



Newsletter August 2021

The European Tugowners Association meets for its 58th Annual Meeting in Turku

The European Tugowners Association members met again physically after more than two years, for the 58th Annual Meeting. This time the event took place in Turku, Finland, hosted by Alfons Hakans. 85 delegates, partners and guests participated in the different activities that took place between the 1st and the 3rd of September, and many more members attended the sessions virtually.

ETA members could catch up and reinforce their business and personal relationships as they discussed the current European towage sector situation and the future of their business. ETA delegates specifically addressed the impact the pandemic has had on the industry and how the sector should become more resilient and prepared for disruptive changes.

The ETA Annual General Meeting approved the change in chairmanship of the Association. After two productive and challenging years Kimmo Lehto (Alfons Håkans AS) handed over the ETA baton to Vicente Boluda Ceballos (Boluda Corporacion Maritima SL), who will be the new Chairman for the next two years term. His previous position as Deputy Chairman has been filled by Alberto Delle Piane (Rimorchiatori Riuniti Porto di Genova).

This year's Annual Meeting Conference, "The next normal" addressed the trends the European towage sector will face in the next years in view of the EU environment policies and new work models. The speakers, ranging from policy makers (Roberta Metsola EU Parliament First Vice-President, Sandro Santamato EC Commission) to journalists (Tom Standage, Deputy Editor The

Economist) and digital innovators (Karno Tenovuo, CEO Awake.ai) provided different perspectives on the next changes impacting the shipping sector. In this regard, speakers focused on the pandemic effects which could act as a catalyst for change in many relevant fields as logistics and transport, labour or digital technologies.





EMSA publishes its first European Maritime Transport Environmental Report

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), in collaboration with the European Environment Agency (EEA) have published the first up to date overview of the maritime transport sector's environmental impact.

In 2019, maritime transport to and within the EU accounted for 13.5% of transport-related emissions in Europe. However, the EU carbon dioxide emissions generated by the sector

have dropped by around 26% from 1990. They still account for around 16 million tonnes, or 18% of global maritime emissions, according to the report. These emissions reductions are attributed to fleet renewals and greater energy efficiency.

The study does not only includes emissions, it also addresses underwater noise. Measurements in the last 50 years have shown that these are rapidly increasing. Moreover, the report quantifies the introduction of non-indigenous species in EU seas. Organisms are transported mainly through ballast water (up to 25.5 %) and hull fouling (up to 21.2 %).



EU Commission published its roadmap on the revision of the Combined Transport Directive

The European Commission released the Inception Impact Assessment (IIA) which sets the different scenarios that will consider to revise the Combined Transport Directive. Moreover, the EC has opened a period (until the 16th of September) to receive feedback.

The Combined Transport Directive supports the shift from road freight to lower emission transport modes like inland waterways or maritime transport. The revision aims at

improving the existing support by extending the incentives so transport companies could increase their use of intermodal or multimodal transport.



Denmark starts offering vaccines to seafarers

The Danish government has announced that it will start offering vaccines to seafarers calling Danish ports or transiting Danish airports, therefore, giving priority to seafarers of all nationalities for a Covid jab. Denmark will be offering one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Denmark joins other EU member states like Belgium, the Netherlands and Cyprus that are also implementing this measure.