

## MedCruise attended the 4th meeting of the European Ports Forum

The fourth meeting of the European Ports Forum (EPC) took place on 3 March 2020 at Centre Albert Borschette in Brussels.

The President welcomed all members present and asked for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting. EMPA reported that the minutes subject to approval need to be modified so as to reflect their written comments of 13 February 2019 regarding the training of port services employees in accordance with article 14 of the Port Services Regulation (PSR). The Commission informed that the minutes will be amended accordingly.

### **Presentation of the European Green Deal**

Ms Magda Kopczynska, Director for Waterborne Transport of DG MOVE, presented the objectives of the European Green Deal and pointed out the importance of looking at the green objectives as opportunities for growth and not as a challenge.

The European Green Deal includes several initiatives of relevance for maritime and ports:

- Strategy for Sustainable and smart mobility in 2020;
- Extend EU's Emissions Trading to the maritime sector by June 2021;
- Review the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive and the TEN-T Regulation in 2021;
- Proposal for a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive by June 2021;
- Regulate access of most polluting ships to EU ports and oblige docked ships to use shore-side electricity: Fuel EU Maritime (Commission Work Programme 2020).

The Commission presented then its intentions for the Fuel EU Maritime initiative, which is part of the Commission Work Programme 2020 and one of the measures that implements the European Green Deal.

The initiative would be part of a basket of measures to address emissions from maritime together with the EU Emissions Trading System and energy

efficiency measures among others. The energy efficiency measures will be addressed at IMO level. The initiative aims at boosting the uptake of sustainable alternative fuels by addressing the demand for such fuels and technologies.

Ms Isabelle Ryckbost, Secretary General of ESPO, made a presentation about ESPO's Roadmap to implement the European Green Deal objectives in ports. This roadmap is composed by 15 different measures.

Finally, Ms Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid, Secretary General of FEPORT, presented FEPORT's first reactions to the Green Deal. She reiterated the importance of a joint-action of all stakeholders, a collective effort from all sectors is necessary.

### **Revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)**

Mr Kai Tullius, Unit B.4 Sustainable and Intelligent Transport of DG MOVE, explained the directives that encourage the alternative fuels infrastructures such LNG, shore side electricity or natural gas supply. Finally, he expounded the ongoing work.

### **Port-City interaction**

Ms Evi Lardi, Ports and Inland Navigation DG MOVE, presented an overview on the port-city interaction explaining the benefits and the negative impacts. The aim should be to mitigate the negative impacts to the city and the hinterland connections with the cooperation of all the stakeholders and the appropriate policies, incentive schemes and actions.

CENIT made a presentation about the main challenges of the port-city relationship. The presentation focused on the impacts of the incoming passengers, the mobility of port workers, the freight transport, the port emissions, the port land growth and urban planning and the local economy. For each issue, he explained the best solutions and opportunities.

## Implementation of the Port Services Regulation (2017/352/EU)

The Commission remembered the key obligations of the Member States and provided an update on the missing and partial notifications. Four Member States have not yet notified their complaints handling procedure, relevant authority and penalties while three Member States have only partially notified. Moreover, an update on questions and answers regarding PSR were provided.

### AOB

#### 1. Reporting on the Sustainable Ports Sub-Group

Mr Gilles Bergot, Deputy Head of Unit D3 Ports & Inland Navigation of DG MOVE, presented the conclusions from the last meeting of the Sustainable Ports Sub-Group and listed the six possible working topics, which are:

- Collection of data and screen policies, legislation and practices to better identify ports' needs and the gaps and barriers to their sustainable greening;
- Development of good practices, guidance and incentives on alternative fuels infrastructure in ports and clean power (incl. Onshore Power Supply - OPS);
- Good practices on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, in particular as regards planning and permitting processes;
- Noise as an environmental issue for sea ports and measures (i.e. OPS in ports, connections with hinterland) that could help;
- Good practices on port call optimization (subject to work carried out by other expert groups/fora);

- Practical guidance to port operators on the implementation of EU nature and habitats legislation

He finally informed that the next meeting of the Sub-Group is planned to take place before the summer.

#### 2. Update on COVID-19

The Commission declared the current situation regarding the COVID-19 as a serious concern for citizens, authorities and the port sector. It was explained that the main role of the Commission is currently to inform, track, collect data, coordinate with Member States and share information related to the coronavirus.

To conclude, the Commission explained the current protocols and actions carried out, and asked the Member States and ports about any information or data that could help improve the prevention or the response.

ESPO informed that, at the time, they already launched two calls to their members. The Secretary General of ESPO explained that some ports have started to implement their own rules and guidance, and informed about a confusion in the ports regarding whether the cargo could be contaminated and if the waste of ships should be treated in a special way. In addition, ESPO explained to the Commission the current situation and cancellations in the cruise sector.

Finally, Spain also offered its collaboration and explained the protocols and the current situation in the country. •