

EU Advocacy & Intelligence

EU Policy & Maritime Bulletin

6 October 2026

Welcome to the monthly EU policy briefing for FONASBA and ECASBA members. This update delivers targeted intelligence on European maritime legislation, port regulations, customs, decarbonisation, and key EU institutional milestones impacting ship agents.

Maritime decarbonisation & reporting rules

EU ETS Review Accelerates Across EP Committees & Public Consultation Deadline Extended

Legislative debates on the EU ETS revision are intensifying across European Parliament committees[cite: 3, 5]. MEP Peter Liese (ENVI) draft report advocates retaining maritime in the ETS while extending derogations for ice-class vessels and small islands to 2040, curbing price volatility, and increasing ETS revenue returns for industrial decarbonisation from 50% to 75%[cite: 3]. Simultaneously, Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra addressed the ENVI Committee on carbon leakage, supporting ETS expansion to Southern Mediterranean ports to prevent port evasion[cite: 3]. Meanwhile, ITRE and TRAN committees submitted key draft amendments, and the EC public consultation on the ETS review remains open until 3 November 2026[cite: 2, 5].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

FONASBA/ECASBA could submit contributions to the open EC consultation until 3 November 2026, helping influence anti-evasion measures and revenue recycling for port operations[cite: 5].

[Submit Feedback to EC Consultation →](#) | [ENVI Draft Report →](#) | [TRAN Draft Opinion →](#)

FEPOR Urges ENVI Committee to Safeguard EU Ports Against Transshipment Relocation

FEPOR has issued an urgent call to the European Parliament's ENVI Committee under the ETS Review, requesting robust mechanisms to prevent container transshipment relocation to non-EU neighbouring ports[cite: 2]. FEPOR

stresses that without effective transshipment safeguards, EU terminal competitiveness and maritime employment will face severe leakage risks[cite: 2].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Preventing transshipment leakage ensures vessel calls remain in EU ports, safeguarding local port agency operations and port cluster vitality.

[Read FEPOR Press Release →](#)

MAGPIE & PIONEERS Deliver Green Port Master Plan & Free Digital Tools for EU Ports

EU-funded projects PIONEERS and MAGPIE concluded five years of innovation on 17 September 2026, delivering an official Green Port Master Plan to the European Commission[cite: 6]. The projects released free digital tools enabling European ports to implement tested green solutions, alongside a Transport & Environment report addressing grid connection bottlenecks to accelerate port electrification and onshore power supply[cite: 2, 6].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Free digital tools and green master plans help port terminals transition to sustainable operations while providing ship agents with clear frameworks for shore-side power compliance.

[Access Cinea MAGPIE & PIONEERS Announcement →](#) | [T&E Port Grid Report →](#)

EP Debate & Briefings: MRV Alignment, Alternative Fuels, and Synthetic Fuel Integrity

The EP TRAN Committee debated the alignment of maritime Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) rules with ETS revisions[cite: 2]. In parallel, the EPRS published a comprehensive briefing on understanding alternative maritime fuels[cite: 2]. Furthermore, Transport & Environment released analysis on safeguarding synthetic fuel targets under ReFuelEU Aviation and FuelEU Maritime[cite: 3].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Understanding alternative fuel standards and synthetic fuel rules helps ship agents advise vessel principals on compliance requirements across EU ports.

[T&E Synthetic Fuel Integrity Briefing →](#)

Accelerating Zero-Emission Corridors: The Oslo-Rotterdam Green Shipping Pilot

A new EU-supported initiative showcased practical operational frameworks to accelerate zero-emission shipping corridors between the ports of Oslo and Rotterdam[cite: 4]. The initiative establishes scalable models for zero-emission vessel deployment, bunkering infrastructure, and cross-border regulatory synchronization[cite: 4].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Green shipping corridors establish early operational benchmarks for port clearances, zero-emission fuel handling, and documentation duties for ship agents along key EU trade lanes.

Customs, security & digital single window

EU Customs Reform Published in the Official Journal & EC Outlines Reform Highlights

The EU Customs Reform legislation has been officially published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ L_202602108)[cite: 6]. The European Commission issued a press release highlighting core milestones, including the creation of a centralized EU Customs Authority, streamlined data reporting via the EU Customs Data Hub, and modernized risk management frameworks[cite: 6]. Additionally, an EC evaluation confirmed that the OLAF anti-fraud regulation remains broadly fit for purpose[cite: 6].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Publication in the Official Journal marks a decisive step toward digital customs reporting and centralized risk governance, directly impacting daily clearance procedures for ship agents.

