



Newsletter

June 2018

ETA once again supported the ITS convention

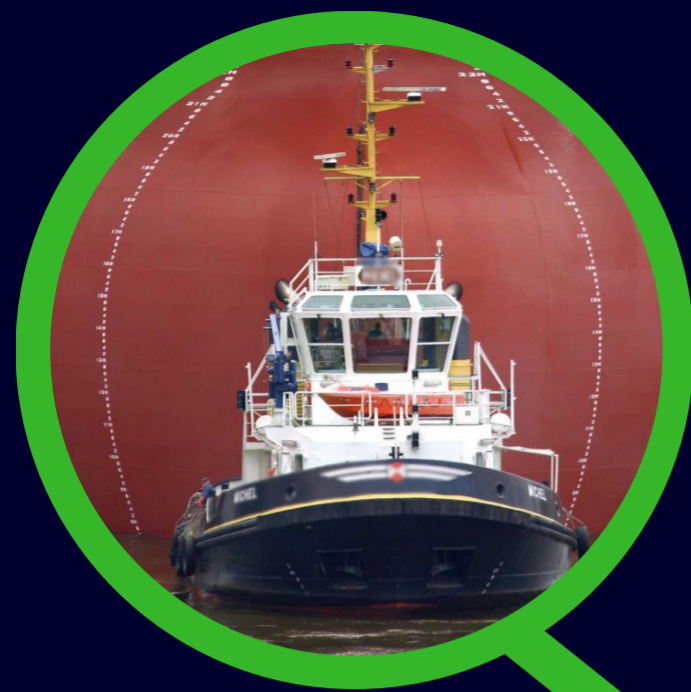
ETA Secretariat and members had a strong participation in the 25th edition of the ITS convention, which this year took place in Marseille.

During ITS two of ETA members, Chairman Leendert Muller and Jimmy Iskes, together with a few other representatives of the sector, were honoured with an award for longstanding support to ITS.

The convention organisation was immaculate and very well attended. The papers presented during the three days event were of a very high level. A number of ETA associate members also exhibited their products and latest technological developments.

Of particular interest were the presentations about the current situation in the harbour towage sector in Europe. Also a paper on the weak links on vessels which affect towage, this is very much in line with the work the NTC of ETA is currently doing in relation to bollards and leads.

As a summary of the papers presented it seems clear that the tug of the future will be one which can be operated remotely and which would be using electricity as its main energy source.



The EU launches Free Trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand



The EU Commission keeps on implementing its trade strategy with the opening of trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand. The aim of this process is to reach a broad free trade agreement with the two Oceanic nations, removing tariffs and technical barriers to trade in goods and services and opening the markets to European operators.

At the moment, the EU is Australia's second biggest trade partner after China with a trade flow of €47.7bn and New Zealand's third biggest one after China and Australia. Both countries are among the world's fastest-growing developed economies. Since the EU does not yet have a preferential bilateral trade arrangement with the two countries, EU companies have currently less favourable conditions to access these markets.

A trade agreement with New Zealand and Australia would provide EU firms with a level playing field. According to the EU Commission plans, these Free Trade Agreements would boost EU trade in goods to Australia in a 37% and to New Zealand in a 47%.

The EC presents its legislative proposal for a European Maritime Single Window environment



The EU Commission has recently published its Reporting Formalities Directive revision proposal which will regulate all ship reporting formalities in the EU. The proposal harmonizes the set of data for ship reporting at European level and maintains national single windows as the entry points for ship reporting. Under the Commission proposal, Member States are responsible for the development, maintenance, security and operation of their National Single Windows.

This revision would imply a significant reduction in administrative burdens for shipping operators while improving the efficiency of maritime transport.

New legislative proposal to simplify rules on seafarers' training and certification

The EU Commission presented its new legislative proposal to simplify and update the EU regulatory framework on seafarers' training and certification, including the mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates issued by Member States.

The main goal is to align the EU rules to the latest updates of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

Next events

27 November

Women in Transport
1st Anniversary Conference
Brussels