

Side-session PEOPLE

People at the Helm: Navigating the Future of Shipping

About:

The decarbonisation of shipping is transforming the industry, with new technologies reshaping how we work at sea. However, the success of this transition depends not just on innovation, but on people. A highly skilled workforce is essential to operating the green ships of the future. Without urgent investment in skills development, shipping risks falling behind.

Seafarers must be equipped with the expertise to handle alternative fuels, digital navigation systems, and advanced propulsion technologies. Reskilling and upskilling are no longer optional—they are critical to ensuring safe, efficient, and sustainable operations. At the same time, a growing shortage of maritime professionals threatens the sector's future. Europe's ageing workforce, combined with declining interest in maritime careers, underscores the need for action. If we fail to attract and train new talent, the industry will lack the workforce to meet its decarbonisation goals.

To bridge this gap, investment in modernised training, updated curricula, and accessible career pathways is crucial. The updated STCW Convention reflects the demands of new technologies, and collaboration between policymakers, shipowners, and trade unions is needed to future-proof maritime employment. A just transition means ensuring no seafarer is left behind while creating opportunities for the next generation.

Decarbonisation is not just about technology—it is about people. By prioritising education and workforce development today, we secure the maritime industry's future.

Speakers:

- **Mikki Koskinen**, Vice-President, European Shipowners | ECSA
- **Guy Platten**, Secretary General, ICS
- **Danny McGowan**, Head International Relations, Nautilus International
- **Natassa Kouvertari**, Senior Lead on Human Competency, Lloyd's Register Maritime Decarbonisation Hub
- **Katalin Dobranszky**, Senior Director, Policy Analysis, Social Affairs and Finance, European Shipowners | ECSA
- **Justyna Bartnicka**, Policy Officer, DG MOVE, European Commission
- **Helio Vicente**, Director of Employment Affairs, ICS
- **Nikolaos Koletsis**, Senior Policy Officer for Maritime Transport, ETF

Moderator: Ilias Bisias, Naftika Chronika

13:00-14:00

Auditorium 120



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