EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION

27th EUSBSR PA SHIP Steering Group meeting

20th October 2026 at 12:30-14:30 (EEST),
TEAMS online

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region

Co-funded by
the European Union

Agenda

1) **Welcome words and Tour de Table**
2) Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting
3) Danish Presidency Priorities
4) Activities of the Policy Area Coordinators
5) News from the PA Ship Operational Group meeting
6) Presentation from Interreg Baltic Sea Region
7) Introduction from the New PA Coordination: Merikotka
8) PA Ship relevant policy updates in the Baltic Sea Region
9) Any other Business
10) Closing the meeting



Tour de Table

- Your name, title and organisation
- If you have limitless resources (MONEY), which aspect of clean shipping would you invest it?



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Overview of the activities since May 2026

Events

May

- EUSBSR Annual Forum, Tallinn
- European Maritime Day 2026 Limassol, Cyprus
- Sjöfartens Dag, Åland

June

- HELCOM Green team, online
- CBSS EGSME meeting, Gdansk
- Scrubber Waste Management Workshop, Riga

July

- Macro-regional & Sea-basin Strategies, Brussels



Overview of the activities since May 2026

Events

August

- Europe Forum, Harbours of change, Turku

September

- Baltic Ports Conference, Turku
- Baltic Blue Corridor kick-off, Turku
- HELCOM IC Maritime, Gothenburg
- HELCOM Baltic Green and Gray seminar, Helsinki
- EUSBSR Danish Presidency kick-off, Copenhagen
- MaDaMe Final Seminar, Turku
- Connect Europe Days, Brussels



Overview of the activities since May 2026

Events

October

- PA Ship & Safe handover, Kotka
- WATERWAYS workshop, Espoo
- ShipCycle Kick-off, Lolland-Falster
- Launch of Norwegian Accession to EUSBSR, online



Upcoming events

Events

October

- HELCOM IC WS Scrubber, online
- PORTHACK, Elblag

November

- Resilient transport and logistics forum, Helsinki
- Navigate, Turku

December

- BRISK II final seminar, Helsinki



HELCOM cooperation

MARITIME

Following information was shared to HELCOM Maritime

- Changes in coordination
- Scrubber waste management workshop –recap
- Quick overview of the projects

Traficom & SMA got thanks from the MARITIME WG



HELCOM cooperation

HELCOM Green Team

- PA Ship was assisting the chair in forming the new Questionnaire of Alternative fuels/technology for Green Tean
- PA Ship Projects were presenting: H2Deri@BSP, Nordic Roadmap Phase II and Baltic Sea GSC project



Work Programme for 2027

- Drafted in cooperation with Merikotka
- Was sent to the SG on the 15th of October - Silent procedure unless agreed here today



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PA Ship Operational Group meeting 07.10.2026



EUSBSR PA Ship Operational Group
Meeting Agenda
7.10.2026
Online - all times CEST

Logging in 12.50 - 13.00

1. **Welcome words, approval of agenda and minutes from last meeting 13.00-13.05**
   Milla Harju & Sami Vesterinen *PA Ship Coordinators (PAC), Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom* will kick off the meeting.
2. **Policy Update: EU Port Strategy 13.05 - 13.20**
   Policy Officer Konstantinos Skaltsas*, DG MOVE European Comission* will provide information on the new Strategy.
3. **PA Ship Projects: first wave 13.20 - 13.50**
   The final, or almost final results from *INCONE60Green* by ***Rafal Kobal****, Maritime Unviersity of Gdynia, Baltic Sea e-Nav* by ***Carina Stål****, Swedish Maritime Administration,* and *OpenRisk II* by ***Vesa Arki****, Traficom*
4. **Discussion 13.50 -14.00**
   All participants are invited to comment and ask questions
5. **PA Ship Projects: Second flow 14.00 - 14.20**
   Two more projects to present their final results: *Baltic Sea Green Shipping Corridors* / ***Lena Lorenc-Barańska****, Baltic Ports Organisation and MaDaMe* / ***Tero Jokela****, Turku University of Applied Sciences*
6. **Discussion 14.20 - 14.30**

