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## **Baltic Sea ports as drivers of the sustainable blue economy: Making the Green Deal a reality**

Organised with the support of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#) [Baltic Sea Commission](#) and the Informal Baltic Sea Group

Hosted by MEP Henna Virkunnen, MEP Niklas Nienass, MEP Magdalena Adamowicz, and MEP Jytte Guteland

**Friday 22 October 2021–10.00-12.00  
CEST**

*Online via MS TEAMS*

Registrations: [CLICK HERE](#)

Ports do not only play an important role in connecting regions, creating jobs and growth, they can also contribute to delivering carbon neutrality and the European Green Deal. They have the potential of becoming gateways of sustainable blue economy, key hubs in delivering clean energy, green transport, circular economy and digital transformation. Baltic Sea ports are at the forefront of this process and this seminar will seek to outline current developments, future visions and ways to support the transition in the region.

10:00 – 10:05 Opening remarks by MEP Henna Virkunnen

## 10.05-10.40 Session I: Ports as hubs for the blue economy and regional development – EU vision vs. state of play

*Introduction and moderation by MEP Niklas Nienass*

- **Felix Leinemann**, Head of Unit Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, DG MARE, European Commission - The European Commission's new approach for a sustainable blue economy - what's in it for ports?
- Prof. **Maciej Matczak**, Director of Maritime Institute at the Gdynia Maritime University - Maritime ports as a driving force for sustainable development of the regional economy and society
- **Bogdan Ołdakowski**, Secretary General of Baltic Ports Organization - Baltic (larger and smaller) ports – paving the way for green and blue future

*Questions and Answers*

## 10:40 – 11:15 Session II: The role of ports in transforming the blue economy for a green future

*Introduction and moderation by MEP Magdalena Adamowicz*

- **Jan Lahenkorva**, Regional Council from Gävleborg, Member of the BSC Maritime Working Group - The role of ports in regional development - the example of Gävleborg
- **Jens Aurel Scharner**, CEO Port of Rostock - Rostock – Future in Green Hydrogen?
- **Bart Steijaert**, CEO of Helsingborg Port - Roadmap towards fossil-free port operations

*Questions and Answers*

## 11:15 – 11:55 Session III: EU support for ports – opportunities for financing

*Introduction and moderation by Lucas Bosser, CPMR Director for Transport*

- **José Rino**, European Investment Bank - EIB support to the port sector
- **Marija Janeva**, European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) - Funding opportunities for ports under CEF2

*Questions and Answers*

11:55 – 12:00 Concluding remarks by MEP Jytte Guteland

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