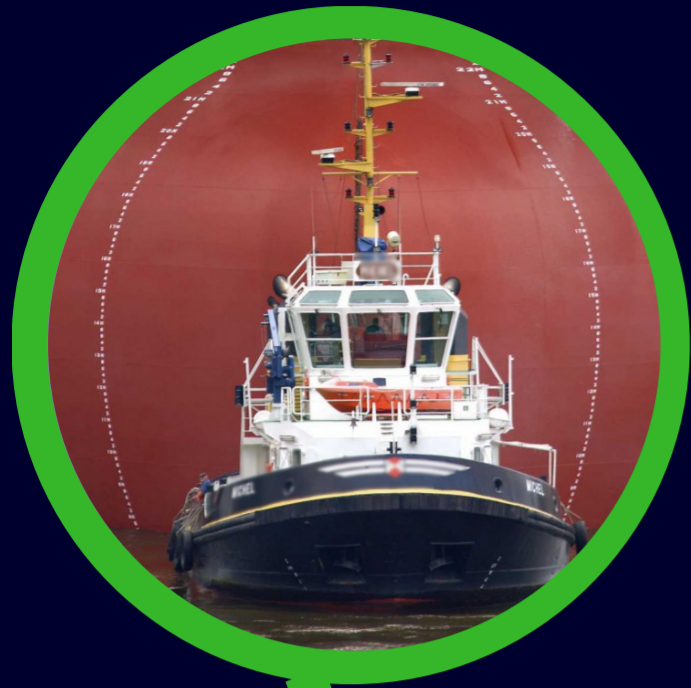
We are living in extraordinary times, and we do not know when things will return to normal. Covid-19 has taken all of us by surprise and has changed the way of living and working for all of us for the foreseeable future.

It is for this reason that we will not be setting a date for our Annual Meeting just yet. We will monitor the situation and then plan the Annual General Meeting accordingly - possibly to be held in Autumn 2020. We will keep you updated as soon as we have further news.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mainport, our hosts, who have been working hard on the preparation for this meeting. We look forward to being in Cork once we have new dates.

Once again, we offer ETA's to all of you. If you require our assistance please feel free to contact the Secretariat.

We are looking forward to meeting you in due course in Ireland and we wish you all the best in these challenging times.







## COVID-19: Transport keeps us going

ETA together with 34 organizations has presented the Declaration “Transport keep us going” highlighting the vital role transport plays in the coronavirus crisis.

“The crucial role for our society that the transport and logistics sectors play role are evidenced even more in times of crisis like the unprecedented one we are living. Thus, it essential to define and implement the right EU and national policies to keep the uninterrupted flow of merchandise in Europe. Moreover, we must recognize transport sector workers´ huge contribution to keep our economies working. Without their efforts our citizens, health services and factories could not receive the essential supplies to face the crisis we are living. Therefore, we urge Member States

to follow the EU Commission recommendations to ensure the free transport of goods across EU internal borders,” comments Anna Maria Darmanin, ETA Secretary General.

The Declaration calls for smooth border crossings for freight transport, both intra-EU and with third countries, urge policymakers to assists the heavily affected transport sector in its recover among other measures. You can read the Declaration [here](#) .



## EU Ministers adopt the Opatija Declaration on the on future of waterborne transport

The informal meeting of EU Transport Ministers, held in Opatija, Croatia, was the occasion to adopt the declaration for "a carbon-neutral, accident-free, automated and competitive EU maritime transport sector.

The meeting was an opportunity to kick off the review of the EU maritime policy and adapt it to this decade challenges. Among these, the ministers chose environmental protection, digitisation, human resources, security and competitiveness as the main themes for a new

European maritime strategy.

COVID-19 was of course one of the main issues discussed during the meeting. The Ministers concluded that it is necessary to stand in solidarity with the affected member states and guarantee the uninterrupted cross-border transport of goods.



## Supply chain Stakeholders alert President von der Leyen about their disapproval of the Consortia BER extension

ETA together with its stakeholders CLECAT, ESC, ETF and FEPORT, on behalf of thousands of European freight forwarders, tugowners, shippers and port companies and terminals and transport workers, have sent a letter to the President of the Commission, Ms Ursula Von der Leyen to express the strong disapproval of the decision to prolong the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER) with another four years without any changes.

DG Competition rejected the association´s repeated request that the Commission only prolongs the CBER for one year. This would have allowed a thorough, fair and more balanced review, taking into account other sources of data than those provided by the representatives of the liner shipping industry.

The associations have underlined that, in light of the important changes in the market (in view of consolidation, vertical integration and digitalization) over the last five years, it was important to protect the interests of the EU logistics and supply chains.

