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**European Sea Ports Organisation**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Meeting 2 July 2024**

**11 am to 3.30 pm**

European Port House

Brussels

*Final Draft Agenda*

1. **Welcome – apologies for absence**
2. **Adoption of the final draft agenda**

The final draft agenda will be submitted for adoption.

1. **Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 6 March were sent by circular C-4288. Members will be asked to adopt the draft minutes.

1. **European elections: exchange of views on the outcome of the EP elections**

Members will be informed about the outcome of the European elections, the constitution of the new Parliament and the outcome of the European Council meetings of end June, in particular as concerns the nomination of a Commission President and priorities for the next Commission.

1. **Foreign Direct Investment Screening: adoption of ESPO position on the proposal for review**

In January 2024, the Commission published its proposal for a Regulation on the screening of foreign investments in the Union, reviewing the current Regulation of 2019. It obliges all EU Member States to have a system in place to screen investments that may pose risks to the security and public order in the Union and harmonises certain elements of the national screening procedures. Ports, in particular TEN-T ports, fall under the scope of the Regulation. More information can be found in circulars C-4217 and C-4275.

The secretariat has prepared a draft position (see C-4347 and enclosed), based on comments received from members and on the outcome of an online meeting with members of the Port Governance and Management Committee.

The draft position has been submitted to the relevant committees for comments. An updated draft will be prepared prior to the meeting. At the Executive Committee, members will be asked to discuss and adopt, if possible, a final ESPO position.

1. **ESPO’s Internal Regulations**

In May 2023, the General Assembly adopted the new by-laws, in line with the new Belgian legislation. To be more fit for purpose, it was decided to restrict the by-laws to what is mandatory by law, and to regulate the other aspects of the internal organisation of ESPO in an “Internal Regulation”. Such an internal regulation is as powerful as the by-laws. But changes to the internal Regulation, do not have to be published in the Official Journal though.

The idea is that the Internal Regulation confirms as much as possible the current functioning of ESPO. It contains the provisions that were taken out of the by-laws, and includes some updates of these, if needed and where relevant.

The secretariat has prepared a presentation outlining the different topics to be covered by the internal regulation, with some first suggestions for proposals.

Members will be asked to discuss this presentation and the issues for discussion during the meeting. If possible, the Internal Regulation should be adopted by the Executive Committee in September and then be submitted to and adopted by the General Assembly of 6 November.

1. **Exchange of views with** **Mr Eddy Liégeois, Acting Director, Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport, at DG MOVE and, possibly a representative of the European Union Military Staff about military mobility and military preparedness and the role of ports. (2.30pm)**

Following a bilateral meeting the Secretariat had with the Commission about military mobility and military preparedness and the role of ports, Mr Eddy Liégeois, Acting Director, Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport, at DG MOVE, Mr Alexander Verduyn from the same Unit, and possibly a representative of the European Union Military Staff have accepted to join the Executive Committee for an exchange of views with members about military mobility and military preparedness and the investments needed in ports, both in terms of adapting their infrastructure and operations.

1. **PortinSights: state of play**

Members will be briefly updated about the state of play of the data platform, PortinSights and will be informed about the current level of participation of members in the data platform. In accordance with the new contract with the technical partner for the maintenance and upgrading of the platform, the technical partner is not selling any data (the seling of data was part of the previous contract with the technical partner).

As a consequence, ESPO can decide how to approach the requests from external parties (consultants, business, researchers, etc.). Members will be asked how to deal with requests of external parties to receive certain data from the PortinSights platform. Three options are possible:

1. The party asking the data gets (temporary) access to the platform allowing him to extract and play with the data;
2. ESPO is extracting the data required by the external party and passing them to the party asking for it.
3. The PortinSights data are not being shared on an individual basis. Only these data that are being published by ESPO as such can be used.
4. **Possible role of ESPO secretariat in Eu projects**

In agreement with the ESPO Chairs, the ESPO secretariat will possibly participate in certain EU projects involving ports in a limited role as to help with the communication and the dissemination (transfer) of results of the project and the organisation of meetings in its offices. This will be tested in the framework of a first Interreg project, called CLIMEDPORTS, involving nine European ports, with a view of developing strategies to adapt to climate change.

1. **Update on the ESPO award**

Members will be informed about the progress with the organisation of the ESPO award ceremony and dinner. The dinner will take place on 6 November at the Albert Hall in Brussels.

**10. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in Gdansk. The meeting and dinner, hosted by the Port of Gdansk, will take place on 11 and 12 September (timings to be confirmed).