Comfort break 14.30 - 14.40

7. **PA Ship Project: Newcomer 14.40 - 14.50**
   Jimmy Faustine Andersen from EHSJ introduces *project* ***ShipCycle***
8. **The Future of PA Ship 14.50 - 15.05**
   Executive Director Anna Kiiski from Merikotka Maritime Research Centre will present the organisation and its work
9. **AOB 15.05 -15.25**
   Project AI Healthy Ship / **to introduce their work.**

   All participants are welcome and encouraged to share their latest news, challenges, ideas etc. The floor is open for discussion, sharing information and learning!
10. **Closing the meeting 15.25 - 15.30**
    PACs will close the meeting and bid farewell.

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PA Ship Operational Group meeting 07.10.2026



In the Agenda:

- **EU Port Strategy** presented by Policy Officer Konstantinos Skaltsas / DG MOVE
- **Merikotka** introduced themselves
- Finishing projects' presented
  - Baltic Sea e-Nav
  - MaDaMe
  - OpenRisk II
  - Baltic Sea Green Shipping Corridors
  - INCONE60Green (to be continued with another 6 months)
  - New project: **ShipCycle**

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Baltic Sea Region

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY
ShipCycle

ShipCycle



ShipCycle is co-funded by EU through the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme



What is ShipCycle aiming for?

ShipCycle addresses the **challenge of dismantling end-of-life ships** in a safe, sustainable, and circular way within the Baltic Sea Region.

Today, many vessels are sent outside Europe for scrapping under conditions that harm workers and the environment. Meanwhile, EU regulations demand certified facilities, but regional capacity is low and fragmented.

The project is needed by local and regional authorities, port operators, business support organisations, and maritime companies.



What is ShipCycle aiming for?

The output of the project will be a joint roadmap for circular ship recycling in the region.

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY
ShipCycle

Project partnership



Group of Activities, Deliverables and Output

Group of Activities	Deliverable/Ouput	How	Why	Partner lead
1. Knowledge base & ecosystem mapping	Mapping/report of actors, infrastructure, capacities and value chains	Partner input, interviews, site visits, desk research	To create a shared evidence base for circular ship recycling in the Baltic Sea Region; identifying where capacities, gaps and cross-border complementarities exist.	Rostock Business (DE)
2. Policy dialogue & awareness raising	Policy briefs/publications for decision-makers	Policy dialogues, briefings, conferences, direct outreach	To turn fragmented knowledge into policy attention and help authorities understand how ship recycling links to clean shipping, port development and circular economy.	Danske Maritime (DK)
3. Transnational business engagement	Delegation visit reports and conference materials	Delegation visits, matchmaking, company engagement, conferences	To connect the companies, ports, yards and service providers that could form future circular value chains across Denmark, Germany and Poland.	Business Lolland-Falster (DK)
4. Recommendations & roadmap	**Output:** Joint policy recommendations and strategic transnational roadmap	Synthesis, stakeholder validation, final publication	To provide authorities and industry actors with a knowledge base and practical direction for building regional capacity beyond the project lifetime.	Baltic Sea and Space Cluster (PL)

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY ShipCycle

Questions? Contact:

Project Manager Jimmy Faustin Andersen
jfa@ehsj.dk



ShipCycle is co-funded by EU through the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme

