European Commission

DG TREN

Communication on ports policy of 18 October 2007.COM(2007)616

European Ports Policy

- *How the Commission assesses the current situation*

- *Commission's general objectives for ports*

Action plan for the realisation of those objectives

Guidance on the application to the port sector of the Treaty rules on the fundamental freedoms.

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Communication on ports policy (1-4)

Action plan

Need:	**Port performance and hinterland connections**
Action:	**Evaluation of ports hinterland connections status and needs and their impact on a balanced network of traffic flows on the occasion of the mid-term review of the trans-European transport network in 2010**
Need:	**Reconcile more capacity with respect of environment**
Action:	**Guidelines on the application of environment legislation to port development**
Need:	**Simplification of procedures for Short Sea Shipping**
Action:	**Proposal on the European Maritime Transport Space without Barriers**
Need:	**Development of an e-maritime approach**
Action:	**Publication in 2009 of a policy document on the deployment of this "e-maritime". This approach is directly related to "e-Freight" and the ongoing "e-Customs" initiatives and will fully benefit from the modern Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)**

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Communication on ports policy (2-4)

Need: **Improving Performance**

Action: **The EU Research Framework Programmes, in particular FP7, support relevant research an innovation on port infrastructure and operations. The Commission intends to develop with stakeholders, by the end of 2009 a set of generic European indicators allowing further specification at local level.**

Need: **Level Playing Field – clarity for investors**

Action :   **State Aid Guidelines – Extension of Transparency Directive to all ports**

Need: **Port dues**

Action: **The Commission will help disseminating best practices on transparency in port charges.**

Need: **Competition with third countries**

Action: **The Commission will make an inventory of the problems encountered with a view to addressing them in Community external relations when needed.**

Communication on ports policy (3-4)

Need: **Dialogue between ports and cities**

Action: **The Commission has proposed in its communication on the integrated maritime policy the enactment of a European maritime day which will launch a week of events aimed at raising the visibility and enhancing the image of the maritime sector. It wishes to further propose a European ports open day during that week which would give the occasion for the general public to assess, and understand better port community work. It will examine possible sources of finance for supporting the improvement of the integration of ports with cities within the existing envelopes.**
In the context of ongoing work on maritime and port security, the Commission considers assessing the impact of security measures and provide guidance on how to reconcile the need for sound security measures with a fair degree of openness and accessibility to port areas. The review of legislation on maritime and port security will provide an opportunity to assess port access requirements and to examine the development of a European model for multi purpose access cards.

Need: **Need for dialogue in ports**

Action: **European social dialogue committee for ports (up to social partners);**

Need: **Common standards for training of port workers - Mutual recognition of training**

Action: **Proposal on training of port workers**

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Communication on ports policy (4-4)

Need: **Health and Safety at work**
Action: **The Commission will closely monitor the implementation to ports of Community rules on safety and health of workers at work, and will also closely follow the proper collection of statistics relating to accidents according to the ESAW and EODS methodologies established by the Commission (EUROSTAT)**