World Ports Climate Action Program

Leading world Ports take a strong role in Climate and Clean Air Action

The Paris Agreement makes a clear call to global society to significantly reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to ensure that global warming will be limited to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

Greenhouse gas emissions from the maritime transport are very significant. Therefore, emission reduction efforts in maritime transport are essential. These efforts will also work to reduce air pollutants from shipping that are harmful to both human health and nature. Ports are critical nodes in the global maritime transportation network and are also the highly visible representative of maritime transport for their surrounding communities. Finally, Ports are at-risk from sea level rise and adverse weather conditions associated with climate change.

Therefore, as key economic and social drivers of both global and local developments, we declare today to take a leading role in addressing climate action.

Ports have a strong record of working collaboratively with industry to shape the future of maritime transport. While the challenge and responsibility ultimately rests with the maritime transport itself, the undersigned ports are committed to deliver on climate action and strive for the combination of clean air and climate actions.

Climate Action Program

As leading ports around the world, we can make a very significant impact on climate action and deliver on the call for clean air at the same time, through concerted, cooperative efforts. By “acting local and thinking global”, we will start and accelerate cooperation through the following specific actions:

1) Increase efficiency of supply chains while approaching and while in Ports through development and harmonization of digital tools that increase transparency and optimise supply chain performance;
2) Advance common and ambitious (public) policy approaches on emission reductions within larger geographical areas, either through limits, direct or indirect pricing or other means, thereby neutralizing competitive distortion that could arise from non-participating ports accommodating the locally lowest environmental standard;
3) Accelerate development of feasible renewable power-to-ship solutions or other zero emission solutions controlling at-berth emissions for ships using conventional fossil fuels;
4) Accelerate in the supply chain development of commercially viable sustainable low-carbon fuels for maritime transport (with a greenhouse gas reduction potential well below 50% of the current fuels) and infrastructure for electrification of ship propulsion systems such as charging and/or battery exchanges. We support the role of LNG as transition fuel;
5) Accelerate our efforts to fully decarbonize the cargo-handling facilities in our ports;

Participating ports will join forces to deliver on each of the above by leading collaborative projects that result in measurable progress.

Call towards our stakeholders

The shipping industry has a responsibility to deliver on the Paris Agreement. Thus, any effort must include the private stakeholders who actually perform the goods movement services at and between each port. Therefore, we call upon the shipping industry to:

a) Join us in our commitment to deliver on the Paris agreement;
b) Work together with the undersigned ports and other stakeholders to ensure swift and coordinated action that deliver results.

While each port shall put forward their best effort towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, no port has true authority to require changes in regular business practices under the law. Therefore, the undersigned ports do hereby call upon governments and regulators to:

a) Work together with us to implement global or at least regional policies for greenhouse gas emission pricing (either directly or indirectly) and/or other policy approaches on emission reductions in ways and on scales that minimise competitive distortion;
b) Provide financial support for research and development as well as pilot projects and implementation of low-carbon fuels and clean technologies for the maritime transport;
c) Provide support, including by financial means, to ports to the World Ports Climate Action Program.

We will continue work collaboratively with the International Maritime Organization, sector representatives, governments, regulators and other stakeholders to develop short-, medium- and long-term actions to advance decarbonisation of maritime transport. We will use the World Ports Sustainability Program to reach out and communicate results to the global port community and to amplify our voice on climate action.

Signed by:

Jacques Vandermeiren
CEO
Port of Antwerpen

date: 18 Sept. 2018

Merce Cochesa
President
Port of Barcelona

date: 09.09.18

Jens Meier
CEO
Port of Hamburg

date: 09.09.18

Eugene D. Seroka
Executive Director
Port of Los Angeles

date: 09.09.18

Allard Castelein
CEO
Port of Rotterdam

date: 13.09.18

Robin Silvester
President and CEO
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

date: 11 Oct. 2018

Mario Cordero
Executive Director
Port of Long Beach

date: 18 Sept. 2018
After the launch of the World Ports Climate Action Program on September 13th, 2018, the following Ports committed to participate in the Program and have signed the original declaration:

- Magnus Kårestedt
  CEO
  Port of Gothenburg
  date: 2018-12-20

- Morooka Masamichi
  President and CEO
  Yokohama Kawasaki International Port Corporation
  date: October 23, 2019

- Rick Cotton
  Executive Director
  The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
  date: Feb 19th, 2019

- Aurelio Martinez Estévez
  Chairman & CEO
  Port Authority of Valencia
  date: March 18th, 2019

- Hervé MATEL
  CEO
  HAROPA – Port of le Havre
  date: 22 Mars 2019

- Koen Overtoom
  CEO
  Port of Amsterdam
  date: December 4th, 2020