



# EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter July 2025

### ETA meets the European Commissioner for Transport

On 1st July, the European Tugowners Association (ETA) was invited to two high-level meetings with Apostolos Tzitzikostas, the European Commissioner for Transport, focusing respectively on the European Port Strategy and the Maritime Industrial Strategy.



These meetings brought together all key stakeholders in the sector. During the discussion on the Port Strategy, ETA emphasised that a sustainable European port strategy must strike a careful balance between competitiveness, environmental responsibility, and social considerations. Each of these pillars is essential for the long-term success of European ports. The strategy should also reflect the full complexity of the logistics ecosystem within ports and acknowledge that core port services, such as towage, are critical to ensuring safety and security.

In the meeting on the Maritime Industrial Strategy, ETA advocated for a focus on revitalising Europe's shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing industries. The strategy should aim to position Europe as a global leader in producing state-of-the-art vessels powered by green and digital technologies. ETA also highlighted the importance of supporting shipowners through incentives like tax breaks and financial aid when investing in vessels and equipment manufactured partly or in full in Europe. Ensuring access to advanced technologies and maintaining a strategic inventory of spare parts were also identified as key to strengthening the sector's resilience and operational security.





## 19 EU States sign the Szczecin Declaration for a robust EU Industrial Maritime Strategy

Nineteen EU Member States have signed the [Szczecin Declaration](#), calling for a robust EU Industrial Maritime Strategy aimed at strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of Europe's shipping, shipbuilding, and maritime manufacturing sectors.

The declaration acknowledges key challenges facing the industry, including intensifying global competition, high energy costs, a shortage of skilled workers, and insufficient investment—particularly in green technologies and shipbuilding capacity. It outlines

several priority areas for action:

- Boosting Global Competitiveness.
- Workforce Development.
- Financial Support Mechanisms.
- Maritime Security.
- Regulatory Alignment.

The Declaration concludes with a call for the European Commission to swiftly develop and present a comprehensive, purpose-driven Industrial Maritime Strategy, which effectively addresses these priorities and secures Europe's position as a global maritime leader.

## The Commission includes Tanger Med and East Port Said in the list of Neighbouring container transshipment ports

The European Commission adopted in June an [Implementing Regulation](#) identifying “neighbouring container transshipment ports” under the FuelEU Maritime Regulation. The text includes Tanger Med (Morocco) and East Port Said (Egypt) in the list of ports, meaning calls to these ports are excluded from the definition of “port of call” under the FuelEU Maritime Regulation.



This implies that calls to these ports are not counted when determining a ship's compliance with the FuelEU Maritime Regulation. This exclusion aims to prevent circumvention of the Regulation's requirements by strategically routing ships through these non-EU ports.

This decision goes in line with the implementation of the the European Trading System Directive. Mediterranean countries.

## Next events

**ETA Sustainable Conference**  
Brussels, 11 November 2025

