



Newsletter February 2021

ETA webinar: Sector experiences with LNG and hybrid tugs

ETA organised its first 2021 webinar on the 17th of February. The event was dedicated to the sector's experiences with LNG and hybrid tugs. 90 participants representing the towage industry and its suppliers followed a rich discussion on the adoption of these greener technologies.

Vetle J. Sverdrup – Buksér og Berging AS presented the company's experience with LNG tugs. The company has recorded important CO₂ and NO_x emissions reductions during the last years.

Koos Smoor – Kotug International focused on hybrid tugs and the many ways crew and technical staff need to adapt to this technology.

Geert Vandecappelle – Boluda Europe described the diverse benefits of hybrid technologies, from CO₂ and NO_x reductions (30% – 35% in both cases) to improved fuel economy and maintenance savings.

Celine Audenaerdt – Port of Antwerp highlighted the port's role as a renewable energy hub and as a towage operator and described the plans to reduce the carbon emissions of its fleet.

Roxana Caliminte – Gas Infrastructure Europe described the availability of LNG in European ports, and underlined the importance of European legislation to enhance the role of LNG terminals as an essential factor to green the shipping industry.

The ETA Secretariat and Board thanks all participants and speakers for a successful and very interesting webinar. . We are looking forward to meeting our members again in our next webinar in April. You can find the presentations [here](#).





The EU Parliament Transport Committee adopts its report on greener maritime transport

The Transport Committee of the European Parliament (EP) approved the Delli Report on more efficient and cleaner maritime transport. The document, proposed by the Committee Chair, Karima Delli, highlights the role of short sea shipping in reducing emissions and reaching the EU modal shift objectives, as this option would reduce road congestion, removing thousands of trucks from European motorways.

Moreover, the report calls on the EU Commission (EC) to use the upcoming FuelEU Maritime initiative as a tool to reduce the carbon intensity of fuels and foster the implementation of technical and operational measures that would improve the efficiency of ships.

Among other measures, the document recommends to reduce the threshold for financing small-scale projects by the European Investment Bank, or the establishment of a network to exchange good practices on how to adapt the workforce to the new digital or green needs. Transport MEPs also call on the EC to develop a strategy on zero-emission ports, which would support the use of on shore power supply from clean electricity. These measures should be complemented by a EU action to regulate EU port access for the most polluting ships.



IMO announces World Maritime Theme for 2021

The IMO is dedicating its World Maritime Day 2021 to seafarers with the theme "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future". The occasion aims to highlight their central role in the future of shipping while increasing the visibility of their essential work, especially during the current times as they have faced unprecedented hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the year, the World Maritime Theme will also put the spotlight on other issues related to the human element of shipping, including the safety and security of life on board ships, seafarers' well-being, and the importance of ensuring an appropriately trained and qualified workforce.



The European Parliament approves Recovery and Resilience Facility

The European Parliament endorsed the agreement on the Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). With a budget of EUR 672.5 billion, the RRF is the EU's main instrument to recover from the crisis caused by COVID-19.

This instrument has been designed to fund specific projects that support and foster a green transition, the digital transformation, economic cohesion, and competitiveness as well as institutions' crisis-preparedness. These projects should be part of a coherent National Recovery and Resilience Plan that need to get the green light by the EU Commission.

ETA with other European associations representing transport, infrastructure managers, operators, workers in all transport modes and logistics, ports, inland waterway etc. signed a manifesto calling on Member States and the European Commission to ensure that the transport sector receives adequate consideration in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans.

The document asks EU Member States to put forward in their plans measures that facilitate economically and socially sustainable transport, actions that promote cohesion and connectivity, more support for a just green transition, as well as measures preparing the transport workforce for the digital transformation based on an inclusive social dialogue.