



Newsletter

January 2022

Message from the ETA Sec. General Anna Maria Darmanin: Looking to 2022 with more optimism

2021 was another challenging year for our societies and specifically for our industry. In spite of the sanitary measures, public support and the massive vaccination campaign there are still some uncertainties ahead of us. Nevertheless, the port towage sector has proved for a second year its resilience and its essential role in the logistic chain, even when unprecedented demand and trade bottlenecks have put the whole shipping industry under strain. These last weeks have been a hard period and OMICRON has shown us that Covid is now something we need to learn to live with. But even if the situation in Europe is far from normal at the moment, let's enter 2022 with more optimism.

In 2021 the European Commission reinforced its ambitions concerning the 2050 zero emissions target. These new proposed goals and policies will have a strong impact in our sector. ETA, together with the EU shipping cluster, will work hard to ensure that this legislation addresses our industry's needs and will take into consideration the sector's specific characteristics.

Furthermore, the ETA Secretariat and Board continue to assist members, ensuring that industry standards are well maintained. ETA will redouble its efforts to have a close dialogue with European policymakers and with key stakeholders, such as ports and pilots, in order to keep our members up to date regarding the sectorial and policy developments that might affect our industry.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Annual General Meeting in Tenerife, Spain, this year. We were able to meet in 2021 in Finland, but we missed seeing some of you last September, and both the Secretariat and the Board hope that we can all get together this year in order to renew our bonds of friendship and celebrate the future of our sector.





UNCTAD published its 2021 review of maritime transport

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development published its annual review of maritime transport, a report which analyses structural and cyclical changes affecting seaborne trade, ports and shipping. This review collects data from 2020 and thus, it offers quality information regarding the COVID-19 impact on the maritime sector.

The study shows how in spite of the disruptions caused by the pandemic cargo volumes in 2020 fell less dramatically than expected and how they had rebounded by the end of the year. Containerized and dry bulk commodities trade experienced a full recovery but tanker shipping volumes are still lower than in 2019. Large stimulus package, and increased consumer spending on goods, (especially purchased digitally) have helped the sector recover from the enormous damage caused by the pandemic. Maritime trade is projected to increase by 4.3% in 2021 and the medium-term outlook also remains positive, but subject to the possible uncertainties caused by the pandemic and geopolitics.

COVID-19 and its impact on trade and crews and the Ever Given incident emphasized the importance of ensuring continuity in supply chains and the need for them to become more resilient, responsive and agile. These episodes have fostered the debate on the configuration of the extended supply chains to reduce heavy reliance on distant suppliers.

When it comes to Europe, container port traffic fell in a 4,2%, the biggest reduction in all geographic areas, but the report expects a strong growth in 2021.



ETA NTC met with the BTA Technical Committee

The members of the ETA Nautical Technical Committee (NTC) met their British Tugowners Association (BTA) colleagues to discuss different issues affecting the safety and sustainability of our industry. Among them, self-mooring operations, the rescue of persons from the water, rope selection and the recently published BTA guidance on this subject, the decarbonization of the sector and environmental efficient port operations.

ETA NTC members could also attend the BTA Safety Seminar in which the participants could examine recent incidents, the legal and liability implications of these and discuss accident prevention with pilots, marine superintendents, lawyers and national maritime safety authorities.

The ETA Secretariat and NTC want to thank the British Tugowners Association for organizing this very interesting seminar and inviting the NTC members to have a very productive discussion with their British colleagues. ETA is looking forward to keep on strengthening the cooperation and productive dialogue with its partners in the United Kingdom.

Next events

25th January

Brussels / online

ETA Executive Committee

26th January

Brussels / online

ETA Conference

Data Driven Sustainability