EU Ports Strategy

EUSBSR – PA Ship Operational Group Meeting, 07 October 2026

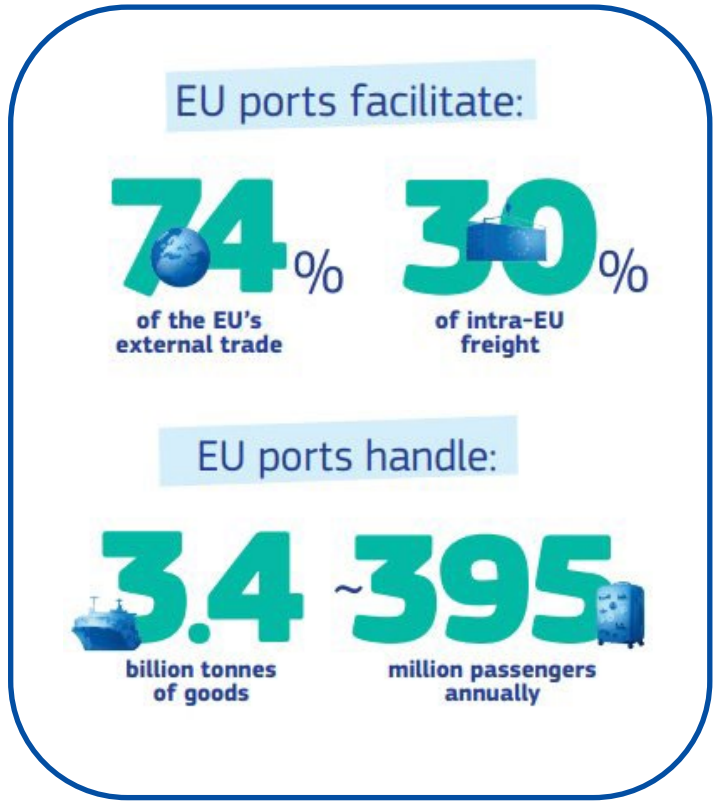
Konstantinos Skaltsas, Policy Officer, Unit Ports, Security and Inland Navigation (MOVE.D.3), European Commission

European Commission

The strategic importance of EU ports

Ports are **critical infrastructure** at the heart of Europe's economy, security and sustainability.

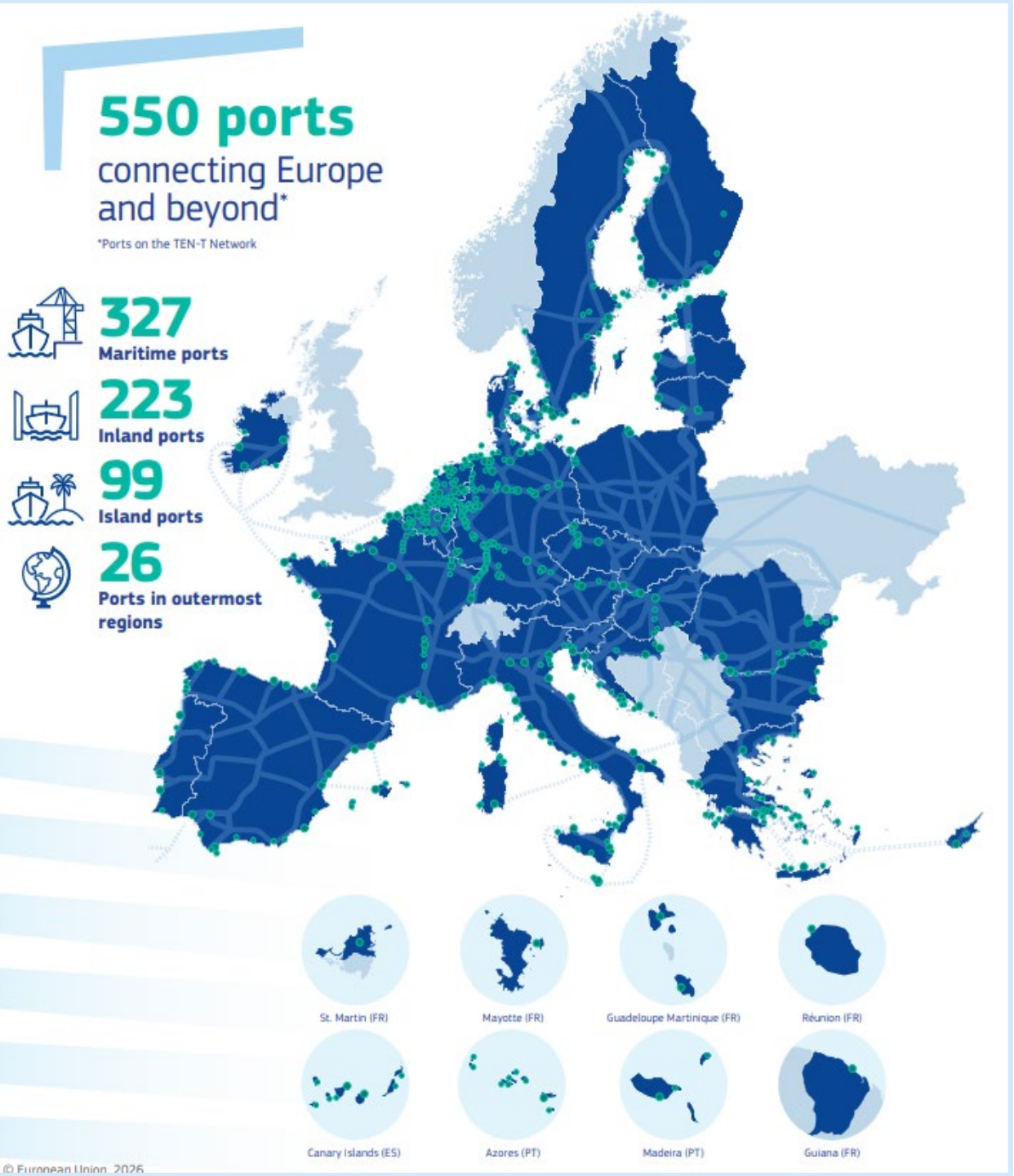
- **Gateways to global trade:** EU ports handle over **3.4 billion tonnes of goods (74% of EU external trade)** and nearly **400m passengers annually.**
- **Drivers of competitiveness and industrial strength:** Ports underpin the EU's export capacity, supply chains and logistics networks, supporting around **423.000 direct jobs** and generating approximately **€90 billion turnover**.
- **Energy and climate transition hubs:** Around **40% of cargo handled is energy-related**, positioning ports as key platforms for electrification, offshore wind deployment, hydrogen imports and alternative fuels infrastructure.
- **Anchors of the blue economy and coastal cohesion:** Ports sustain **coastal, island & OR communities**, fisheries, maritime clusters and regional economies, contributing to territorial cohesion and sustainable blue growth.
- **Pillars of resilience, economic security and defence:** Ports are strategic **dual-use infrastructure**, critical for supply chain resilience, **military mobility** and protection against cyber, hybrid and organised crime threats.

