



08.12.2016 – Second Annual Stakeholders’ Conference



Warm thanks to all our guest speakers

For the second consecutive year, FEPORT organized a Stakeholders’ conference gathering representatives from EU institutions and Members States. Participants included the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council of Transport Ministers (through the presence of Transport Attaches), the European Court of Auditors, the European Investment Bank and the Committee of the Regions.

Trade associations, civil society organization, trade unions and experts were also amongst the attendees and participants to the conference.

FEPORT was particularly delighted to have the political support of the **Commissioner for Mobility and Transport, Ms. Violeta Bulc**.

The presence of **Mr. Stephen Quest, Director General of DG TAXUD** was of much significance for all participants, and his positive message to trade associations on issues of common concern was highly appreciated.

We were more than grateful to Ms. Christine Berg, Head of Unit “Maritime Safety” within the DG MOVE “Waterborne Directorate D”, for having kindly accepted to deliver a message on behalf of Mr. Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director General of DG MOVE, who had to leave at the last minute on a mission.

Ms. Susanne Aigner, Head of Unit “Customs Legislation” at DG TAXUD and Mr. Sandro Santamato, Head of Unit “Maritime and Logistics” at DG MOVE have provided participants with very clear insights about the EU Commission efforts to facilitate trade through digitalization and simplification of administrative procedures and the ongoing work within the Digital Transport and Logistics Forum.

Ms. Catherine Trautmann’s (TEN-T Coordinator) and Mr. Wim Van de Camp’s (Member of the TRAN Committee of the European Parliament) interventions following the presentation of Mr. Luc T’Joel, (European Court of Auditors) showed that there are certainly areas of improvements which need to be addressed when planning future investments and that there is a need for greater upstream dialogue between relevant actors before the financing of new projects.

Our warmest thanks to Dr Martin Stopford for his insightful keynote speech and comments about the current market developments. The speech undoubtedly supported the view that big difficulties are ahead for all actors if cooperation and rational decisions do not become the basis for the development of the global supply chain.

All key note speeches, presentations and testimonials showed that the topics of the conference are real issues that will need to be addressed by all relevant actors.

We therefore remain persuaded that the “annual gathering exercise” is useful and look forward to welcoming you end of 2017.

As food for our future thoughts, we offer you some quotes from **Ms. Bulc’s inspiring opening speech** which summarizes the topics of the conference and lists what should be the main areas of focus in the coming years:

.....
“Often we look at ports and terminals only as an interface between ship and shore.
But ports are much more: they are an important player in logistics network. They are critical for connecting Europe to the world and for an efficient internal market.



But they are also places where a lot of value is created, during transshipment, but also independent of logistic operation.

We need to fully understand the role that ports and terminals are playing as both logistic players and, more and more, as industry hubs, to integrate them well within the logistic network."

".....data should become available and accessible to the greatest extent possible. To have information about

- where the goods are,*
- what options are available for shipping them,*
- what the cost are for shipping them, including external cost like CO2"*

"We also need to agree on rules on who gives access to data, how to use and re-use the data."

"At the same time, we must enable integrated solutions for a logistic network to become more efficient."

"Digitalisation offers huge opportunities to optimise cargo flows, enable new business models and value added services. That's why we have to invest a lot into this work.

"But clearly, investments in physical infrastructure will continue to be needed as well.

We need more, but also smarter investments.

Three elements are important, to make this happen:

- 1) Legal certainty and transparency*
- 2) Better Governance*
- 3) Innovative financial instruments"*

"Clearly, innovation is critical for all that I have been saying today. Because of the time constraints, I don't want to go into detail. Suffice to say that the Commission is working on Strategic Agenda for Innovation and Research in Transport, and that logistics and multimodal solutions are an area where innovation is happening already but where further

support is needed. So, be assured: you are on our map."

"Collaboration across industries and transport modes are crucial for all three points and the creation of the Industry Alliance announced today is therefore very welcome! I expect that it will provide valuable input to the platforms the Commission is hosting, including the Digital Transport and Logistic Forum and the TEN-T Corridor Fora."

We are sure that 2017 and 2018 will offer us the opportunity to work on those topics and improve.

The EU economy, its growth and the people deserve our collective efforts.

For more information, please visit the [Conference website](#).



08.12.2016 – Industry Alliance for Multimodal Connectivity and Logistics launched

In a spirit of genuine collaboration and partnership, 21 industry associations, representing different modes of transport, cargo owners, freight forwarders, logistics and port service providers, shipyards, transport workers and equipment manufacturers have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the framework of an **Industry Alliance for Multimodal (IAM) Connectivity and Logistics for Growth**.

The Alliance will express their positions and expectations with regards to EU policy initiatives that could boost and enhance European multimodal connectivity and logistics.



CONNECTIVITY & LOGISTICS for GROWTH

The Industry Alliance for Multimodal (IAM) Connectivity and Logistics for Growth was launched during the Second Annual Stakeholders' conference taking place in Brussels, where many of the Alliance members are gathering to engage with EU policy makers and regulators.

