



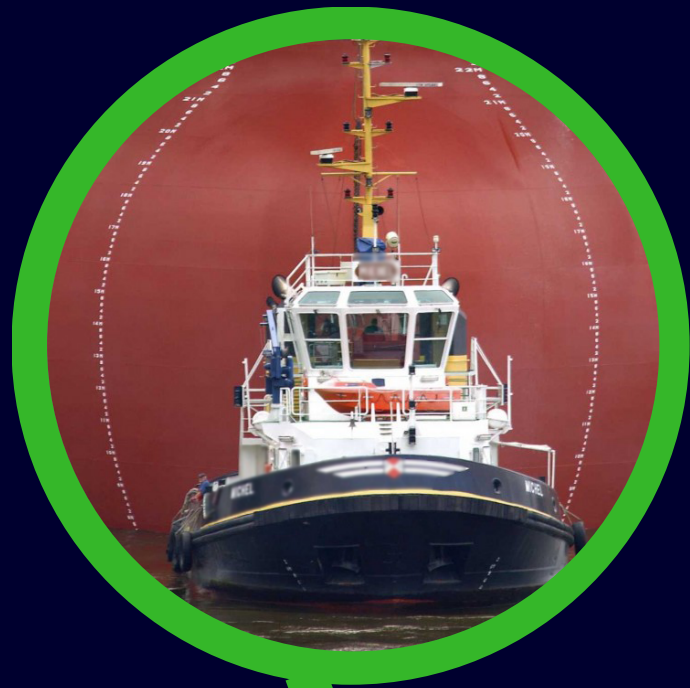
Newsletter August 2020

ETA contributes to the Roadmap on EU Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility

ETA participated in the public consultation on the Roadmap on the next EU Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility. The strategy should ensure that the Union develops a transport sector fit for a clean, digital and modern economy. A key element of the upcoming strategy will be the production and deployment of sustainable alternative transport fuels. In parallel, the Commission wants to adapt the existing legislation like the 2014 Alternative fuels infrastructure directive and the 2013 Trans-European transport network regulation to preserve coherence and increase the impact of these policy and legislative initiatives.

Concerning the EU Strategy, ETA advocates for technology neutrality, as it is still unclear what the best fuel option will ultimately be. So far, not one of the existing technologies has clearly come out as the one that will represent the future and satisfy all the criteria related to the reduction of emissions. This technology neutrality should be complemented with the right Research and Development funding and the simplification of administrative procedures to facilitate the participation of innovative companies in these funding calls. These innovative companies, or early adopters should have legal certainty that their investments in green tugs are not put into risk with a sudden change of legislation concerning alternative fuels. Furthermore, early movers should be encouraged and such positive behaviour needs to be supported.

Finally, ETA underlined the essential role which digitalization will have in the coming years and how this, together with safety should be at the core of the EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. This document is expected to be published before the end of the year and should be the political foundation for a series of legislative initiatives on different fields like alternative fuels infrastructure or transport public investment.





Phil Hogan, Irish EC Trade Commissioner resigns

Irish EC Commissioner for Trade, Phil Hogan resigned after he admitted his involvement into a scandal in his home country. The Irish politician attended a golf dinner with more than 80 people in Galway and did not respect the quarantine rules when he arrived to Brussels.

The breaching of these rules has caused a public outrage in Ireland, forcing the Commissioner to resign. At the moment the Irish government has not chosen a new candidate to replace Phil Hogan.

Moreover, it is still unclear whether the EC President, Ursula von der Leyen will reshuffle her cabinet, choosing a non Irish commissioner for the Trade portfolio and giving the new Commissioner a different role in the EC. This possibility would be quite a blow for Ireland in view of the delicate Brexit discussions. The new Trade Commissioner will have to deal with important negotiations in the next months, like the trade discussions with the United Kingdom, the ratification of the FTAs with Mercosur or Canada or ending the trade disputes with the USA.

The EC publishes a progress report on the completion of TEN-T Network



The EC presented a progress report on the work done to implement the trans-European transport network (TEN-T). Significant progress was made during the reporting period, 2016 and 2017. This achievement is linked to the huge investment of EU funds in the TEN-T network: more than €91 billion during the two years. The highest share of this investment (€80 billion), has been used in the core network, which shall link the most important EU transport nodes. Further progress is expected as the TEN-T deadlines of 2030 (for the completion of the core network) and 2050 (to finish the comprehensive network) approach.

You can find the document [here](#)

EU Commission presents its study on sustainable corporate governance



The EC published the findings of its study on directors' duties and sustainable corporate governance. The document shows that listed companies within the EU still tend to focus on short-term benefits of shareholders rather than on the long-term interests of companies. This study will help the EC to find the root causes of 'short-termism' and identify possible EU-level solutions, it also works as a first step to develop a EU policy on sustainable corporate governance.

The publication finds that the most prevalent issues are:

The data assessed by the study indicates a clear upward trend in corporate payouts to shareholders compared to revenues, while the ratio of investment to revenues has been declining. Its main findings suggest that there is growing pressure from investors as well as a lack of a strategic perspective over sustainability risks, impacts, and opportunities.

You can find the study [here](#)