

CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy expert seminar focuses on green shipping corridors and food waste from cruise ships in the Baltic Sea



12 October 2023, Turku

The first expert seminar of the Council of the Baltic Sea States' (CBSS) Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGSME) under the Finnish Presidency brought together more than 40 participants, distinguished speakers and panellists to continue discussions on advancing the deployment of **green shipping corridors** as well as tackling **food waste pollution** from cruise ships in the Baltic Sea Region. The expert seminar was moderated by EGSME Chairs **Mr Jussi Soramäki**, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Finland, and **Mr Eero Hokkanen**, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Government of Finland. The event was kindly hosted by the City of Turku and the Port of Turku. During the seminar participants had an opportunity to make a study visit to the Port of Turku and learn more about advanced technological solutions enabling the reduction of ship emissions in port.

"We stand in the middle of several key challenges in the world of global logistics today. We here, around the Baltic Sea, are not isolated from them. In fact, we can be in the forefront of solving these challenges" **Ms Minna Kivimäki**, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland.

"It is very encouraging to see that once again the Baltic Sea states are getting together to be at the forefront of innovation and to kick-start the deployment of tomorrow's technologies" **Ms Magda Kopczynska**, Director-General, DG Move, European Commission.





The first part of the expert seminar was moderated by **Mr Jussi Soramäki**, Prime Minister’s Office, Government of Finland, and started with welcome addresses by **Mr Antti Pekanheimo**, Chief Operating Officer at the Port of Turku, **Mr Grzegorz Poznanski**, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat and **Ms Minna Kivimäki**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland. During the keynote address **Mr Matti-Mikael Koskinen**, Chair of the Board Finnish Shipowners’ Association highlighted the utmost importance of unified regulatory landscape for addressing decarbonization challenges facing the shipping sector and noted the importance of maritime transport for safeguarding energy and food supply chains. A need to increase focus on business models in the development of green shipping corridors was noted by **Dr Magnus Gustafsson**, Åbo Akademi University, in the presentation of the Decatrip project aiming to develop solutions for establishment of green corridor on the sea route between Turku and Stockholm.

The comment on another topic – the status of food waste handling – was provided by **Ms Mia Hytti**, Project Manager, Baltic Sea Action Group, and **Mr Sacha Gill**, VP Sustainability (Europe) at the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA). Considering the lack of global regulations and incentives preventing the discharge of treated food waste from vessels into sea, food waste remains one of the key challenges in particularly sensitive sea areas such as the Baltic Sea. Although a significant progress has been made over the

Forward-looking messages

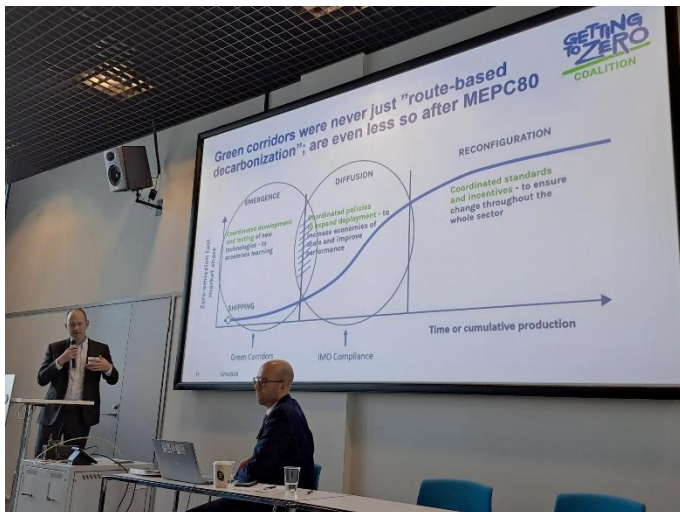
Green shipping corridors (GSC)

- National and regional policy action is key for closing the cost gap associated with kick-starting the deployment of GSC (reaching 5% by 2030).
- The role of Governments is paramount in enabling partnerships and establishing financial support mechanisms.
- Increased emphasis on positive business cases associated with launching GSC as well as public-private partnerships.
- National contact points for green shipping corridors is a welcomed practice in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Coordinated view on the timelines for launching GSCs and a roadmap elaborated by Governments would be a welcomed initiative.

Tackling food waste from ships

- Current regulations allow discharging treated/grounded food waste into the sea.
- Cooperation between all operators in the value chain is key for reducing food waste.
- “No special fee” incentive scheme is important to support the collection of food waste from cruise ships.
- Important to develop a harmonized approach for reducing food waste discharges into sea.
- Responsible cruise operators already leave all their food waste to ports in the Baltic Sea.
- New regulatory framework for tackling grey water discharges should allow enough time to adequately prepare for implementation.

recent years in developing technological solutions to process the food waste onboard the vessels as well as in advancing port reception facilities, the situation remains fragmented and there is a need to develop a harmonized approach.



The afternoon’s discussion, moderated by **Mr Eero Hokkanen**, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Government of Finland, continued focus on green shipping corridors as catalysts for the clean energy transition around the Baltic Sea. In his keynote address **Mr Jesse Fahnestock**, Project Director at the Global Maritime Forum, provided an overview of how national and regional policies can support the establishment of green corridors. The practical examples associated with launching green shipping corridors as well as regional investment needs were further

discussed by **Mr Jacob Armstrong**, Shipping Policy Manager at Transport and Environment (T&E), **Mr Dani Lindberg**, Sustainability Manager, Viking Linge, **Mr Markus Lemberg**, Outokumpu, **Ms Anna Måtts-Fransen**, Project Manager Vaasa Region Development Company, **Mr Jörgen Petterson**, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, **Mr Kim Krokfors**, Nordic Investment Bank, and **Ms Aleksandra Billeskov**, Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping.

The seminar was concluded with the video greeting from **Mr Bogdan Oldakowski**, Secretary General, Baltic Ports Organisation, who informed participants about recently adopted Ystad Climate Declaration and stressed the importance of continuing cooperation with the maritime community and policy makers in addressing climate change and decarbonization challenges facing the maritime sector in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Finnish Presidency informed, that the next EGSME expert seminar is planned to take place in Mariehamn, Åland, on the 22nd of May 2024 in conjunction with Åland Maritime Day. The Presidency asked all interested participants to reserve the date in their calendars, and promised to provide more information on the seminar later.