



EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

63rd Annual Meeting | Istanbul 2026

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Towage at the frontline: Geopolitics, military mobility and Europe's maritime security

Mabeyn Ballroom, Çiragan Palace Kempinski Hotel

Overall scope

This conference will examine the EU's evolving framework to facilitate the rapid and secure movement of military personnel and assets across Member States. It will explore how geopolitical tensions, resilience requirements, and defence readiness are driving new policies, funding mechanisms, and expectations for the transport sector. Particular attention will be given to the implications for ports and harbour towage, which play a critical enabling role in ensuring safe, efficient, and responsive vessel movements.

Agenda

11.00 Opening by the ETA Chairman **Arjen Van Dijk**

11.10 A word from the sponsor – **Ali Gurun, (Sanmar)**

11.15 Introduction by the moderator – **Nick Price, (Century Marine Services)**

11.20 A changing world in military terms- **Geoffrey Till**

11.50 The landscape of military mobility - **Harry Fullerton**

12.20 Critical infrastructure in Europe - **Christian Bueger**

12.50 The experience of Finland – **Kaisa Kuukasjärvi**

13.20 Focus on towage - **Edwin Lampert**

13.40 Lunch

14.40 Afternoon thematic session Greenport Alliance with **Prof. Mustafa Taner Albayrak** and **Dr. Tutku Eker Isçioglu** from the University of Piri Reis and **Miguel Vieira De Castro**, President of the European Maritime Pilots Association

15.15 Wrap up and conclusion

Speakers' profile

Arjen Van Dijk is the Managing Director for Svitzer in the South Americas, and as of January 2026, he will take up the role of Managing Director for Europe. Arjen joined Svitzer in 2019 as Chief Commercial Officer for the Americas and became Managing Director for the region in 2020, leading operations from Panama until 2025. Before Svitzer, he held senior roles at Boskalis, including Commercial Director Marine Services (2017–2019) in the Netherlands and Director Americas (2014–2017) in Houston. Earlier, he was General Manager at Smit Harbour & Terminal Towage (2008–2016) in the Netherlands and Latin America.

Ali Gurun has served as Chairman of the Board of Sanmar Shipyards since September 2022. Prior to his appointment as Chairman, he held the positions of Vice Chairman and Technical Director within the company. Mr. Gurun graduated from Istanbul Technical University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1993 and went on to earn a master's degree in marine engineering from the same institution in 1996. In addition to his role at Sanmar Shipyards, Mr. Gurun serves as a Non-Executive Director of the Shipowners' Club and is a Board Member of the Turkish Environmental Protection Foundation.

Nick Price is a Senior Shipbroker at Century Marine Services Ltd with over a decade of experience in shipbroking and vessel valuation, specialising in tugs, workboats and barges. Prior to Century Marine, Nick studied Law at the University of Kent and began his shipbroking career as a Towage and Salvage broker with Samuel Stewart and Co in Blackheath. Nick is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers.

Geoffrey Till is Emeritus Professor of Maritime Studies at King's College London and Chairman of the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies. A former senior academic leader and Honorary Captain in the Royal Naval Reserve, he has held teaching and visiting roles at leading military and academic institutions worldwide, including the Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University. His work focuses on maritime security and naval development, particularly how nations build maritime power. A highly influential scholar, he has authored 29 books—including *Seapower: A Guide for the 21st Century*—and hundreds of articles, with his work translated into 14 languages.

Harry Fullerton was in the British Army for 28 years, serving at all leadership levels at regimental duty. He instructed at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and at the UK Defence Academy, where he specialized in Defence Technology, and the Counter-IED (Improvised Explosive Device) programme. He commanded the Household Cavalry Regiment from 2008-2011, and subsequently deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in 2009 to lead a battle group. He was awarded the OBE for his leadership during the tour. After further military service, he then left the Army and spent three years with a successful information technology start up, where he identified how technology was disrupting business and the way people work. He now runs SixFigureGrid a company delivering Leadership Navigation in the 21st Century and actively works alongside Corporate Battlefields.

Kaisa Kuukasjärvi works as a transport advisor in the network department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Her duties include, among others, drafting the Transport 12 plan, preparing legislation on TEN-T networks, and other transport infrastructure-related tasks, from financing to legislation. She contributes to the development of Finland's

transport system policy, with a particular focus on infrastructure, connectivity, and the resilience of national and European transport networks.

Dr. Christian Bueger is a professor at the University of Copenhagen, a research fellow at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and an Associate Fellow at the Charles Telfair Centre (Mauritius). He has analysed issues of international security and global governance in more than 200 publications. He is the author of 'Understanding Maritime Security', published with Oxford University Press in 2024. He regularly speaks at high-level policy forums, including in 2025 the United Nations Security Council, NATO's Operations Policy Committee and the European Council.

Edwin Lampert is a maritime journalist, editor, and conference moderator with nearly two decades of experience covering global shipping, offshore, and marine technology markets. At the moment, Edwin is the Executive Editor & Head of Business Relations of Riviera Maritime Media. Prior to his current role, he was the group managing editor. His editorial work has won recognition, including a Seahorse Award, and he has also been at the forefront of developing, chairing and moderating Riviera's portfolio of events.