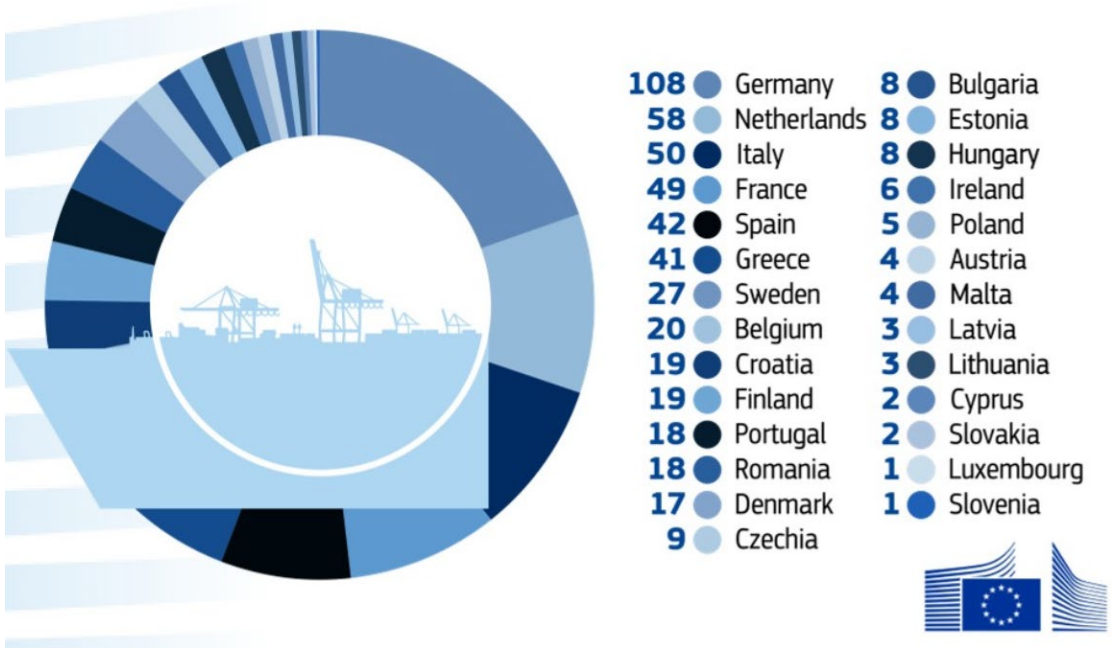


European Commission

EU ports in numbers

Europe's economic security, clean industrial transition and global connectivity depend on **strong, competitive, sustainable and secure ports.**





