



# EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter February 2024

### ETA will participate in a EU-funded project: GREENPORT

GREENPORT, the EU project conceived by the European Tugowners Association, has been selected by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency to receive EU funding.

The project aims to create and implement new curricula for high education institutions and vocational training providers, which will target behavioral change in port services operations. Thus, the project will support these institutions in the definition of new educative materials and help seafarers and prospective marine personnel develop new skills. This will help them reduce emissions and save energy in daily port operations.



ETA has been trying for months to develop a EU project that addressed the port services sector's emissions in the short term. At the moment, there are no fully available green technologies that match the industry's needs and the Secretariat identified a lack of educational materials and courses that addressed the sector's emissions and sustainability. The project will address all these matters through the development of new educational programmes which will be tested by the project's stakeholders. Moreover, it will probe the European towage sector's willingness to reduce its carbonprint, even if at the moment there is no EU legislation covering tugboats' emissions.

The GREENPORT's consortium consists of 10 organizations from 8 European countries:

- Universities and educational institutions, [Piri Reis University](#) (TR) will be the project coordinator. The other institutions are [Universitatea Maritima din Constanta](#) (RO), [Antwerp Maritime Academy](#) (BE), [Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy](#) (BG) and [University of Rijeka](#) (HR);
- A research organization, [MAR.TE](#) (IT);
- A port authority, [Porto of Aveiro](#) (PT);
- Two industry Associations, ETA and [EMPA](#) (BE)
- The Maltese consultancy [Across Limits](#) will be in charge of most of the communication and dissemination tasks.

The project, which will have its kick off meeting at the end of February, will be implemented during the next 3 years. The involvement of ETA members will help us achieve the best results. For that reason, we are going to prepare and share a survey with members in order to obtain information on the sector's emissions and its efforts to reduce them, and the different local and national policy initiatives to address this matter. Furthermore, the consortium will organize several events to share the results and achievements of the project.







## The European Parliament adopted its European Port Strategy

The European Parliament's Plenary formally adopted the Berendsen report, and Own Initiative "[Comprehensive European Port Strategy](#)". A big majority of Members of the European Parliament (585 in favour, 21 against, 26 abstentions) supported a document that has no legal nor policy effects, but outlines the European Parliament's position on ports policy, calls the European Commission to develop a strategy on European ports and will surely influence future policy developments on this matter.

The European Tugowners Association welcomes the adoption of this report and the Parliament's recognition and support for the vital role that Europe's ports play for European economies. The text puts its focus on the competitiveness of Europe's terminals and the need to protect them from foreign investment that might put strategic assets in the hands of competing powers. Furthermore, the report calls for avoiding carbon and business leakage, an important issue which is affecting some European terminals and a number of ETA members, and which has forced ETA to define a [position](#) and address the EU authorities.

## The EU co-legislators reach a final agreement on TEN-T

The EU co-legislators, the European Parliament and Council reached a political deal on the review of the TEN-T Regulation, the main piece of legislation that sets the requirements for all transport modes which are part of the [TEN-T network](#). The new legislation aims to build a reliable, seamless, and high-quality transport network that ensures sustainable connectivity across Europe without physical interruptions, bottlenecks, and missing links.



This network will contribute to the achievement of the EU's sustainable mobility objectives, the proper functioning of the internal market and the economic, social, and territorial cohesion of the EU. The network will be developed or upgraded step by step with the new regulation setting deadlines for the completion of the 3-layer TEN-T network: the core network should be completed by 2030, the revised extended core network by 2040 and the comprehensive network by 2050.

The new Regulation recognizes the role the maritime industry and European ports play as crucial players in Europe's competitiveness, resilience and energy transition. The Regulation's text set mandatory targets for transshipment terminals, which should develop in line with the current and expected traffic flows and the needs of the sector. Furthermore, the incipient European Maritime Space will foster the multimodality of shipping with other transport modes efficiently, viably and sustainably. For this purpose, short-sea waterborne routes will be upgraded and new ones will be created.

The political agreement reached by the co-legislators will soon be officially adopted by the European Parliament's Plenary and the Council.

## Next events

20 March 2024

London

**ISU Associate Member Day**

21 -24 May 2024

Dubai

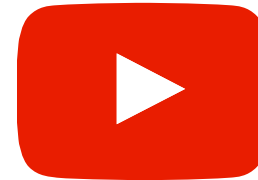
**27th ITS Convention**

11-14 June

Helsingør

**ETA Annual Meeting**

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



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