

EU Advocacy &amp; Intelligence

# EU Policy & Maritime Bulletin

10 September 2026

**Dear Members,**

As many of you may already know, FONASBA/ECASBA has entered into an official partnership with Magellan Circle Brussels to further strengthen our engagement with the European regulatory and policy environment.

Working closely together with our Secretariat, Magellan Circle will support us in identifying relevant developments at an early stage, assessing their impact on our sector and supporting our work in ensuring that the voice of ship agents is heard effectively in Brussels.

This partnership is an important step towards making our European engagement more proactive, targeted and effective — helping our members stay better informed, better prepared and better equipped to navigate the evolving regulatory landscape.

We look forward to working together to strengthen ECASBA's presence and influence in Europe and, above all, to delivering greater value to our members.

Your feedback and input are very welcome and will help us make our future work even more efficient, relevant and focused on the issues that matter most to you.

**Raymond Troch**

FONASBA Europe RVP

ECASBA Chair

## Maritime decarbonisation & reporting rules

### EU ETS Maritime Allowance Surrender Deadline: 30 September 2026

By 30 September 2026, shipping companies and operators must surrender EU Allowances (EUAs) covering 70% of their verified emissions generated in 2025. Failure to comply triggers a mandatory penalty of €100 per tonne of

CO2 equivalent, does not release the operator from surrendering missing allowances, and can lead to expulsion orders for vessels. Furthermore, the EC feedback period for the EU ETS review has been extended to 2 November 2026.

 **Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:**

Ship agents must ensure principals are fully compliant before the deadline to avoid operational paralysis and vessel detention at the port level.

[EC ETS Guidance & FAQ →](#) | [EU ETS Review Feedback Portal →](#)

## EC reports on FuelEU Maritime and MRV convergence to cut red tape

The European Commission has published report COM(2026) 409 evaluating the interaction between the FuelEU Maritime Regulation and the EU MRV/ETS framework. The Commission proposes establishing a unified monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system to streamline compliance for shipping companies and verifiers.

 **Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:**

A merged MRV/FuelEU monitoring framework directly reduces administrative duplication for ship agents handling vessel compliance documentation and reporting data on behalf of shipowners.

[Read full EC Report COM\(2026\) 409 →](#)

## European Ports Forum Sub-group addresses terminal-level rollout of green mandates

The European Ports Forum's Sustainable Ports expert sub-group convened on 11 September to address the practical, terminal-level implementation of EU green maritime mandates, focusing on onshore power supply (OPS) and alternative fuel infrastructure. Meanwhile, the European Commission officially launched the EU Industrial Maritime Value Chains Alliance on 2 September.

 **Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:**

Terminal-level environmental requirements directly affect port turnaround times and bunkering protocols handled by ship agents during port calls.

[European Ports Forum Meeting Details →](#) | [Industrial Maritime Alliance →](#)

## EC consultations open: FuelEU transshipment ports and Green-listed waste shipments

The European Commission is running two critical consultations: updating the list of neighbouring container transshipment ports under FuelEU Maritime, and green-listing specific waste streams (open until 15 September) under the Waste Shipments Regulation and upcoming Circular Economy Act. In parallel, T&E published a press release cautioning that global maritime decarbonisation has stalled despite climate pressures.

 **Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:**

Ship agents benefit from clear rules on non-EU transshipment port definitions and simplified waste transfer notifications to prevent port clearance delays.

[FuelEU Consultation →](#) | [Waste Shipments Consultation →](#) | [T&E Report →](#)

## EU ETS Maritime revision: ECASBA calls for member input following FEPORT consultation

FEPORT is preparing its response to the European Commission's EU ETS revision consultation (closing 21 October). Key points include extending neighbouring transshipment port criteria (150/300 nautical mile rules), container-based allowances for non-EU destinations (ships >10,000 TEU), and earmarking ETS revenues for sustainable marine fuels. Below, we present links to three key stakeholder positions on the topic, which can serve as inspiration for FONASBA/ECASBA in shaping our sector's input.

### Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

ECASBA is coordinating closely with cluster partners (ESPO, WSC, FEPORT). Members are requested to provide feedback by 7 September on potential administrative burdens, reporting duties, or cargo data access issues for ship agents.

[EEB recommendations →](#) | [FEAD priorities →](#) | [IATA statement →](#)

## Customs, security & digital single window

### Council Working Party advances EU Maritime Security Strategy and Shadow Fleet counters

The Council of the EU Working Party on Maritime Issues convened on 9 September to advance the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS), focusing on countering the Russian Shadow Fleet, critical maritime infrastructure protection, and international partner cooperation. A second meeting on 16 September focuses on Integrated Maritime Policy, the Ocean Pact Dashboard, and UNOC4.

### Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Enforcement measures against shadow fleet vessels increase vessel verification and compliance checks for ship agents during port entry clearances.

[Council EUMSS Document →](#) | [Integrated Maritime Policy Document →](#)

### EU and Montenegro provisionally close Chapter 29 (Customs Union) accession negotiations

During the 28th Accession Conference in Brussels, the EU and Montenegro provisionally closed negotiations on Chapter 29 (Customs Union) and Chapter 8 (Competition Policy). Montenegro has fully aligned its national customs framework with the Union Customs Code, IT systems (NCTS Phase 6, AES, ICS2), and rules of origin, achieving a major milestone toward EU Single Market integration.

### Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

The closure of Chapter 29 confirms that Montenegrin customs procedures, Single Window environments, and port controls are achieving full interoperability with EU standards, easing trade formalities for ship agents operating in Adriatic ports.

