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Interferry to co-host European Shipping Summit workshop urging short sea cargo increase

Global trade association Interferry - representing more than 270 companies and some 1,200 individual members from over 40 countries - is co-hosting a workshop at next month's European Shipping Summit in Brussels to stress the importance of shifting more goods transport from road to short sea services, notably through better use of European Union funding to enhance the sector's competitiveness.

The workshop – 'How to increase the share of maritime transport in Europe's trade' - takes place at 09:30 on September 19 in the Royal Museum of Fine Arts and is open to all interested professionals.

Shipping associations from Cyprus, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain are co-hosting the session, where Interferry's key input will be provided by regulatory affairs director Johan Roos and Brittany Ferries CEO Christophe Mathieu.

Roos comments: "Ferry shipping is beyond doubt a very efficient means of transport, with policy makers and the industry united in their goal of shifting more volumes from road to sea. However, the realities required to achieve this ambition are too often lacking.

"To echo Interferry's 'Stronger Together' creed, we must now work collectively to embrace opportunities, overcome challenges and share our knowledge, both from an industry and a policy makers' perspective. The European transport system is widely over-reliant on the road network, leading to congestion and infrastructure rundown, whereas short sea shipping can offer a more viable economic and environmental alternative. I look forward to welcoming decision makers and industry participants to our discussion on how best to support our vision while keeping a level playing field and improving the overall sustainability of the transport system."

The 2023 European Shipping Summit on September 19-20 is organised by the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) in collaboration with Interferry and other maritime associations. The event features industry sessions, networking opportunities and high-level dialogues focused on European and international policy makers, regulators and industry stakeholders. Registration is available at www.europeanshippingsummit.eu

Interferry is a highly respected global association with consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and similar influence at the European Union as well as many other maritime governance authorities. With membership exceeding 270 companies and 1,200 individuals in more than 40 countries, its primary purposes are to represent the industry on regulatory and policy matters, to speak on behalf of the worldwide ferry sector, and to facilitate networking and communications among its members.



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