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

Helsinki and Copenhagen, 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

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 Safe and PA Ship.

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 Safe and PA Ship 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

Safe and PA Ship 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 Safe

On the basis of the conclusions from the seminar and discussions in the PAC group, it is suggested that PA Safe apply the following points of direction in its work in the nearest future:

- End-user and business sector integration: Deepen the co-operation and communication with all the Baltic Sea member states and the partner countries and 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 Safe 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: Within safety it is not always easy to say if one topic is more important than another. However, the task of PA Safe is to apply a somewhat selective approach and keep a future-oriented focus if the region is to *become a leading region in maritime safety and security.* The PACs can make a more concentrated effort within a few future-oriented topics without losing their focus on the variety of topics that play a role in upholding a high level of safety in the Baltic Sea Region.