

Port Authorities Roundtable 2021 Declaration

PORTS AS LEVERS FOR CHANGE

Following the postponed edition of 2020 in Antwerp, the Antwerp Port Authority and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) have invited ports to participate in a two-day virtual event to discuss issues related to disruption, digitalization and decarbonization. In conclusion of these high-level discussions taking place on 22-23 June, CEOs participating in the Port Authorities Roundtable 2021, agreed to the following.

Disruption

Ports took stock of various initiatives related to the challenges posed by incidents, the unexpected circumstances they cause and their impact on port operations and crew changes. Ports acknowledge that the exchange of experiences and best practices among peers has helped to overcome the impact of the pandemic. Building on this forward leaning cooperation, ports have agreed to further develop the PAR Incident Sharing Framework (PAR-ISF) and to introduce the PAR Incident Sharing Framework Template (PAR-ISFT), enabling ports to report on a voluntary basis in a systematic and active way on incidents occurring in day-to-day operations of ports. This PAR-ISFT will be instrumental to the establishment of an open exchange of lessons learnt and best practices among leading ports. Furthermore, ports will investigate the establishment of a mechanism to enable consultation and dialogue in case of disruptive incidents and crises.

Port Authorities also expressed support for the Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund which brings together like-minded international partners from the industry, unions and governments to work with stakeholders in seafaring nations on solutions for safe crew changes.

Digitalization

Having noted that container shipping remains the world's most sustainable means of transportation for global trade and the expected rise in container transport, ports have acknowledged the need for the establishment of a global and neutral platform, allowing multi modal comparison of container routes. Hereto a coalition of PAR ports has expressed interest in exploring the potential of Routescanner to act as a transparent and neutral platform to examine container transport options and to further improve sustainable and cost-efficient global supply chains.

Ports were updated on the Port Authorities CIO Cybersecurity Network (PACC-Net) initiated at PAR2019@Kobe, to strengthen cyber resiliency and response through three key focus areas: information-sharing, project collaboration and education. Port authorities agreed to consider coming on board PACC-Net to develop the network further and improve cyber resiliency and response world-wide.

Decarbonization

In light of the publicly expressed global ambitions to achieve climate neutrality in the next three decades and the importance of the decarbonization of shipping in particular to realize this aspiration; the efforts announced by maritime key stakeholders and the inherent involvement of ports in this endeavour the Port Authorities Roundtable ports have agreed to further explore support to the Global Maritime Forum's Getting to Zero Coalition COP 26 call to action in run up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021. This call to action aims to encourage governments in preparing the necessary steps in support of the global ambition to decarbonizing international shipping by 2050, to support industrial scale zero emission shipping projects through national action and to deliver policy measures that will make zero emission viable by 2030.

Ports also took stock of the establishment of the Maritime Decarbonization Centre to be set up by MPA together with global industry partners with the aim to collaborate with industry to reduce GHG emissions, implement identified decarbonization pathways and create new business opportunities. Port authorities agreed to consider collaboration with MPA and likeminded stakeholders as well as overseas decarbonization centers to tap on the different expertise to share knowledge.

The outcome of this meeting will be evaluated during the 2022 Port Authorities Roundtable meeting, hosted by Abu Dhabi Ports.

The Port Authorities Roundtable meeting 2021 was attended by high representatives of the ports of Abu Dhabi, Associated British Ports, Antwerp, Barcelona, Busan, Guangzhou, Hamburg, Klang, Kobe, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Montreal, Ningbo, Rotterdam, Santos, Seattle, Shanghai, Singapore and Tanger Med.

The Port Authorities Roundtable was called together for the very first time in 2015 on initiative of the MPA with the aim to facilitate the exchange of ideas between world leading ports and learn best practices. It allows port authorities to engage in open sharing and discussion to address issues of common interests and seek mutually beneficial collaboration opportunities in today's evolving maritime landscape. The PAR is hosted and organized on a voluntary rotating system. PAR2021 was hosted and organized by Port of Antwerp. PAR2022 will be organized and hosted by Abu Dhabi Ports.