

Visit to the heart of Brussels

News

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Industry visiting European policy

Brussels is the beating heart of the European Union. Here, the European Commission works in together with the European Parliament and member states on European legislation and regulation, including for maritime shipping.

Not an easy task with the 27 member states. Sometimes, even with the Commission's best efforts, it results in legislation and regulation in which shipowners notice a gap between the daily reality and the plans of the European Commission.

To bring practice and policy closer together, six members of the KVNR traveled to Brussels last Wednesday for a meeting with the Dutch Permanent Representation, VVD member of the European Parliament Jeannette Baljeu, and Polona Gregorin of DG Clima.



Permanent Representation

In the morning, the delegation of the KVNR spoke with Mohamed El-Yemlahi (transport attaché), Marthe Huigsloot (climate attaché). They discussed various current maritime developments in Brussels, such as:

- The upcoming revision of EU-ETS
- The upcoming IMO measure NZF
- Reducing administrative burdens around EU-ETS and FuelEU Maritime
- The Innovation Fund and the application and scaling up of clean technology and fuels

Additionally, the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan (STIP) and the Maritime Industrial Strategy were briefly discussed.

European Parliament and DG CLIMA

In the afternoon, the next meeting took place with MEP Jeannette Baljeu joined by Polona Gregorin of DG CLIMA.

It was a highly valuable and open dialogue about the upcoming revision of [EU-ETS +](#), the necessary clean fuels, and the expected [Sustainable Transport Investment Plan +](#). The experiences, concerns, and ambitions of the shipowners were actively heard by the commission.

“Our ambition to reach net zero is great, but we need regulations that start from well to wake and monitoring that is much simpler”

ANTHONY VEDER

The afternoon once again emphasized how important it is to have healthy discussions between the people working in Brussels and the maritime sector. These conversations help to reach effective and workable regulations. This was also confirmed by Jeannette Baljeu. Who indicated that the scaling up of clean fuels is still a chicken-and-egg problem, and to solve that problem, we need to have these kind of discussions with each other.

KVNR colleague Nick Lurkin pointed out that this vicious circle in the scaling up of clean fuels can be broken by cleverly using the proceeds from climate pricing (preferably globally through IMO) to promote the scaling up of advanced biofuels, green methanol, and bio-LNG instead of focusing solely on 'state of the art' projects.

“This way, we achieve more and give fuel producers and suppliers more certainty to invest in the production and scaling up of those cleaner fuels.”

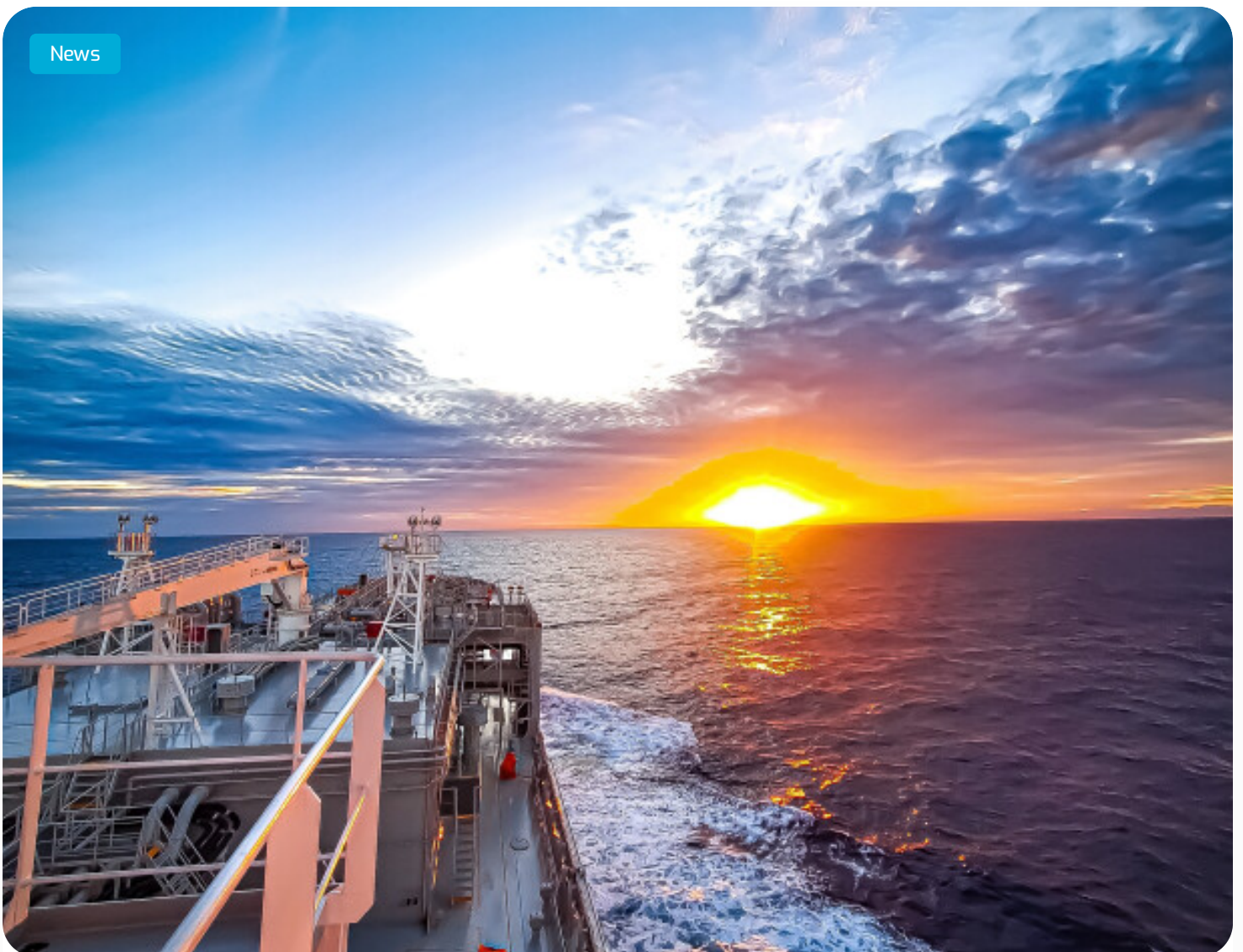
NICK LURKIN

The European Commission shared that they are glad to evaluate and consider the concrete examples from the KVNR members. In light of the IMO Net Zero Framework agreement, the Commission stated that it is important for everyone to have these global agreements, but that there cannot be lower ambitions with the introduction of an IMO instrument.

On behalf of the KVNR, we would like to thank all dialogue partners for their time, openness, and interest.



Other interesting items....



Statement KVNR: reopening Strait of Hormuz

The KVNR has taken relieved note of the ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, which seems to have prevented the further escalation previously announced in t...

17-04-2026



May 20: KVNR Networking Event

The Royal Association of Dutch Shipowners (KVNR) is organizing the spring edition of its Networking Event on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. The event will take place at the Mariënhof...

07-04-2026





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