

MedCruise attended the 3rd meeting of the Sustainable Ports Sub-Group, July 2021

The 3rd meeting of the Sustainable Ports Sub-group (SPS) took place on 8 July 2021 online. The meeting was chaired by Mr Kostas Rigas, Unit D.3 Ports and Inland Navigation of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE).

The meeting started with a welcome from Ms Daniela Rosca, Head of Unit D.3 of DG MOVE.

Election of Vice-Chair

The Commission recalled that the role of the Vice-Chair would be to assist the chair in the preparation and running of the meetings, ensure the best use of the expertise and be in contact with the Sub-Group. The members of the Sub-Group unanimously approved the appointment of the Secretary General of FEPORT, Ms Lamia Kerdjoudj, as the Vice-Chair.

Best Practices Regarding the Use of Alternative Fuels and Clean Energy for Port Operations

The Chairman reminded that the aim is to collect and present best practices in the use of alternative fuels for port operations in order to produce a useful guide for the port community, so that ports can find inspiration and a basis to start on the route to zero emissions. The task parameters would be:

- Covering examples from all port services;
- Bunkering vessels will not be examined as it is covered by the European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF);
- Activities should be core business related.

Update of EMSA Guide on OPS

Mr Ricardo Batista, Project Officer at EMSA presented the latest developments of EMSA's project on the Guidance on Shore Side Electricity. He reminded that the objective is to provide Port Authorities and Administrations, and the wider range of stakeholders,

with structured information on planning and deployment of SSE/ OPS infrastructure and informed of the timeline:

- 2nd half of July 2021: final improved drafts circulated for final round of comments by Experts and SPS;
- 17 September 2021: deadline for receiving comments from Experts and SPS;
- October 2021: pre-publication edition;
- TBC: Publication.

EU Zero Pollution Action Plan

The European Green Deal announced headline actions on *Zero Pollution Action Plan for Water, Air and Soil* to better prevent, remedy, monitor and report on pollution. This Action Plan was adopted on 12 May 2021 with the publication of the Communication COM(2021) 400 final. The Plan sets out an integrated vision for 2050: a world where pollution is reduced to levels that are no longer harmful to human health and natural ecosystems, as well as the steps to get there and ties together all relevant EU policies to tackle and prevent pollution. Reviews of relevant EU legislation are foreseen to identify remaining gaps in EU legislation and where better implementation is necessary to meet these legal obligations.

To steer the EU towards the 2050 goal of a healthy planet for healthy people, the Action Plan sets key 2030 targets to reduce pollution at source, in comparison to the current situation. The ones of relevance to water and biodiversity are:

- Improving water quality by reducing waste, plastic litter at sea (by 50%) and microplastics released into the environment (by 30%);
- Reducing by 25% the EU ecosystems where air pollution threatens biodiversity.

The Zero Pollution Action Plan is organized into nine

flagship initiatives, each one of this is an integrated approach to what it aims to achieve and it considers all the sectors.

European Alternative Fuel Observatory 3.0

The representative of the European Alternative Fuels Observatory (EAFO 3.0) reminded that www.eafo.eu is an EC funded initiative which provides open and free information, amongst others to support member States with the implementation of EU Directive 2014/94 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure. The targeted alternative fuels are electricity, hydrogen, LPG, natural gas (both liquefied and compressed), biofuels, synthetic and paraffinic fuels. As regards the geographical scope it consists of all EU Member States, EFTA members and Turkey (33 countries in total). The main objective of EAFO 3.0 is to become the reference portal for publicly available information on alternative fuels vehicles (road, rail, maritime and aviation) and infrastructure in the EU.

The representative informed that details on Shipping sector are available since 2020:

- Statistics and information on LNG Bunkering for vessels (Port Infrastructure, LNG Bunkering);
- Statistics on Onshore Power Supply (OPS) for vessels (Port Infrastructure, OPS data);
- Background information, standards and rules for OPS for vessels (Port Infrastructure, OPS technology);
- Statistics of "Electric and Hybrid ships and demo projects", "LNG fueled vessels "where data is available for seagoing vessels.

The Commission underlined the importance of the exercise for the visibility of the sector and those that have installed and operate alternative fuels infrastructure in ports and invited SPS members to assist the consortium in its data collection to better present the work that the Shipping sector is carrying out.

Any other business

The next SPS meeting will take place in autumn, exact date and time TBA. •