EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Policy Area on Clean Shipping

EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
POLICY AREA 'SHIP'

Copenhagen, 27 October 2017

The Future of Maritime Safety & Security and Clean Shipping in the Baltic Sea Region
Brussels on 30 May 2017
Outcome of the seminar and proposal for future action in PA Ship

Background

The seminar **Future of Maritime Safety & Security and Clean Shipping in the Baltic Sea Region** was held in Brussels on 30 May 2017. The seminar was organised by the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) and the Finnish Transport Safety Agency (Trafi), as Policy Area Coordinators (PACs) for the Policy Area on Maritime Safety and Security (PA Safe) and the Policy Area on Clean Shipping (PA Ship) under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

The objective of the seminar was to discuss the potentials and future priorities for maritime safety and security and clean shipping in the Baltic Sea Region in order to strengthen the strategic focus of the work in the Policy Areas. The participants of the seminar were representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the maritime industry and maritime Flagship Projects under the EUSBSR.

During the seminar 12 Flagship Projects presented their work and their concrete proposals on how to develop a safer, securer and cleaner future for the Baltic Sea Region to both industry and political stakeholders. Furthermore, a panel discussion with 4 MEPs about which topics should be prioritized within the fields of maritime safety and security and clean shipping in the region took place, and panels consisting of relevant DGs from the European Commission and representatives from the maritime industry voiced their views on these topics.

Highlights and conclusions from the seminar

The seminar highlighted that the Policy Areas of the EUSBSR provide a good platform for cooperation to share best practices and knowledge between the Baltic Sea countries. It is vital for the Baltic Sea Member States to cooperate and to share good practices and knowledge. In the EUSBSR maritime safety and clean shipping are considered successful areas thanks to PA Ship and PA Safe.

During the seminar it was highlighted that the shipping industry is a global business, thus a level playing field for the shipping industry should be ensured. The shipping industry in the Baltic Sea region should not be punished for being a frontrunner in the area of clean shipping and maritime safety. Instead of focusing on creating new regulation, the focus should be on the efficient enforcement and implementation of present regulation.

PA Ship and PA Safe and their Flagships should ensure that the results and achievements of projects are followed up and that implementation of project results is ensured in close co-operation with the industry.

Digitalization and automation are becoming increasingly important as future research and development themes. Particularly, e-navigation was seen as a focus of future development. Several flagships are working on technical solutions for the digitalised maritime world, but it is becoming increasingly clear that the introduction of technical solutions will bring new challenges with it – especially for the seafarers and the maritime educational institutions of the region have to adapt to this challenge. PA

Ship and PA Safe were encouraged to focus more on this issue, so the maritime educations of the Baltic Sea region could keep their high quality also in the future.

The representatives of the industry stakeholders expressed their readiness to co-operate with the PACs and the potential project makers in order to meet business needs more than today in the future projects.

Future actions for PA Ship

One of the main objectives for PA Ship to organise the seminar was to receive input on how to strengthen the strategic focus of PA Ship. On the basis of the conclusions from the seminar, the PAC would therefore like to identify a few direction points for the work in PA Ship the nearest future. As a starting point the following points are suggested to look into:

- Business sector integration: Focus on inclusion of the maritime industry in development projects in order to ensure end-user involvement and facilitate Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region. Concretely, the PACs could inform industry stakeholders better of the opportunities within EU-funded projects by, for example, organising several business seminars in the coming years.
- Incorporate new visions in the EUSBSR: Future revision of PA Ship chapter of the EUSBSR action plan based on the visions and ideas of the seminar and ensuring the implementation of the actions.
- Liaising with the relevant EU funding programmes in order to ensure that there will be funding opportunities for project makers who are willing to work with the future priorities found in the seminar.
- A more strategic approach to project development: Many stakeholders are highlighting the need to ensure a level playing field for shipping in the Baltic Sea Region. In order for the Baltic Sea region *to become a model region for clean shipping*, ensuring an efficient enforcement of existing regulation is key. At the same time, a stronger focus on how future-oriented topics such as digitalisation, energy-efficiency and automation are contributing to more environmentally friendly shipping, without losing focus on other important clean shipping topics in the region, could well contribute to the vision of PA Ship.