

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

21st Meeting of the international Steering Committee for the Policy Area on Clean Shipping of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

3rd October 2023 at 13:00-14:30 (EEST), Riga City Council office, Riga, Latvia

Participants:

1. DK - Morten Viggo Weiss
2. FI - Anita Mäkinen
3. LV - Mārīte Augstmane, chair
4. LV - Laima Rituma
5. Laurila-Pant Mirka, PA Ship PAC
6. Ulf Siwe, guest, PA Safe co-PAC
7. Mäkinen Seppo, guest, PA Safe co-PAC
8. Hladii Viktoriia, guest, Baltic Sea Strategy Point
9. LV - Aleksandrs Pavlovics, guest, PA Safe steering group member (chairman)
10. DE - Dina Matusova, guest, PA Safe steering group member

1) Welcome words and Tour de Table

Chair Marite Augstmane (Ministry of Transport (Latvia)) and PA Ship PAC Mirka Laurila-Pant (Finnish Transport and Communications Agency) provided welcome words, followed by the brief introduction of the meeting participants.

2) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ms Laurila-Pant introduced the PA Ship Steering Group (SG) 21st meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting (May 29th 2023). Susanne Heitmuller (DE) provided some additions to the last meeting minutes prior to the meeting by email. This was sent to the whole steering group, and it was acknowledged. Both documents were approved during the meeting.

3) Activities of the Policy Area Coordinator

First, Ms. Laurila-Pant delivered an update on the recent activities within the PA Ship PAC work. This included, for instance, the organization of a workshop in Berlin on operational steps for establishing Green Shipping Corridors as a means to achieve zero-carbon shipping, as well as the PA Ship and Safe idea generation workshop in Sweden. The PAC also participated in the 2nd Informal Consultation session of the HELCOM Maritime Sub-group on Green Technology and Alternative Fuels for Shipping, during which a presentation was given about PA Ship's ongoing and past projects.

Secondly, Ms. Laurila-Pant provided information on PA Ship-related projects and upcoming new project. The project coordinators of the Blue Supply Chains project offered recent updates on their current status and future plans. Furthermore, in the second call of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2021 - 2027, three new core projects that contribute to PA Ship Actions received funding: Baltic Sea e-Nav, MADAME and OpenRisk II. These projects are set to start in November 2023.

Thirdly, Ms. Laurila-Pant shared details about the upcoming updates to the PA Ship Strategy Annexes, which comprise Annex I: Projects, Annex II: Work Plan, and Annex III: PA Ship's cooperation procedure with HELCOM.

The topics of this agenda item were discussed among the PA Ship SG members. The key points of discussions were as follows:

- FI: A question during the discussion regarding the PA Ship and PA Safe idea generation workshop in Sweden. One idea from the workshop involved conducting a study on the impact of windfarms on both shipping and fisheries. It was suggested that to move this idea forward, it might be advisable to place a stronger emphasis on shipping and possibly exclude fisheries, as the inclusion of both would create an excessively broad scope for a single project.

- Ms. Laurila-Pant, PA Ship PAC: There might be need to collaborate with other EUSBSR PAs for some of these ideas. However, these collaborations can be explored in more detail once the ideas progress to the next stage and begin to take shape as concrete project plans.
- FI: A question was raised concerning the Blue Supply Chains project, particularly regarding the customization of a shore power system that facilitates the connection of vessels to grid electrical power in Denmark. Within the context of promoting environmental sustainability in Danish port operations, it is important to consider whether there are pre-existing, mandatory regulations concerning shore power supply. This might include compliance with the EU's alternative fuels infrastructure regulation, a topic that deserves attention within the scope of green port operations.
- FI: The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGMSE) is organizing a meeting in Turku on 12 October 2023 where one of the topics is green shipping corridors.
- Ms. Laurila-Pant, PA Ship PAC: This is an important event and is linked to the PA Ship workshop on green shipping corridors in Berlin in June 2023, which was also organized together with the CBSS Sustainable Maritime Expert Group.

For more information, see Presentation 1.