[Read Official Journal Publication →](#) | [EC Press Release Highlights →](#) | [OLAF Regulation Evaluation →](#)

Commission Appoints Anne-Françoise Mélot as Director for Resources in DG TAXUD

The European Commission appointed Anne-Françoise Mélot as Director in charge of Resources and General Affairs within DG TAXUD[cite: 6]. Bringing over 25 years of Commission experience, Ms. Mélot will oversee financial management, risk control, and IT portfolio restructuring in support of EU taxation, customs modernization, and digital transition goals[cite: 6].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

DG TAXUD leadership oversees IT resource allocation crucial for national single window integration and customs data hub implementation.

[Read EC Appointment Press Release →](#)

EU & Singapore Partner to Safeguard Critical Maritime & Underwater Infrastructure

The European External Action Service (EEAS) announced high-level discussions between the EU and Singapore focused on enhancing joint security for critical maritime and subsea infrastructure[cite: 2]. The dialogue addressed threat monitoring, intelligence sharing, and physical protection of subsea cables and port approaches against hybrid threats[cite: 2].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Reinforced international maritime security cooperation helps protect vital shipping lanes and port infrastructure relied upon by international agency clients.

[Read EEAS Official Statement →](#)

European Parliament Demands Coordinated Action Against Port Drug Trafficking Networks

The European Parliament adopted a landmark resolution urging a unified EU response to organized crime and drug trafficking in maritime hubs[cite: 5]. The resolution calls for heightened port security, mandatory real-time intelligence exchange between agencies (Europol, Frontex), and tighter controls over logistics supply chains to combat illegal contraband smuggling[cite: 5].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Heightened security scrutiny in major EU container ports directly impacts vessel boarding protocols, crew access, and customs documentation handled by ship agents.

[Read EP Press Release →](#) | [Read Adopted EP Text \(PDF\) →](#)

IMO Feedback Survey: Maritime Single Window (MSW) Implementation Deadline Approaching

The IMO Secretariat continues to seek direct feedback from port agency professionals on the global deployment and practical functionality of Maritime Single Window systems[cite: 4]. As key operational users of digital clearance platforms, ship agents' real-world experience is essential to identify reporting friction and drive global harmonization ahead of the 31 October deadline[cite: 4].

Action requested from members:

FONASBA strongly encourages all members to complete the survey before **31 October 2026**.

[Access IMO MSW Survey & News →](#)

EU Restricts Non-Hazardous Waste Exports to Non-OECD Countries Starting May 2027

Under the updated Waste Shipment Regulation, exports of non-hazardous waste to non-OECD nations will be prohibited starting 21 May 2027, unless importing countries prove environmentally sound waste management to the European Commission[cite: 5]. The EC has initiated a public consultation to compile the official list of authorized non-OECD importer countries[cite: 5].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Ship agents managing bulk waste export shipments and vessel clearances must verify destination country authorization to prevent customs holds and vessel delays.

[Access EC Initiative & Consultation →](#)

Regional strategies & port policy

ESPO Publishes Position Paper on the Future EU Ports Strategy

The European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO) has published its official position paper on the upcoming EU Ports Strategy[cite: 6]. ESPO calls for strong institutional support for port competitiveness, predictable funding for energy transition infrastructure, and protection against carbon leakage and unfair external competition[cite: 6].

Industry Perspective:

ESPO's call for port infrastructure funding aligns with ship agency priorities for efficient, well-equipped, and competitive EU port terminals.

[Read ESPO Position Announcement →](#) | [Download ESPO Full Position Paper \(PDF\) →](#)

EC Call for Evidence: Atlantic Maritime and Macro-Regional Strategy

Following Council mandates, the European Commission launched a Call for Evidence (feedback open 1 October – 26 November 2026) to develop a new Atlantic macro-regional strategy by June 2027[cite: 2]. Building on the existing Atlantic Maritime Strategy, the framework aims to foster co-creation, regional economic resilience, and maritime spatial planning across Atlantic Member States[cite: 2]. FONASBA/ECASBA could submit contributions[cite: 2].

Why it matters for FONASBA & ECASBA members:

Members operating in Atlantic ports are invited to review the initiative to highlight local port agency operational priorities along the Atlantic arc.

[View EC Call for Evidence →](#)

CPMR Strategic Position: Regional Governance in Peripheral & Maritime Europe

CPMR leadership published an impactful position paper arguing that Europe's security, climate, and supply-chain challenges are felt most acutely in its peripheral and maritime regions[cite: 5]. CPMR urges the EU to involve regional authorities and maritime clusters directly as strategic partners in policy design, securing long-term funding for dual-use port infrastructure and maritime spatial planning[cite: 5].

