Update on EU environmental policy

INTERTANKO European Panel Meeting
Rome 17 September 2019
Commission
nominated by member states

proposes legislation

Council
governments of the 27 member states

Parliament
directly elected by European citizens

jointly decide on legislation
62% newcomers!
EU institutional changes 2019

Key steps

- **2-3 July**: EU top jobs nominations (by EU leaders)
- **3 July**: European Parliament (EP): Committees’ membership announced
- **10 July**: EP: appointment of Committee Chairpersons and (most) political group coordinators
- **16 July**: EP approves Ursula von der Leyen as Commission President
- **10 July**: Member States put forward their candidates for Commissioners
- **Sep-Oct**: EP hearings of Commissioner-Designates
- **Oct**: EP approves or rejects the new European Commission (as a whole)
- **31 Oct**: Brexit: deadline for UK’s withdrawal from the EU
- **1 Nov**: New Commission takes office
- **1 Dec**: New Council President Charles Michel takes office
- **Dec**: Commission to present its 5-year Work Program and Work Program 2020
- **31 Oct**: Brexit: deadline for UK’s withdrawal from the EU
- **31 Dec**: New Council President Charles Michel takes office
- **2020**: Commission to present its 5-year Work Program and Work Program 2020
A European Green Deal

- Frans Timmermans (S&D, the Netherlands)
- 93% of Europeans see climate change as a serious problem - but EU emissions are only 9% of global
- “The first European Climate Law” in the first 100 days
- GHG reduction target of at least 50% by 2030 (now 40%)
- Make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050
  - Informal Transport Council on 20 September
A European Green Deal

- Carbon Border Tax
- Energy Taxation Directive revision
  - Council and EC already active
  - Brexit + qualified majority voting + co-decision
  - End to tax exemptions for sea transport already by early 2020?
- Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to target e.g. maritime affairs
- Zero-pollution ambition covering air, water and noise pollution from transport and other sectors
Europe fit for the Digital Age

- Margrethe Vestager (RE, Denmark)
- Known for being tough on tech giants
- Asked to develop Europe’s strength in digital areas, such as cybersecurity
- Coordinate European approach on AI in the first 100 days
- Strengthening competition enforcement
- Tackle distortive effects of foreign state ownership
An Economy that works for the People

- Valdis Dombrovskis (EPP, Latvia)
- To strengthen the European economy against future shocks
- To ensure that sanctions imposed by the EU are properly enforced
- Channel a large amount of European financing to climate investments in the years to come

- Message to all EVPs: EP to be regularly briefed, notably before international negotiations (in light of EP’s foreseen right of initiative)
Transport

- Rovana Plumb (S&D, Romania)
- To lead work on extending ETS to the maritime sector
- Play a leading role internationally, such as IMO negotiations on GHG
- Contribute to the review of the Energy Taxation Directive and the zero-pollution ambition
- Uphold highest safety standards in transport
- Focus on digital transition
- Assisted by DG MOVE, working under Timmermans
Environment and Oceans

- Virginijus Sinkevičius (Independent/green, Lithuania)
- Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- Deliver a zero-pollution ambition
- Circular Economy Action Plan (PRF revision part of 2018 CEP)
- “A new approach for a sustainable blue economy”
- International ocean governance, including UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon 2020
- Assisted by DG MARE and DG ENV, working under Timmermans
MRV revision (part 1)

- EU MRV Regulation entered into force 1 July 2015
- First round of data published 30 June 2019 -and criticised
- Report to follow by the end of 2019
- Proposal to amend MRV Regulation came February 2019
- Aims to align with IMO DCS, to some extent
  - Streamline definitions and monitoring parameters to reduce admin
  - Confidential vs. publicly available data
MRV revision (part 2)

- Council begun work under Romanian Presidency
- Luxembourg proposal: by 2030 each ship has to have a carbon intensity 40% lower than in 2008 (questioned by legal services)
- Finland just started
- MT, CY, GR want full alignment
- DK et al want cargo carried mandatory
- European Parliament warming up
  - Jutta Paulus (Greens, Germany) Rapporteur
  - Peter Liese (Conservative, Germany) Shadow-Rapporteur
Air emissions - SOx

- EU Sulphur Directive 2012
  - 0.10% as of 2015 in SECAs
  - 0.50% outside SECAs as of 2020 (before IMO made decision)
- European Commission implementation report in 2018
  - good compliance rate
  - much lower SOx concentrations in regions in SECAs
- Commission supports other ECAs in Europe, including Med ECA (initiated by France with aim for proposal to IMO in 2020)
- ESSF sub-group on air emissions, on i.a. preparation for 0.50% limit in 2020 (enforcement best practices, port state guidelines, etc..)
Ship Recycling (part 1)

- Brings IMO Hong Kong Convention into force and is broadly aligned
- All ships calling at EU ports are required to carry an IHM
- As of January 2019, all ships flagged by an EU Member State must be recycled at EU approved facilities
- Infringement proceedings against Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden opened in June - two months to reply before reasoned opinions
Map of the 34 EU-listed yards
Ship Recycling (part 2)

- 5th version of EU List of SRFs published 18 June 2019
- Another 28 yards outside the EU have applied for inclusion
  - Some inspection reports available (w/o commercially sensitive information)
  - Improvements often required
  - Applications from 4 Chinese yards on hold due to ban on waste imports
  - EC framework contract on e.g. review of applications from non-EU yards and site inspections - tender launched in June 2019, duration 48 months
- Financial incentives to be reassessed after seeing effects of EU list
Thank you!