FEPORT, the Federation of European Private Port Operators, is one of the founder members of IAM, together with: **AIVP** - The worldwide network of port cities; **BIC** - Bureau International du Conteneur; **CLECAT** - European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services; **EBU** - European Barge Association; **ECASBA** - European Community Association of Ship Brokers and Agents; **ECG** - The Association of European Vehicle Logistics; **ECSA** - European Community Shipowners' Association; **EFIP** - European Federation of Inland Ports; **EMPA** - European Maritime Pilots' Association; **ESPO** - European Sea Ports Organisation; **ESC** - European Shippers Council; **ETA** - European Tugowners Association; **EuDA** - European Dredging Association; **ICHCA International** - the global cargo handling NGO; **IRU** - International Road Transport Union; **PEMA** - Port Equipment Manufacturers Association; **Sea Europe** - the Ships and Maritime Equipment Association; **UIP** - International Union of Wagon Keepers; **UIRR** - International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport and **UNISTOCK** - European association of professional portside storekeepers for agribulk commodities.

The Alliance is also open to other interested bodies pursuing the same objective.

I AM Connectivity & Logistics for Growth will complement the work of other platforms and initiatives and seek win-win

opportunities with them, whilst aiming itself to achieve specific policy objectives and deliverables through joint positions. The members of the Alliance will work in an iterative manner and via an online collaborative platform.

The Alliance will provide industry input to EU decision-makers, TEN-T Corridor Coordinators and relevant EU agencies, operating on a coalition model, on topics where there is consensus.

Areas of mutual interest cover competitiveness, efficiency, reliability, safety, security and sustainability of supply chain, logistics, cargo transport, handling and freight services across the European region.

I AM Connectivity & Logistics for Growth will decide upon its priorities during an annual plenary meeting to be held in spring 2017. The alliance agenda will be inspired by the EU Commission annual work programmes but also proposals from the members.

To start with, I AM will be putting the following topics on its agenda: review of the combined transport Directive and the Mid-term evaluation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

"In these challenging times, seamless, sustainable and resilient logistics chains are more important than ever before to Europe's economic, environmental and social well-being" said Ms. Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid, Secretary General of FEPORT, one of the founding organizations.

"I AM Connectivity & Logistics for Growth will facilitate the important dialogue with EU institutions on the current and future policy framework" added Mr. Nik Delmeire, Secretary General of the European Shippers' Council.

See more [here](#).



08.12.2016 – Publication of FEPORT White Paper “2017, 2018 and beyond”: Proposals for a sustainable European maritime logistics policy”



Gathered for the General Assembly in Brussels, FEPORT members have formally endorsed the content of the White Paper “2017, 2018 and beyond” which expresses their expectations to policy makers.

Assuming that the word “maritime” concerns all industries belonging to the maritime cluster, FEPORT has decided to feed the ongoing reflections and

call for an approach that will boost not only one industry but all sectors of the wider maritime cluster as well as the essential cement we all need: logistics.

Logistics¹ is a key-enabling sector for the European economy and a crucial element for further growth of industrial activity and trade on a global scale.

Current market developments and ongoing discussions about environment related topics also call for an integrated approach. The interdependence of all actors of the maritime logistics chain is clearly demonstrated and justifies a holistic and balanced approach, be it in regards to investment, competition, level playing field, digitization, trade facilitation, sustainability or innovation.

“In view of the upcoming comprehensive evaluation exercise of EU maritime legislation in 2017, and the preparation of the multimodal year in 2018, FEPORT remains confident that the European Commission will give priority to measures boosting the competitiveness of the whole chain and support

¹ Improvement in efficiency in the EU logistics sector would potentially equal a € 100 - 300 billion cost relief for European industry (European Logistics Action Plan, 2007).

industries’ efforts to contribute to EU GDP and create EU jobs” said Ms. Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid, FEPORT Secretary General.

“We trust that the maritime industries’ initiatives aiming at mitigating the effects of economic activity on society and environment will be valued” continued FEPORT Secretary General.

“Failing to do so would be a major setback for the whole maritime cluster and could significantly affect the sector’s ability to attract the necessary levels of investment it needs to continue improving” concluded Ms. Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid.

The White Paper can be accessed [here](#).

09.12.2016 – 3rd EU Rail Freight Day 2016, Vienna

Last December 9th, the EU Rail Freight Day 2016, the third of its kind, took place in Vienna. The event aimed to launch a fruitful exchange between the stakeholders in European rail freight and the Commission on operational issues and interoperability for rail freight.

12.12.2016 – Trade Contact Group (TCG) meeting

On 12th December, FEPORT participated in the 11th Meeting of the Customs Code Expert Group joined with the Trade Contact Group (TCG). The Trade Contact Group is composed of industry associations and provides a platform for regular consultations at Union level, between the Commission and industry stakeholders, on the development and implementation of customs related issues and developments of customs policy.

