



ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY
2024–2025

Summary of the 1st Open CBSS EGSME seminar under Estonian Chairmanship– “Co-operation for smart and sustainable Baltic Sea”



In his opening statement **Kaupo Läänemand, Deputy Secretary General for Maritime and Water Affairs at Ministry of Climate, Estonia**, underlined that national governments must show the example and provide stimulus for the pilot projects as well as gain the support of the industry to be able to move forward with the next steps. New generation is demanding the CO₂ free passages in marine transport. He mentioned green shipping corridors as well as retrofitting of the ship fleets for new technologies as examples of actions that are needed to boost the green transition in maritime industry and international maritime law. Yet, to ensure the quality, marine data needs to be shared. In this regard, Presidency will try various models of how to move forward where CBSS will serve as a platform for boosting cooperation.

ESTONIA'S CBSS PRESIDENCY 2024-2025 PRIORITIES

During the Estonia's presidency at the CBSS, the Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGSME) will work towards reaching a common understanding of the meaning of a green corridor and creating a network of interested parties.

As a new initiative, the presidency will aim to start the preparations (mapping existing projects and defining interested countries) for creating a digital twin of the Baltic Sea, i.e. Collecting real-time data to simulate marine processes and in this way have a better understanding of the condition of the sea.

GREEN SHIPPING CORRIDORS

The session provided an opportunity to hear the views from industrial sector. **Arnstein Eknes, Global segment director for special ships in DNV** in his presentation highlighted the main bottlenecks for the further development of the shipping corridors: costs, lack of availability of CO2 free fuel and security requirements, bunkering infrastructure. While he pointed out that there are no viable solutions for developing long distance shipping routes, short distance shipping routes can be adapted. Yet, as of now there are no global scale solutions.



Valdo Kalm, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO at Port of Tallinn, explained that application of the advanced technologies such as auto mooring and shore power connection have helped Tallinn's port to become a model for adaptation of the green technologies as well as the hub of developing the offshore wind power capacities. Moreover, he underlined the importance of the green shipping corridor agreement between Tallinn and Helsinki ports, which is boosting further development of the alternative energy sources. Simultaneously, the Hydrogen valley Estonia will only accelerate the energy transition.





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MARITIME DATA AND DIGITAL TWINS

This section focused on the opportunities that marine data sharing can provide. **Rivo Uiboupin, the Head of Department of Marine Systems, Tallinn University of Technology** highlighted the importance of the marine data and digital twins since they support the governance, maritime spatial planning, improve disaster risk management, provides support to achieve the desired impact for wind energy sector.



Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, EC spoke on the importance of reliable data in good ocean governance. Since satellite technologies alone are not enough to successfully develop digital twins, it is essential to develop the robotics in ocean sciences. There is positive trend that is observed: economic sector is interested in ocean observation and development of digital twins.

WORKSHOPS: GREEN CORRIDORS AND DIGITAL TWIN OF THE SEAS

The seminar also conducted a workshop session on the Green Shipping corridors and Digital twin of the Seas. Both sessions provided insight of the state of play in the CBSS member states. It also concluded that in order to dig deeper in the thematic areas presented at the seminar, there is a need for more targeted discussions, examples of the technical solutions, stronger political will from the national governments.