EU Ports Strategy: 5 pillars

*Boosting the **competitiveness, security** and **sustainability of EU ports***

The Strategy supports EU ports by

Strengthening competitiveness, innovation and digitalisation.

Establishing **guiding principles for EU funding & investments in third-country ports**, developing **guidance on foreign ownership of EU ports**, and promoting **innovation**.

Advancing the energy transition, sustainability and clean industries.

Taking measures to promote **electrification** & **improved grid connection**. Setting out a **new roadmap for competitive small and medium-sized ports**.



Protecting and securing ports.

Combatting **drug trafficking** & **emerging threats**, port worker **background checks** & third-country **port assessments**, sharing **cybersecurity best practices**, & conducting an EU-wide security risk assessment.

Promoting social cohesion, skills and quality jobs.

Supporting **small & medium-sized ports** by promoting innovation, clean energy, security & connectivity, developing a **skilled workforce** & providing guidance on **maritime safety** & alternative fuels.

Facilitating access to finance and investment.

Clearer & more **coordinated funding principles** while facilitating access to advisory services & de-risking tools, with particular attention to the needs of small & medium-sized ports.

European Commission

Pillar I – Competitiveness, Innovation & Digitalisation

Key challenges

- *Competitiveness:*
  - EU ports compete for global trade, investment and logistics flows.
  - Level-playing field with 3rd country ports.
  - Efficient hinterland connections and logistics chains are essential advantages.
- *Economic security*
  - Risks and opportunities of foreign ownership and influence in strategic port infrastructure.
  - Digital systems and logistics platforms are part of strategic infrastructure.
- *Innovation & digitalisation*
  - New technologies (AI, automation, clean technologies) boost efficiency and sustainability.
  - Digital solutions optimise port calls, logistics chains and data sharing.

Flagship Actions
Support the digital and green transformation of European ports through **innovation**, **promoting scale-up, replication and uptake** of innovative port equipment and technologies.
Develop **guidance to Member States with criteria for assessing foreign investments in ports & a framework for mapping and monitoring foreign investments in ports.**
Use **guiding principles for EU funding and investments in third country ports** (Annex 1).

Recommendations to Member States

- Play a leading role in setting global technical standards.
- Prevent, mitigate and tackle the risks associated with foreign ownership and control of strategic dual-use port infrastructures.
- Streamline land use planning and permitting procedures for additional areas for port use and take-up of innovation in ports.
- Aim for a balance between return on investments for private operators and suitable contractual obligations.

European Commission

Pillar II – Energy Transition, Sustainability & Clean Industries

EU ports are central to the **decarbonisation** of maritime transport and industry. They are key **gateways for renewable energy, hydrogen imports and clean fuels,** and essential to achieving EU climate and energy objectives.

Key challenges

- High investment needs for OPS and alternative fuels infrastructure
- Grid capacity constraints & coordination of port and shipping demand
- Slow and complex permitting procedures
- Risk of fragmentation and uneven deployment across Member States

Flagship Actions
Accelerate permit-granting and provide faster assessment procedures for strategic energy, recycling and decarbonisation port-related projects, through the Grids Package and the Environmental Omnibus.
Accelerate **port electrification**, provide timely and non-discriminatory access to the grids.
Promote **partnerships for energy cooperation in and around port areas** for sustainable use of energy, including hydrogen.

Recommendations to Member States

- Prioritise port electrification and grid reinforcement in national energy plans.
- Allocate a part of ETS revenues to maritime decarbonisation investments across the maritime cluster, incl. sustainable infrastructure and OPS.
- Streamline permitting procedures for strategic port energy projects.
- Facilitate coordination between transport, energy and industry authorities.