The meeting of the 12th December focused on amendments to the Union Customs Code Implementing and Delegated Acts to ensure a smooth implementation of the provisions of the Union Customs Code.

FEPORT is actively working with the Commission to ensure that the Union Customs Code has a guarantee system that builds upon the existing AEO (Authorized Economic Operators) concept, thereby giving industries and national authorities a clear understanding of obligations that need to be met by trade to avail of a guarantee waiver.

14.12.2016 – Adoption of the Ports Regulation by the European Parliament



After a three years parliamentary legislative process concerning the Port Services Regulation, also known now as Ports Regulation, the European Parliament has adopted in Plenary the text.

This adoption is the result of a lot of involvement and dedication from the Rapporteur, Mr. Knut Fleckenstein, and his team who have adopted a real consultative approach and multiplied efforts to discuss with all stakeholders to reach a good compromise. This achievement is also a positive outcome of the work that has also involved the representatives of DG MOVE and the negotiators of the Council of Transport Ministers, in particular during the Italian and Dutch Presidencies, who have dedicated time and energy to improve the text.

Last but not least, contrary to what was expected by many observers, European organizations representing port stakeholders have been constructive and the majority of them has even called for a vote “en bloc” in the European Parliament plenary some months ago.

Such a mobilization is not a coincidence. It shows that when key stakeholders are consulted in a meaningful manner, and when a text seeks to clarify and improve applicable rules in and by ports, it is possible to build cross sectoral support.

“The adoption of the Ports Regulation in Parliament is an important step, but for the 1200 companies that FEPORT

represents, the text has given birth to high expectations about transparency and consultation” says Ms. Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid, FEPORT Secretary General.

“We hope that Member States will guarantee a proper implementation of the rules about transparency and consultation of private investors in ports. Those rules are, from our point of view, good instruments to ensure a level playing field, to prevent risks of distortion of competition and to avoid unsustainable investments in ports” continues FEPORT Secretary General.

“It is also crucial that the ongoing second procedure of consultation about the Global Block Exemption Regulation does not lead to the adoption of a text which contradicts the spirit and some key definitions that have been agreed upon in the framework of the long and exhaustive discussions about the Ports Regulation. Consistency between rules applicable to ports will be crucial” concludes FEPORT Secretary General.

14.12.2016 – Connectivity Platform



Land-based Silk Road Economic Belt (one Belt) and 21st century Maritime Silk Road (one Road) (source: Xinhua net)

FEPORT participated in a Commission industry consultation meeting regarding ongoing negotiations between China and the EU regarding China’s OBOR (One Belt, One Road) initiative. The initiative is aimed at boosting regional integration in its wider Eurasian area. The initiative also includes possible investment by the Chinese Development Bank (CDB) in Europe, especially in the Western Balkans.

FEPORT has been of the position that the European Union needs to ensure that public financing by third countries in Europe is subject to the same checks and balances as financing by the European Union or EU Member States. FEPORT has stressed that any project development needs to be focused on transport needs, and, where applicable, subject to an impact assessment. FEPORT is committed to supporting the European Union in its ongoing discussions with China on the OBOR initiative.

16.12.2016 – The Environment Committee of the European Parliament votes for the inclusion of the shipping emissions in the European Emission Trading Scheme

Members of the European Parliament's environment committee (ENVI) have called for EU shipping emissions to be included in the EU ETS from 2023 if the UN's International Maritime Organisation (IMO) fails to deliver a global deal by 2021.

19.12.2016 – Publication of the European List of ship recycling facilities

On 19th December, the European Commission adopted the first version of the European List of ship recycling facilities. From a date to fall at the latest on 31 December 2018, the 2013 Ship Recycling Regulation requires all large sea-going vessels sailing under the flag of a Member State of the Union to use an approved ship recycling facility included on the List.

The first 18 shipyards are all located in the EU. Another 18 applications from yards located in third countries are now being assessed. The European Commission will decide in 2017 on their inclusion in the List. You can find more information [here](#).

Meetings of the month

FEPORT Board of Directors meeting, Brussels	07.12.2016
FEPORT General Assembly meeting, Brussels	07.12.2016
Second Annual Stakeholders' Conference, Brussels	08.12.2016
FEPORT Customs and Logistics Committee, Brussels	09.12.2016

Coming meetings

EP Committee on Transport and Tourism meeting, Brussels	25-26.01.2017
SAGMAS meeting, Brussels	01.02.2017
FEPORT Social Affairs Committee meeting, Brussels	14.02.2017
FEPORT Port Policy Committee meeting, Brussels	15.02.2017
FEPORT Board of Directors meeting, Brussels	16.02.2017
FEPORT Customs and Logistics Committee, Brussels	23.02.2017
FEPORT Environment, Safety and Security Committee meeting, Brussels	23.02.2017
EP Committee on Transport and Tourism meeting, Brussels	27-28.02.2017
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council meeting, Council of the European Union	27.02.2017
Social Dialogue meeting, Brussels	01.03.2017
SEA Europe Maritime Conference	02.03.2017