

ECASBA POSITION PAPER

E-MARITIME, SINGLE WINDOWS, DIGITALISATION

BACKGROUND:

The use of electronic applications and processes for the receiving, handling and distribution of data between the ship and the shore for the purposes of compliance with statutory reporting obligations, collectively known in the context of this paper as e-Maritime, continues to grow, driven by the need for operational efficiency and to reduce the administrative burden on ship masters, ship agents and others in the maritime transport chain.

ECASBA POSITION:

As stated above, the primary purpose of any developments in e-Maritime for ship agents should be to reduce the burden of compliance with statutory ship reporting obligations.

The following issues are important for the agent:

- All EU Member States should ensure that the reporting of ship data is exclusively in electronic format and that all statutory authorities are able to receive data by that means
- All ship reporting, irrespective of the receiving authority, should be effected through one portal: "Single means Single"
- Existing means of inputting data, whether single windows or port community systems, should be retained, as should the use of both web-based (GUI) and machine to machine interfaces
- All EU Member States should collect the same data
- Recognising the international nature of shipping, data collection should be consistent worldwide. The European Commission should therefore give consideration to adopting the dataset being developed by IMO and the World Customs Organisation, or another dataset with equivalent international recognition
- Data must be shared between authorities and across Member States in order to reduce the need for repeated filings by ships: "Reporting Once"
- Authorities should undertake a thorough review of the data collected and cease to require any found to be redundant
- Authorities must recognise that the ship agent is not responsible for the accuracy of the data provided, only for ensuring that it is provided to the correct party at the correct time and in the correct format.

PARTIES INVOLVED:

- ECASBA Secretariat and Member associations
- DG-MOVE/DG-TAXUD/DG-SANTE
- European and international associations representing all parties in the maritime transport chain

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RESPONSIBLE ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER:

Botond Szalma, Antonio Belmar da Costa

SECRETARIAT:

Jonathan Williams

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