Industry Perspective:

Supports regional port infrastructure development and dual-use funding that benefits agency operations outside primary TEN-T corridors.

[Read CPMR Full Article →](#)

Connecting Europe Days 2026 & State of the Union: Implications for Maritime Logistics

Connecting Europe Days 2026 convened key transport stakeholders to address military mobility, transport decarbonisation, and port resilience[cite: 4]. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen highlighted transport infrastructure as vital to Single Market competitiveness, while European Shippers' Council (ESC) analysis emphasized maintaining cost stability and supply-chain predictability amidst ongoing legislative shifts[cite: 4].

Industry Context:

Reflects growing institutional alignment on treating European ports as critical dual-use strategic assets requiring investment and regulatory stability.

[EC Connecting Europe Days Statement →](#) | [ESC Shippers Analysis →](#)

✔ What FONASBA is doing

ECASBA German Member Represents Ship Agents at Port Call Optimisation Plenary

The 3rd annual plenary meeting of the Port Call Optimisation (PCO) network took place in Bremen (7–9 September 2026), hosted by Port Authority Bremen[cite: 6]. Around 70 maritime representatives finalized the PCO Guide and addressed key obstacles, including missing data standards and data commercialization behind paywalls[cite: 6]. Speaking on behalf of shipping agents, German ECASBA member Dr. Alexander Geisler emphasized that PCO systems must remain open, transparent, and accessible to all local service providers without paywalls, stressing that time remains the ultimate benchmark for agents and lines[cite: 6].

💡 Advocacy Voice:

Defends ship agents' equal and open access to port call data platforms, ensuring digital tools enhance operational efficiency without imposing commercial paywalls.

📅 Institutional & maritime calendar

Key dates, presidency conferences, and upcoming EU legislative milestones.

● 5–8 Oct.	EP Plenary Session: European Parliament plenary sitting in Strasbourg (agenda).
● 8 Oct.	Customs Union Performance Expert Group: EC expert group meeting under DG TAXUD (register details).
● 11–14 Oct.	2026 FONASBA Annual Meeting: Official Annual Meeting taking place in Tokyo, Japan (hosted by JAFSA)[cite: 1].
● 12 Oct.	Council of the EU (Environment): Environment Council meeting (agenda) including discussions on the EU ETS Review[cite: 4].
● 19 Oct.	European Ports Alliance Technical Workshop: Technical Workshop on "Going upstream - cooperation with source and transit countries of drug trafficking" in Brussels, attended by Magellan Circle’s Luis Malhadinhas and Maria Guerra on behalf of FONASBA[cite: 6].
● 19–22 Oct.	EP Plenary Session: Second October European Parliament plenary sitting in Strasbourg.

- **20 Oct.** **European Commission Initiatives:** EC presents the 2027 Commission Work Programme, 2026 Annual Overview Report on simplification, implementation & enforcement, and the "Northern Neighbourhood – New Arctic Strategy".
- **22–23 Oct.** **Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers (FAC Trade):** Ministerial gathering under the Irish Presidency ([agenda](#)).
- **28 Oct.** **Conference on Maritime Security & Legal Network:** Irish Presidency event in Dublin focusing on infrastructure protection[cite: 1].
- **29–30 Oct.** **EU-Canada Summit:** High-level bilateral summit addressing transatlantic trade and supply chain resilience.
- **31 Oct.** **IMO MSW Survey Deadline:** Final day for ship agents to submit responses on Maritime Single Window implementation[cite: 1, 4].
- **3 Nov.** **EC Public Consultation Deadline:** Closing date for feedback on the EU ETS Review consultation[cite: 5].
- **26 Nov.** **Atlantic Macro-Regional Strategy Deadline:** EC Call for Evidence feedback deadline[cite: 2].

Official EU pages related to our topics

- [EU Emissions Trading System \(EU ETS\) Portal →](#)
- [EU Ports & Industrial Maritime Strategies →](#)
- [EU Maritime Transport Policy Overview →](#)
- [EU Customs Policy & Regulations →](#)
- [EU Transport Decarbonisation: Shipping Sector →](#)

FONASBA / ECASBA European Advocacy Secretariat

Delivered in partnership with Magellan Circle Brussels.
Providing continuous monitoring, representation, and advocacy for ship agents.

[FONASBA Website](#) | [ECASBA Portal](#)