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## **ETA 51st ANNUAL MEETING BOURGAS, BULGARIA 21-23 MAY 2014**

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Deputy Minister of Transport and Communication Peter Kirov  
opening the Conference



## **CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES ADDRESSED BY THE TOWAGE INDUSTRY**

Hosted by its Bulgarian Member **Multraship Bulgaria**, some 100 representatives of members and associated members gathered in Bourgas at the 51st Annual Meeting.

During the Annual General Meeting, Chairman Peter Vierstraete, General Manager of SMIT Towage Northwest Europe and Deputy Chairman Mario Mizzi, CEO of Tug Malta were re-elected.

The **Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Transport and Communication Peter Kirov** opened the Conference on 22nd May 2014, highlighting what he called "*the vital role of the port towage industry in the smooth and safe functioning of the European ports*"

The Conference mainly concentrated on the Climate Change challenges affecting the European towage industry and the shipping industry in general.

Under the title :"**Towage versus the Power of Nature and the Force of Law and Regulations**" four speakers illustrated the legislative framework at IMO and EU level and the solutions which shipyards, engine manufacturers, ship designers and naval architects are presenting to the tugowners.

**Ludovic Laffineur** from the **Royal Belgian Shipowners Association** explained the legal framework deriving from IMO and EU legislation and regulations under the title: "**Shipping and the latest state of play in IMO and EU**".

**Ali Gurun** from the Turkish associate member **Sanmar Shipyard**, introduced "**the world's first LNG fuelled tugboat**" designed and built in cooperation with ETA associate member Rolls Royce and with Norwegian ETA member Bugsér og Berging, to whom the first LNG fuelled tug "**Borgøy**" was delivered recently while her sistertug Bokn is under construction.

**David Segbers** and **Sebastian Schwarz** from associate member **MTU Friedrichshafen's** presentation: "**How an off-highway engine manufacturer finds solutions to meet future environmental legislation**" described the complex scope of worldwide emission regulations that have to be addressed by engine makers. Each application and various regions have different regulations and a variety of solutions has to be developed to meet

the market needs, the speakers underlined.

In his presentation “**Tugboat power generation meets environment**” **Haijo van der Werf** from ETA's associate member **Offshore Ship Designers Holland** analysed the various technical possibilities that ship designers and naval architects can develop to obtain a considerable reduction in CO<sup>2</sup>, NOx and particulates through ships' emissions.

The last speaker **Sadik Memis** from associate member **Uzmar Shipbuilding Trade Incorp.** presented “**Tugs in numbers worldwide and special focus on Europe**”, an informative study drawn from various sources, among others' from the ETA's own survey results, on the relationship between the worldwide tug fleet and the European fleet. His study compared the evolution of bollard pull, propulsion systems, size and age of tugboats. He emphasized the correlation between the ever growing ships' size and the demand on the towage industry to invest in tugboats with very high bollard pull and new technology, able to safely berth and unberth these giant vessels.

The presentations' slides will be made available soonest.

A gala dinner and Social Day concluded the 51st Annual Meeting.

The event was sponsored by hosting company **Multtraship Bulgaria, Anglo Belgian Corporation, Damen Shipyard Gorinchem Group, Redwise, Sanmar Denizcilik, Schottel GmbH, Shipowners' Protection, TOS Transport & Offshore Services, Uzmar Shipbuilding Trade Incorp., Voith Turbo Schneider Propulsion GmbH & C°.**

**Next year's** Annual Meeting will be held in **Greece from 13th till 15th May 2015**, upon invitation of ETA member **Tsavliris Salvage Group**. The final choice on the exact venue will be made known within the near future.

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