

FONASBA 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Istanbul, 17th October 2025

REPORT AS RVP EUROPE AND ECASBA CHAIR

Dear Members,

The new term and my new position in this respect started in Oct 2024 and will end in Oct 2027.

Allow me first to thank Mr Antonio Belmar da Costa for the many years of service as RVP Europe and ECASBA chair and Mr Marco Tak as ECASBA Chair.

Thanks to Antonio as RVP Europe, we can continue the work he started years ago by building a stronger and bigger European Community.

Same is valid for the ECASBA Chair and also for the assistance given by the FONASBA/ECASBA GM.

Needless to say that within the current political, financial, economic situation and in particular the fact that Russia invaded Ukraine we have a lot of issues/problems in front of us.

It is undeniably a fact that this situation is having an enormous impact on our daily lives and our industry and due to this uncertain situation, the future is still unclear at this moment.

End 2024 we started to visit the other European Associations in Brussels with whom we possibly can work together in order to join forces for any kind of issue that might be of interest for the EU countries. In addition, it will also allow us to promote the FONASBA / ECASBA brand to the outside world.

We need to connect our wagon to the EU train as these well-equipped offices in Brussels with specialists on all kinds of subjects will contribute to expand our name and allow us to give our opinion as port agent/broker in specific EU related subjects which are imported for us.

EU Associations such as : FEPORT, ESPO, ECSA, WSC, WCO, EMPA, CLECAT.

International Associations such as : IAPH, IPCSA, CLIA

The cooperation with the other Associations will allow FONASBA / ECASBA also to grow in continents/countries where we are not represented and/or yet having a member.

Meanwhile we started to issue an ECASBA Bulletin whereby we inform the members of specific EU issues and also some more general information related to our work activities.

A second decision we made was to create some regional EU locations whereby local problems can be handled/discussed as well as to receive news from a specific country that might be of interest for all other European members.

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Regional areas are : Northern Europe, Mediterranean, Baltic and Black Sea.

For the next action points we are preparing concern visits to :

- Norway, Sweden (*), Denmark, Finland
- Letland, Estland and Lithuania
- Poland

(*): Sweden and in particular Gothenburg has been nominated as our ECASBA Seminar in June 2026.

As we all know, Europe is the region that contributes the largest number of members to FONASBA.

Covering the entire region, while addressing the diverse needs of our members and encouraging active participation, is a significant challenge. This is only possible with sound financial resources (enabling travel), strong support from the Secretariat (ensuring regular communication), and the time and goodwill of our members.

ECASBA :

We have reviewed/updated the ECASBA Position Papers and issued a new one : The EU Ports Strategy.

This PP has a lot of attentions and is of crucial importance within the Geo-political situation.

It will also be the ECASBA AP topic during the FONASBA AGM in Istanbul.

Europe has been living for a long time in a FREE Western world. This is unfortunately no longer the case and there is a continuous visit to Brussels in order to keep contact with all the DG's such as TAXUD, Move, Clima... and hope to have an ECASBA address and representative within short.

The recognition of ECASBA will be an important step towards the certification of the profession as shipping agent/broker.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Troch
FONASBA - ECASBA
Regional Vice-President Europe
ECASBA Chair