

Newsletter March 2021

ETA Chairman and several members participate in the ITS Tugtechnology webinar week

ETA was among the ITS Tugtechnology Webinar Week's supporting organisations, a series of online seminars organized by Riviera Maritime Media. The webinars focused on green marine propulsion, tug classification, design and safety, and the digitization of towage.

ETA Chairman, Capt. Kimmo Lehto gave an overview of the European towage industry's current situation and described the many factors tugowners must take into account when going green. Among these, Capt. Lehto underlined the discrepancies and lack of coherence between local, national, European and international legislation on emissions, as the EU, the IMO and national authorities have different scopes and are implementing measures at different paces.

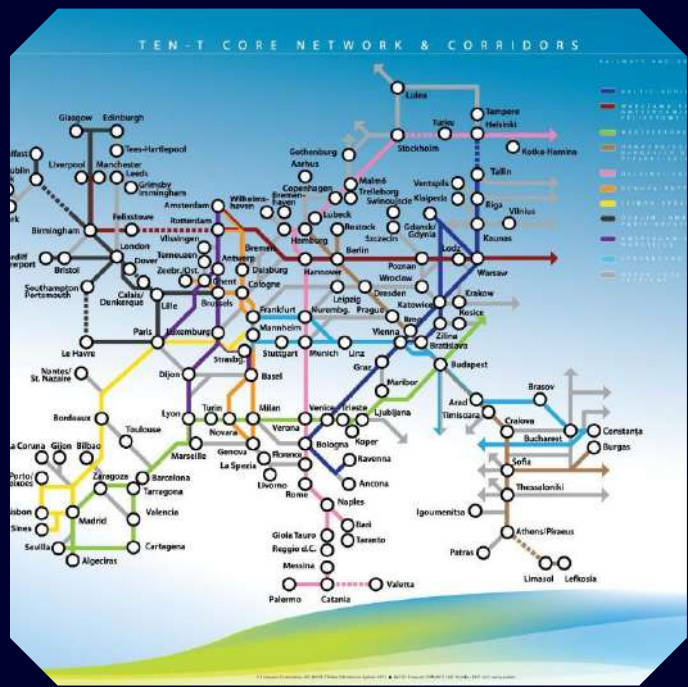
Moreover, Geert Vandecappelle CEO of Boluda Towage Europe gave a snapshot of the diverse actions taken by the company in order to reduce its carbon footprint, as the use of hybrid propulsion systems, the retrofitting of tugboats and the adoption of more efficient operations.

The second webinar focused on tug design and safety. Lawren Best, Director of Design Development at Robert Allan Ltd. described the measures taken by the company to better inform crews about safe operational stability limits, as for example, placards adapted in every tugboat and the provision of electronic inclinometers.

Scott Baker, Head of Marine Standards at Svitzer outlined the challenges faced by the tugowners due to the continuous increase of ships size. As the life cycle of tugboats is longer than container vessels some of those tugs have difficulties to cope with the bigger ships, forcing owners to constantly renew the fleets.

The third webinar dedicated to smart tugs offered attendees insights on the importance of digital technologies to collect data that can be used to improve towage operations and help companies in their decision making. Thus, Jeremy Hartings, Services Delivery Manager at Caterpillar underlined the company's large experience in the development of shipping software and services for its costumers. Software that can help owners turn data into decisions, identifying anomalies and acting on them.





The EU institutions agree on the new Connecting Europe Facility rules and budget

The European Parliament and the Council agreed on the new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for the 2021-2027 period. This EU fund will be worth €33.7 billion and supports investment in Europe's transport, energy and digital infrastructure networks.

The CEF reserves €25.8bn, to fund smart and sustainable transport projects. This amount is 1.75bn higher than in the previous financial period 2014-2020. CEF funding focuses on cross-border projects and actions aiming at removing bottlenecks in sections of the Trans-European Transport Networks.

The Motorways of the Sea are the maritime embodiment of these Trans-European networks.

CEF Transport also supports innovation in the transport system in order to reduce the environmental impact of transport, enhance energy efficiency and increase safety.



IMO Study: Shipping emissions rose by 9,6% between 2012 and 2018

IMO published its Fourth Green House Gas Study which shows a 9.6% increase in shipping emissions, mostly due to the continuous increase of global maritime trade. The study estimates that shipping emitted 1,056 million tons of CO₂ in 2018, compared to 977 tonnes in 2012. This amount accounts for about 2.89% of the total global CO₂ emissions in that year.

The study also includes data on the carbon intensity of maritime transport as well. The shipping sector's carbon intensity as a whole, and for most ship types has fallen between 2012 and 2018. This carbon intensity, as an average for all types of shipping was between 21% and 29% lower than in 2008, when the CO₂ emissions reached 794 million tonnes.

The document also demonstrates that the IMO's 2050 green house gas reduction ambitions cannot be reached only through energy-saving technologies and speed reduction of ships. Therefore, the adoption of greener technologies and alternative fuels will be essential to fulfill these objectives. You can find the study [here](#).



The International Salvage Union presents its statistics for 2020

The International Salvage Union published its 2020 Annual Pollution Prevention Survey. The figures show a services reduction, falling from 214 in 2019 to 191 last year. The survey, on the other hand, registered a small increase in the amount of potentially polluting cargo which was salvaged last year.

Concerning the types of cargoes, refined oil products fell in 2020 to 112,096, less than half of 2019 while chemical cargoes nearly doubled to 133,150 tonnes in 2020. Moreover, the number of containers carried by ships salvaged by ISU members in 2020 rose to 33,523

TEU up from 25,799 TEU in 2019. You can find the survey and more data [here](#).

Moreover, the ISU celebrated its Associate Members' Day 2021 on the 24th of March, which was held digitally. The ETA Secretariat participated in the event as ETA is an affiliate member. You can find Richard Janssen's (ISU President) opening speech [here](#).