



European Tugowners Association

ETA welcomes the "Valletta Ministerial Declaration" as a good first step for a future ambitious EU Maritime Strategy Brussels, March 31st, 2017

The Council of EU Transport Ministers adopted the "Valletta Ministerial Declaration" outlining a common vision on the goals and priorities for the **EU maritime transport policy until 2020**.

ETA welcomes the Declaration and supports the EU Transport Ministers stance on the need to address the current challenges affecting the whole maritime cluster, whose competitiveness at the world stage is essential for the European economy. The inclusiveness and comprehensiveness of the Declaration is a solid first step for a future Maritime policy, as it highlights the need for a **higher degree of multimodality and connectivity of the industry, also in respect of islands and peripheral regions**. The policy focus on advancing in the **digitalization of the sector** can boost its competitiveness while generating new business opportunities and synergies.

The ambition of the text is also reflected on its position on international trade and the environment. The EU should position itself at the **vanguard of the international efforts to curb the maritime sector emissions and reinforce its cooperation with IMO in the development of a global climate change legislation**. Likewise, adopting clear and consistent legal frameworks at the international level prioritizing the support to long term global competitiveness is essential for the European maritime cluster. **The EU, as the first global trade power can and must lead the international efforts at the IMO, ILO and other fora to set up fair international standards for safety, security, social conditions or market access.**

"The "Valletta Ministerial Declaration" represents a strong foundation for the future EU Maritime Transport strategy. ETA as part of the maritime cluster, together with the other stakeholders, is committed to strengthen the ongoing cooperation with the EU institutions to define an ambitious strategy. **Only by intense and constructive cooperation between policy makers and the sector we can develop the right tools to boost the competitiveness of our world class industry**". Says Ms. Anna Maria Darmanin.

The European Tugowners Association participated in the High Level Ministerial Stakeholders Conference on Maritime Affairs, which was the prelude to the Ministerial Declaration. Anna Maria Darmanin discussed and expressed the views and concerns of the towage industry in a panel that included among others, Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport, Marios Demetriades, Cypriot Minister for Transport and the representatives of the EU maritime cluster.

EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

WWW.EUROTUGOWNERS.COM

info@eurotugowners.com