



# EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter October 2023

### ETA Sustainable Conference 2023: Can nuclear be a clean energy option for small vessels?

ETA is organizing its Sustainable Conference on the morning of the 9th of November in Rotterdam, within the context of the Europort Maritime Exhibition. The conference will delve into the less known parts of innovation related to nuclear, specifically, the low energy nuclear reactions (LENR). This type of reactions does not produce the so unwanted waste and is also without radioactivity.

This conference attempts to have a look at what is going on in terms of innovation in the area of LENR and discuss whether this type of fuel can potentially be one of the players in the race for fuels of the future. Furthermore, we will discuss whether this type of fuel can, at some point in the upcoming years, be potentially a fuel that working vessels such as tugs may tap into.



This conference will attempt to look beyond the alternative fuels being discussed mainstream. Speakers, which shall include business people and experts in the field of LENR, will give an overview of the innovations in this field and also cover specific technologies which are currently being developed. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions to the experts about the topic and also to discuss these innovations' current state of play.

The event is taking place within the context of Europort (Rotterdam, 7-10 November), the international maritime exhibition and meeting place for innovative technology and complex shipbuilding.

We will share the event's agenda in the upcoming days. Anyone interested in participating is to send an email to [registration@eurotugowners.com](mailto:registration@eurotugowners.com).





## ETA co-organised a workshop on the competitiveness and resilience of the maritime technology industry

ETA together with the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA Europe) and the Shipyards' & Maritime Equipment Association of Europe (SeaEurope) organised a workshop on the competitiveness and resilience of the maritime technology industry. The event took place within the context of the European Shipping Summit (19-20 September).

The workshop brought together representatives of the European Commission (DG MOVE and DG GROW heads of unit), the shipbuilding and the cruise industries. Our sector was well represented by ETA Nautical Technical Committee Chairman, Kimmo Lehto.

The event was opened with a keynote by Christophe Tytgat, Secretary General of SEA Europe. The presentation underlined the difficulties the sector has experienced in the last decade due to competition with Asian shipyards and an unlevel playing field that favours them. This has created big unbalances and therefore, resilience risks and the loss of of strategic autonomy in the sector. Mr Tytgat called for a European maritime industry act that may reinforce the continent's industrial capacity and technology sovereignty. You can find the presentation [here](#).

The panel discussion addressed the competitiveness challenges the European shipping industry is facing, more in particular the need to decarbonize the sector while keeping its competitiveness in the global stage. The panel reflected a growing awareness of the industry's vulnerabilities and its increasing difficulties to compete with other global players. The industry representatives called for more legal coherence and policy predictability in order to assist the sector's transition to greener fuels. ETA representative Kimmo Lehto described the uniqueness of our sector, its critical relevance in the logistics chain and underlined the need to keep technology neutrality when choosing the green fuels solutions, as, for the moment, there is no perfect choice that can match all the requirements the industry needs and that might be produced at competitive prices.

## UNCTAD presented its Review of Maritime Transport 2023

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published its last Review of Maritime Transport 2023. The document compiles the sector's data and analyses the different trends impacting the industry

This year's report puts the focus on the decarbonization of shipping, which unless decisive action, it will not be able to reach the decarbonization goals agreed recently at IMO level. The sector's emissions have risen 20% over the last decade 2023, 98.8% of the global fleet still sailing on fossil fuels.



The report highlights shipping's resilience despite major challenges stemming from global crises, such as the war in Ukraine. Maritime trade is expected to grow 2.4% in 2023 and more than 2% between 2024 and 2028. Container shipping is bouncing back as well. It is forecasted to grow 1.2% this year after suffering a 3.7% drop in 2022. Trade volumes remain, however, below pre-COVID-19 levels. Meanwhile, container shipping costs have returned to pre-pandemic levels. You can find the report [here](#).

## Next events

9 November  
Rotterdam

### ETA Sustainability Conference

European Tugowners Association  
Rue des Colonies 11/ Koloniënstraat 11  
Brussels 1000



7 - 10 November 2023  
Rotterdam  
Europort

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