4) Discussion and decision on PA Ship meeting structure

Ms. Laurila-Pant provided a concise overview of the proposal to split the PA Ship Steering Group meeting into two interconnected parts: the Formal Steering Group (SG) and the Operational Group (OG), a concept introduced in a previous PA Ship SG meeting in May 29th 2023. Under this concept, the Formal SG meetings would primarily handle administrative tasks, while the new OG meetings would focus on upcoming and new projects. This approach aims to enhance the implementation of PA Ship action items, initiate new projects, and actively involve Member States of the EUSBSR in the work of PA Ship and other policy areas.

Ms. Laurila-Pant highlighted that a draft of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the PA Ship OG and an Excel form for proposing contact information of national experts for OG meetings had been shared with PA Ship steering group members for their input in advance.

During the discussion of this agenda item, several key points emerged:

- LV, the chair: asked, what are the views, whether in connection with the establishment of the Operational Group would be necessary to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee, or perhaps the Group sees a need for other amendments. As an example mentioned the usage of term “Flagship”, although, as far as is known, this status is no longer assigned. Asked if such operational groups were set up in other policy areas besides the PA Safe.
- Mr. Mäkinen, co-PAC of PA Safe: mentioned that the PA Safe operational steering group meetings occur approximately twice a year, involving e.g., presentations on past, ongoing, and upcoming projects.
- Mr. Siwe, co-PAC of PA Safe: emphasized that it is important for PA Safe to try to involve a wider audience in the Baltic Sea region to participate in the meetings of the operational steering groups. These meetings serve also as an opportunity to find project collaborators.
- FI: A question was raised about the timing of these meetings and how to ensure attendance.
- The group discussed the idea of narrowing the scope of each operational meeting, focusing on a single topic (e.g., one PA Ship Action), and possibly postponing the first meeting to early 2024 or before the next formal PA Ship SG meeting.
- Ms. Laurila-Pant, PA Ship PAC: proposed a decision to move forward with the proposed approach.
- **RECOMMENDATION: to establish the PA Ship Operational steering group.**
- Ms. Laurila-Pant, PA Ship PAC: reviews the comments on the draft RoP for the PA Ship OG and plans and proposes a date for the first operational meeting at a later date.

5) Presentation by Latvian PA Ship Presidency

Ms Laima Rituma (Ministry of Transport in Latvia) outlined Latvia's priorities for PA Ship during its EUSBSR presidency, highlighting the following key points:

- Introducing the EUSBSR Latvian Presidency priorities, priorities of the Latvian Chairmanship of HELCOM (2022-2024) and National Policy framework
- Tasks in the Maritime Sector is to ensure effective implementation of international regulations, enhance electronic services for International Freight Logistics and Port Information System (SKLOIS) and improve port infrastructure
- Tasks to improve the Marine Environment include addressing underwater noise, managing ballast water, sediments, and biofouling risks, as well as ensuring proper waste reception from ships
- Latvian ports have many green initiatives
 - In the Freeport of Riga:
 - Development of Environmentally Friendly Refueling Infrastructure
 - Establishment of On-shore Power Infrastructure for Ships
 - Modernization of the Service Vessel Fleet
 - In the Freeport of Ventspils:
 - The development of a Hydrogen Valley
 - Port electrification (OPS), with a priority focus on electrifying ferry terminals to create a "green corridor" for ferry traffic.

The discussion of this agenda item:

- Mr. Mäkinen, co-PAC of PA Safe: Inquired about the introduction of new courses in Latvian Maritime academy and schools concerning hydrogen and electricity handling in ports.
- Ms. Rituma: Currently, there is no information available about the introduction of such courses related to hydrogen and electricity handling in ports. She further explained that the Maritime Academy is part of Riga Technical University, and the majority of Latvian sailors receive their training within the country.

More information on the key points can be found in Presentation 2.

6) Any other business

- Mr. Mäkinen, co-PAC of PA Safe: Raised the discussion on Workshop 1, co-organized with PA Safe and PA Ship, which focused on the 'conflicting' interests between maritime and wind farm design and construction at the EUSBSR Annual Forum
- Ms Hladii, Baltic Sea Strategy Point: Mentioned the reports from the Policy Areas (EUSBSR Policy Areas' Reporting to the NCG in 2022) and highlighted that the evaluation process is currently underway. She also informed the SG that for 2024, there will not be a separate report request as there are plans to streamline the reporting process and integrate it to avoid multiple reports.
- Ms Augstmane, the chair, concluded the PA Ship SG meeting and officially closed the event. The PA Ship SG members were also invited to the dinner.