[Read Council Press Release →](#)

## EMSA releases version 2.0 of the EMSWe System Interface Guide (SIG)

EMSA has published SIG version 2.0 featuring technical updates to ESD and ECLD API specifications and code lists. Crucially, some changes are not backward compatible and could impact Maritime National Single Window (MNSW) software implementations. Test environment deployment is slated for November 2026, followed by Production in February 2027.

### Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Ship agents and IT service providers managing port clearance declarations must urgently review technical specifications to assess potential software/API adjustments before November 2026 testing.

[Access EMSWe DB SIG specifications →](#)

## 7th EMSWe Coordination Group reviews MNSW timelines and data reuse

The 7th EMSWe Coordination Group meeting examined national single window implementation timelines, cross-port data reuse mechanisms (via SafeSeaNet Integrated Distribution Reports), Message Implementation Guide (MIG) version transitions, and progress on common IT components (RIM, CAS, ESD/ECLD). DG TAXUD proposed a technical workshop to address challenges connecting MNSWs to the Proof of Union Status (PoUS) system.

### Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Reusing data across port calls directly lowers administrative burdens for ship agents entering duplicate vessel and cargo declarations in multiple EU ports.

[7th EMSWe Coordination Group Register Details →](#)

## What FONASBA is doing

### IMO launches global survey on Maritime Single Window (MSW) systems (Circular No. 5243)

The IMO Secretariat has issued Circular Letter No. 5243 inviting stakeholders to evaluate the global implementation and operational use of Maritime Single Window systems. Ship agents are explicitly highlighted as key participants alongside port authorities and shipowners. Information gathered will assess best practices and reporting friction.

### Action requested from members:

FONASBA strongly urges all national member associations and individual ship agents to complete the survey before **31 October 2026** and share it widely across local networks.

## Raymond Troch speaks at Porto Maritime Week and The OCEAN Anniversary Conference

Raymond Troch, FONASBA Regional Vice-President for Europe and ECASBA Chairman, will represent the profession on the European Associations panel at **Porto Maritime Week** (21–25 September 2026, Port of Leixões). Furthermore, Mr. Troch has been appointed to the high-level business panel for **The OCEAN Anniversary Conference & Reception** on 17 September 2026 in Brussels.

 **Advocacy Impact:**

Ensures active representation for ship agents across key European maritime panels, reinforcing FONASBA/ECASBA's advocacy voice on regulatory challenges and trade efficiency.

[Porto Maritime Week info →](#)

## FONASBA actively engages at European Ports Alliance Ministerial Meeting in Dublin

Continuing its active European advocacy outreach, FONASBA participated in the Third Ministerial Meeting of the European Ports Alliance, organised in Dublin this past July under the auspices of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Represented by ECASBA Chairman Raymond Troch, the meeting facilitated key discussions between port stakeholders, national authorities, and agency representatives.

[Read Irish Presidency Release →](#)

## Institutional & maritime calendar

Key dates, presidency conferences, and upcoming EU legislative milestones through October 2026.

- **2 Sept.**      **EU Alliance Launch:** Official launch of the EU Industrial Maritime Value Chains Alliance.
- **7–10 Sept.**      **EP Plenary Session:** European Parliament reconvenes in Strasbourg; EU legislative machinery resumes.
- **9 Sept.**      **Council Working Party on EUMSS:** EU preparatory meeting on Maritime Security, countering the Russian Shadow Fleet, and partner cooperation.
- **11 Sept.**      **European Ports Forum:** Sustainable Ports expert sub-group meeting on terminal-level green mandates.
- **16 Sept.**      **Council Working Party on Integrated Maritime Policy:** Meeting on Ocean Pact Dashboard, Blue Economy, and UNOC4.

- **17 Sept.**      **The OCEAN Anniversary Conference:** High-level maritime gathering in Brussels featuring ECASBA Chair Raymond Troch.
- **21–25 Sept.**      **Porto Maritime Week:** Industry conference at Port of Leixões with European Associations session.
- **24 Sept.**      **World Maritime Day 2026 (IMO):** Global observances and symposiums focusing on alternative fuels and GHG pricing.
- **29 Sept.**      **12th EMSWe Data Modelling WG Meeting:** Technical working group meeting under EMSWe Coordination Group (10:00–17:00 CET, Virtual/CIRCABC).
- **30 Sept.**      **EU ETS Compliance Deadline:** Mandatory surrender deadline for 70% of 2025 verified CO2 emissions allowances.
- **11–14 Oct.**      **2026 FONASBA Annual Meeting:** Official Annual Meeting taking place in Tokyo, Japan (hosted by JAFSA).
- **28 Oct.**      **Conference on Maritime Security & Legal Network:** Irish Presidency event in Dublin focusing on maritime infrastructure protection.
- **31 Oct.**      **IMO MSW Survey Deadline:** Deadline to respond to IMO Circular No. 5243 on Maritime Single Window systems.

## Official EU pages related to our topics

- [EU Emissions Trading System \(EU ETS\) Portal →](#)
- [EU Ports & Industrial Maritime Strategies →](#)
- [EU Maritime Transport Policy Overview →](#)
- [EU Customs Policy & Regulations →](#)
- [EU Transport Decarbonisation: Shipping Sector →](#)

### FONASBA / ECASBA European Advocacy Secretariat

Delivered in partnership with Magellan Circle Brussels.  
Providing continuous monitoring, representation, and advocacy for ship agents.

[FONASBA Website](#) | [ECASBA Portal](#)