European Commission

Pillar III – Protect & Secure Ports

EU ports are **critical infrastructure** for trade, energy supply and military mobility. Growing threats from organised crime, cyberattacks and hybrid risks require stronger protection of port operations and logistics chains.

Key challenges

- Organised crime infiltration in container logistics and port operations.
- Increasing cybersecurity vulnerabilities in digital port systems.
- Emerging hybrid threats (GNSS interference, drones, sabotage).
- Risks linked to foreign control of strategic port infrastructure.



Flagship Actions
Update and revise existing **guidance**, including on emerging threats, and promote a global level playing field for EU ports security.
Building on the work of the European Ports Alliance, establish **frameworks for third-country port assessments** & improve alignment of customs controls across EU ports.
Establish **framework for background checks** for port workers.
Establish a **forum** for Member States' cybersecurity and port authorities to **exchange best practices** & carry out an EU-wide security risk assessment to identify the most pressing cybersecurity risks and appropriate measures to mitigate them.

Recommendations to Member States

- Strengthen port security controls and inspections
- Improve cooperation between ports, customs and law enforcement
- Ensure full implementation of cybersecurity requirements
- Assess security risks related to foreign investments in ports

Pillar IV – Access to Finance & Investment

EU ports face **significant investment needs** (~€80bn) driven by:

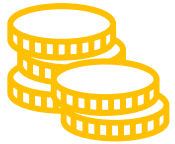
- Decarbonisation and energy infrastructure (OPS, clean fuels).
- Growing trade flows and larger vessels.
- Security, resilience & digitalisation
- Climate adaptation & sustainability

A mix of EU, national and private funding, supported by predictable regulatory frameworks and de-risking tools, will be essential.

EU support for port investments

- ❑ Since 2014, the EU has supported port projects with ~€10 billion in deployment funding and €200+ million in R&I.
- ❑ EIB Group has supported port projects with €2.8bn (2014–2025)

The 2026 CEF call prioritised support for onshore power supply (OPS); applications closed on 6 October 2026.



Flagship Actions:

- ➢ Set overall **priorities and conditions** for all funding instruments (Annex 1).
- ➢ Engagement with **national promotional banks and private investors**.
- ➢ Improve **access to financing and project preparation** via EIB.
- ➢ Encourage the sector to "**think out of the box**" (by supporting ports to diversify into clean energy, digital and blue tech services – using targeted EU funding, advisory support and PPPs to de-risk innovative projects).

Pillar V – Social cohesion, Skills & Jobs

The green and digital transition will transform port operations. Ensuring **skilled workers, quality jobs and safe working conditions** is essential for the long-term competitiveness and **social sustainability** of EU ports.



Key challenges

- Ports vital for connectivity (arctic, coastal, islands, outermost regions).
- Workforce up-/reskilling for digitalisation, clean energy and alternative fuels.
- Ensuring safe working conditions and quality jobs in port operations.

Flagship Actions
A new **roadmap for competitive small and medium ports** (Annex 2).
Strengthen dialogues and support the development of best practices and guidance on **enhancing port-city relations**.
Support **upskilling and reskilling initiatives**, incl. the development of a skilled next-generation workforce across all blue economy sectors, including ports, through actions under the Blue Generational Renewal Strategy.
Support social partners and relevant stakeholders to establish a **Pact for Skills for the ports sector** on upskilling, reskilling and inclusion of workers.
Prepare **guidance on (i) onboard safety for workers and (ii) safe handling of new fuels**.

Recommendations to Member States

- ➢ Support infrastructure, clean energy and fuel, safety, and sustainability improvements for small and medium sized-ports.
- ➢ Ensure implementation and respect of Union and national labour legislation and collective bargaining agreements.

European Commission

Questions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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PA Ship relevant policy updates

Tour de Table:

Updates taking place / upcoming in your country, that will be / might have an impact on Sustainable Shipping practices?

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Any other business?

- Interesting / curious/ entertaining information you would like to share (e.g., projects, initiatives) from your country or organisation

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PA Ship SG meeting 20.10.2026

GOODBYE

















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THANK YOU!

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Finnish Transport and Communications Agency

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