



EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter November 2024

ETA attends the European Sustainable Shipping Forum dedicated to ETS and carbon leakage

The ETA Secretariat was invited to participate in the last meeting of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum – Commission Climate Expert Group (ESSF-CCEG), which brings together different services of the EC and the EU maritime stakeholders experts on sustainability.



During this meeting, Ms. Polona Gregorin, Head of Unit DG CLIMA B4, and Mr. Timothée Noël, Maritime Team leader, shared a presentation about the Commission monitoring of ETS Maritime, focusing on carbon leaking. DG CLIMA reiterated the evasion risks on their radar, such as the relocation of transshipment operations in nearby non-EEA ports and the reordering of port calls at the expense of ports in the EEA. DG CLIMA also gave an overview of the preliminary results of the monitoring exercise, allowing stakeholders to provide their feedback. The findings of the monitoring exercise do not indicate that there is carbon leakage. However, many expressed that there is such leakage. Therefore, the EC circulated the presentation and asked stakeholders to give their feedback.

The ETA submitted its feedback in writing, stressing the crucial role the Commission should have, taking a proactive approach and implementing anti-evasion measures that may address this issue. The feedback highlighted specific shortcomings in the monitoring exercise and quoted some data on what is happening in some ports in Europe.





Ursula von der Leyen presents the commissioners-designate

On 17 September, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled the commissioners-designate and their portfolios for the upcoming mandate.

The Greek commissioner-designate, Apostolos Tzitzikostas has been assigned the role of Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism. Mr Tzitzikostas has been the governor of the region of Central Macedonia since 2013 and was the President of the European Committee of the Regions from 2020 until 2022.

The mission letter provided by President von der Leyen outlines several key policy priorities:

Developing a comprehensive EU Port Strategy, centered on security and competitiveness, building on the work already done by the European Ports Alliance.

Defining a EU Industrial Maritime Strategy to enhance the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of the EU's maritime manufacturing sector.

Ensuring the completion of the Trans-European Transport corridors focusing on the missing parts that are to be built by 2030.

Proposing a Sustainable Transport Investment Plan outlining a strategic approach to scale-up and prioritise investments in transport decarbonization solutions.

Mr. Tzitzikostas will operate under the supervision of Executive Vice-President-designate for Cohesion and Reforms, Raffaele Fitto.

The IMO's MEPC agrees on the establishment of a Emissions Control Area in the Norwegian Sea

The IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) met for its 82nd meeting. The Committee adopted a series of amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, establishing the Norwegian Sea as an Emission Control Area for nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulphur oxides (SOx), and particulate matter (PM). These amendments will enter into force on 1 March 2026 and the application will be gradual, thus, the 0.10% fuel sulphur content requirement takes effect from 1 March 2027, while Tier III NOx requirements will apply to ships contracted on or after 1 March 2026; or, in the absence of a contract, keel-laid on or after 1 September 2026; or delivered on or after 1 March 2030.



Furthermore, MEPC 82 discussed a consolidated legal text with a set of measures for the future IMO net-zero framework. No agreement was reached on the package of actions but member states are finding common ground. A Green House Gas fund and potential revenue distribution were discussed as well. In principle, MEPC 83, to meet next spring, should adopt a set of mid-term measures in line with the net-zero target by 2050 adopted by IMO in July 2023.

Next events

European Shipping Summit
Brussels 19-20th March 2025

Tugtechnology
Antwerp 20-21 May 2025

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