

Plans for 2023 and current issues discussed during BPO's meeting

In late 2022, the Baltic Ports Organization's (BPO) Board gathered for a stationary session in Rostock to discuss, among others, the challenges and plans for 2023, as well as liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and other energy projects in the region's seaports.

The meeting was dedicated to exchanging views about the regional ports' situation, especially in terms of the impact of recent geopolitical and economic events. The Russian war of aggression in Ukraine and its influence were the main topics under debate. LNG terminals and other energy projects in the Baltic Sea region

were also crucial in the session.

The BPO 2023 activity plan was approved by the Board, with the focus put on several key events: the Baltic Ports Conference 2023 in Ystad, BPO for Climate 2023 held during Transport Week 2023 in Gdynia, the Ports 4.0 Conference in Riga, and the BPO Lunch Debate in the European Parliament. The Fit for 55 package will

also be an essential matter this year as it greatly influences the shape and future of the transport industry, including the port and shipping sectors.

A new BPO Board Member, Ulrika Prytz Rugfelt, the Copenhagen Malmö Port's Chief Communications & Sustainability Officer, attended the Board meeting for the first time. Warm welcome! ■

Baltic Ports For Climate – OPS studies

Eight ports from across the Baltic – Aarhus, Gdynia, Helsinki, Klaipėda, Riga, Stockholm, Tallinn, and Ventspils – with the help of the Port of Hamburg have applied to the Connecting Europe Facility.

The Baltic Ports Organization initiated the proposed project as the first step of a more comprehensive initiative called Baltic Ports for Climate – OPS development, which aims to intensify cooperation between ports and other stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region

The main idea behind the project is the further development and construction of port onshore power supply (OPS) facilities in the Baltic, expanding the already existing cold ironing network and providing electricity access to passenger vessels (ferry & cruise) likewise freighters (container).

The project concerns pre-investment actions (feasibility studies, market analysis, technical designs) on OPS in TEN-T Core Ports from seven Baltic countries. If the application gets accepted, the project will start in July 2023 and run until June 2025. ■



Photo: Ports of Stockholm

BPO as a partner in the Baltic Supply Chains for the Baltic Sea Region project

In late January 2023, the Baltic Ports Organization (BPO) and the Motus Foundation participated as partners in the **Baltic Supply Chains for the Baltic Sea Region** project (BSC in short) official launch meeting organised by Port of Hamburg Marketing, the initiative's Lead Partner.

Ports are essential for global trade and prosperity, but, at the same time, they are the emission hot-spots of pollutants through the freight traffic they handle and their own activities. Still, ports can be a pivotal factor in achieving European and national climate goals, also playing a critical role in future storage and onward transport of alternative fuels.

The BSC project supports port authorities and operators in implementing long-term measures to decarbonise their locations. The project follows different approaches supporting decarbonisation in ports: evaluating and piloting measures for the further electrification of handling equipment; forging strategies for providing, handling, and storing alternative fuel; and promoting more environmentally friendly hinterland

transport chains, with a focus on the development of combined transport.

At the end of January 2023, the three-year, €4.6m-budget, 39-organisation-strong project got officially rolling with a partner meeting in Hamburg. The first working groups to implement the pilot applications and demonstrators were formed. BPO and Motus Foundation are responsible for the BSC project's communication plan. ■



Photo: Gdynia Container Terminal