



Contributions to the European Commission's Consultation on a Future EU Port Policy

Principal Author: Capt. Dieter Blöchel
Co-Author(s): Capt. Chris Lefevere
Affiliation: European Maritime Pilots' Association

Abstract

Introduction to EU pilot services

Multiple tasks of a pilot:

1. Voyage planning
2. Navigational advise
3. Communication and Reporting
4. VTMS
5. Research & Development projects

Changing Environment:

1. Increasing size of vessels
2. Fairway constraints
3. Increased traffic
4. Environmental awareness
5. Risk assessment
6. Standards in Shipping
7. Human element
8. New technologies

Pilots and Innovation:

1. Transfer equipment
2. Communication and planning
3. PPU/POADS 'Portable Pilot Unit'
4. Training and Education

Pilots and SSS or MoS

Short Sea Shipping + pilot services: an opportunity to facilitate the growth of SSS.

Increased productivity and efficiency

The number of pilots in Europe has fallen / the number of pilot acts has increased.

Priorities:

1. Consolidation of the existing pilot services
2. Answer to the higher demand for pilots
3. Keeping track with new technology and changing environment
4. Further improvement of reliability and continuity
5. Accident prevention



Port Services Market:

Is access to the labour market free?

Is there a market failure in the port services market?

Is there a lack of legal certainty concerning the provision of technical-nautical services?

If nautical services (tugs, pilots, ...) are not necessary why should they be mandatory?

Do you see TNS as a public service or as a regulated commercial service?

Port tariffs

Are port services tariffs easily available for the public?

Is gross tonnage still a good criterion for calculating port dues?

Is this criterion 'gross tonnage' for calculating pilot dues detrimental to SSS?

Are transparent and objective criteria for rebates or equivalent advantages always applied to port customers?

Summary:

1. Recognise the specific character of pilotage including the subsidiarity principle.
2. Adopt the Standard for Education, Training and Certification of Maritime Pilots
3. Integrate pilots in solutions for SSS and MoS.
4. Support market driven research programs introducing innovation in pilotage.
5. Support research on occupational health hazards for pilots.
6. Help EU pilot services to retain their world leading position.
7. Reduce the administrative burden for inter-EU maritime trade, single window concept
8. Reduce constraints for the development of new port infrastructure through: State Aid Guidelines, legal certainty on environmental legislation, less burdensome planning, amendment of the Waste Directive regarding non-hazardous sediments.
9. Give more consideration to nautical-technical requirements versus environmental requirements for new port infrastructure and maintenance of fairways.
10. Develop E-navigation in line with similar IMO initiatives and systems for inland barges.
11. Urge Member States to adopt International Conventions (IMO/ILO)
12. Set a level playing field by: promoting Quality Shipping and EU Ports, more efficient Port State Control on sub-standard shipping.
13. Enhance the image of ports and shipping through promotional activities and a higher EU profile to the UN 'World Maritime Day'.
14. Promote maritime careers to retain qualified officers and masters.