

Green Shipping Corridors of the Baltic Sea

Navigating Towards Carbon-Neutral Shipping in the EU Baltic Sea 2030

Date: Friday, 26 April 2024

Theme: Green Shipping

Workshop Summary

In one of two workshops at our second Mission Arena focusing on future of the shipping industry, participants at this workshop had the opportunity to discuss the emerging importance of green shipping corridors in the Baltic Sea region.

The workshop began with an input from **Ulla Tapaninen** (Tallinn University of Technology), who argued that shipping companies have an incentive to alter their work to be a part of green shipping corridors, as doing so can give them an edge compared to their competitors. Green shipping corridors are therefore a powerful tool, but the onus is on scientists, politicians, and other decisionmakers to get involved in steering the conversation to ensure that green shipping develops in a manner that is supportive of European climate goals.

Following this input **Milla Harju** from EUSBSR presented on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, which places an emphasis on clean shipping, with five key focuses for this industry: 1) Collaborative approaches; 2) Financial risk-sharing; 3) Incentives and support; 4) Technological advancements; 5) Global collaboration.

In a subsequent input **Ugis Zanders** (CBSS) emphasised and spoke on one route to improving the governance of green shipping corridors: intergovernmental collaboration. In his presentation, Ugis Zanders used the example of CBSS to demonstrate how intergovernmental collaboration can be used to improve regulation, cooperation, and governance in the shipping industry.

The workshop continued with a presentation from **Tarmo Ots** (Estonian Ministry of Climate), who highlighted one key element standing in the way of a successful green shipping regime in Europe: the lack of a common definition of green corridors. In order to successfully increase the number and functioning of green corridors, intergovernmental cooperation should be used as a forum for discussion to create a common definition including criteria of implementation, identification of a network of interested parties, elaboration of a roadmap of timelines for launching green corridors, and a goodwill memorandum addressing the issue.

In the next presentation at this workshop **Ulla Rosenström** and **Juulia Suikula** (John Nurminen Foundation) spoke on two aspects of shipping that currently stand in the way of making the industry green: fertiliser and chemical spills. In both cases, poor governance, lack of monitoring, and outdated practices have led fertilisers and chemicals to be leaked into ports and harbours during the transit process. Both of these presentations highlighted the need for regulatory and technological changes to address these issues.

The workshop ended with an interactive element, in which participants had the opportunity to discuss how to improve four elements of the shipping industry in the Baltic Sea: sustainable energy sources, transport efficiency, pollutant reduction, and monitoring practices. In the end, participants suggested a variety of action points which were later voted on in plenary. You can find the final action points in our Roadmap.