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LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY AGENDA IN MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTOR

Ministry of Transport and Communications
2013.10.04

CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

Priorities of Lithuanian Presidency

Presidency agenda in maritime sector

Presidency events

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LITUANIAN PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

Lithuanian focuses on the three overall goals during the Presidency:

- **Credible Europe** – sounder public finances in the EU and financial stability, which is required to fully restore the EU's economic credibility.

- **Growing Europe** - the Europe 2020 agenda, economic growth and better employment opportunities, dynamic Digital Single Market, research and innovation issues, completion of the internal energy market.

- **Open Europe** - EU as a global model of openness and security, closer integration of the EU and its Eastern Partners, smarter control of the EU's external borders, and better coordination in the external dimension of EU energy policy.

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PRIORITIES OF LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY IN TRANSPORT

In the field of transport Lithuanian Presidency seeks:

- to work towards the establishing of an effective and well-functioning transport infrastructure network and

- to contribute to the completion and strengthening of the EU internal market by providing a more harmonized framework of rules for services within the EU.

AGENDA OF LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY IN MARITIME FIELD

- Maritime transport
- Clean Power for transport
- Integrated Maritime Policy
- Environmental issues related to maritime transport

Ministries in charge:
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ministry of Environment

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MARITIME TRANSPORT

Main proposals that have been identified in presidency's agenda

1. Funding of European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

2. Directive on marine equipment

3. European ports policy review

4. Cape Town agreement on safety for fishing vessels

5. IMO coordination

FUNDING OF EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

(Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on multiannual funding for the action of the European Maritime Safety Agency in the field of response to pollution caused by ships and to marine pollution caused by oil and gas installations)

Objective

To lays down the detailed arrangements for the financial contribution of the Union to the budget of the EMSA for the implementation of the tasks assigned to it in the field of responding to pollution caused by ships and offshore oil and gas installations

State of play and expected results

Lithuania has launched the work on the Commission proposals on July.

Presidency will seek significant progress on this proposal with the aim to adopt it by the end of this year.

Lithuania expects to reach general approach on October‘s TTE Council and open negotiations with the Parliament in order to reach an agreement on 1st reading.

Proposal must come into force on 1st January 2014.

MARINE EQUIMPENT DIRECTIVE

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on marine equipment and repealing Directive 96/98/EC

Objective

The marine equipment directive aims at increasing legal certainty and effectiveness of current legislation.

State of play and expected results

Lithuania will ensure continuity of TRIO program and will proceed with the proposal of directive on marine equipment.

Lithuania will start negotiations with the European Parliament and will strive for the significant progress.

EUROPEAN PORTS POLICY REVIEW

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework on market access to port services and financial transparency of ports

Objective

To establish a clear framework for access to the market of port services as well as common rules on the financial transparency and charges to be applied by managing bodies or providers of port services.

State of play and expected results

The examination of the Proposal hasn't started yet, but on the 3d October the Proposal has been presented by the Commission and Member States started examination of impact assessment. Several meetings of Shipping WP will be devoted for the said examination.

Presidency's intentions are to have orientation debates at TTE in December 2013 on this proposal.

CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT ON SAFETY FOR FISHING VESSELS

Proposal for a Council Decision authorising Member States to sign, ratify or accede to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the provisions of the 1993 Protocol relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977

Objective

Since the provisions of the Agreement fall under the exclusive competence of the Union concerning the safety regime of fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over Council should authorise Member States to sign and ratify the Agreement or to accede to it in the interests of the Union.

State of play and expected results

On 10th October the Council will be asked for 'the consent in principle' to the text of the Proposal, then it will be forwarded to the European Parliament for its consent and adopted by the Council afterwards.

CLEAN POWER FOR TRANSPORT

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure

Objectives

To establish a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to break the oil dependence of transport and set out minimum requirements on alternative fuels infrastructure build-up and common technical specifications, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen.

Expected results:

The package is one among priority initiatives during the Lithuanian Presidency

Lithuania expects to reach general approach on the draft Directive by the end of its Presidency at the TTE in December 2013

INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY

Proposal for a directive establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management

Objectives

To establish a framework for ecosystem based maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management aiming to contribute to the sustainable growth of maritime and coastal economies and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

Expected results:

Lithuania expects to reach general approach on the draft Directive by the end of its Presidency at the Council of Common Affairs in November 2013.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO MARITIME TRANSPORT

There are several environmental initiatives closely related to the maritime transport, namely:

- Carbon dioxide emissions in maritime transport

- Hong Kong Convention

- NECA

Ministry of Environment is in charge of those Proposals.

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS IN MARITIME TRANSPORT

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013

Objective

To lay down rules for the accurate monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and other climate relevant information from ships arriving at, within or departing from ports under the jurisdiction of a Member State in order to promote the reduction of CO2 emissions from maritime transport in a cost effective manner.

Expected results

Working party discussed impact assessment and started examination of the Proposal.

Presidency expects to achieve significant progress on this Proposal.

HONG KONG CONVENTION

Proposal for a Council Decision requiring Member States to ratify or to accede to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound recycling of ships, 2009, in the interests of the European Union

Objective

To authorize Member States wishing to do so ratify the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, or to accede to it.

Expected results

Taking into consideration positive views expressed of Member States during examination of this proposal, it is expected that this decision will be submitted to the Coreper in the near future. The Council will be asked for ‘the consent in principle’ to the text of the Proposal, then it will be forwarded to the European Parliament for its consent and adopted by the Council afterwards.

NECA

European Commission Proposal for A Council Decision establishing the position to be taken in HELCOM and IMO concerning the designation on the Baltic Sea as Nitrogen Oxyde Emissions Control Area (NECA)

Objective

To decide that the position to be taken by the European Union in HELCOM shall be to support the submission by the Baltic riparian States to IMO of the HELCOM proposal to designate the Baltic Sea as an Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxide, at the latest by the 66th meeting of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee.

State of play

Member States unanimously expressed their opinion during Coreper meeting that this decisions falls under the competence of Member States and that EU should not come back to this issue ever again.

CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

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Presidency events

- 4th Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
  - 11-12 November 2013, Vilnius

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Thank you!