

**CESA AND SEA EUROPE OPPOSED TO ANY ATTEMPTS TO FURTHER DELAY
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION**

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At next week's IMO MEPC 71, some IMO Member States, led by Brazil, Cook Islands, India, Norway, Liberia and United Kingdom, want to discuss a further delay of the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) by another two years. However, CESA and SEA Europe are heavily opposed against any attempt to further delay the BWMC implementation.

"Both shipyards, repair yards and maritime equipment manufacturers have made significant investments to ensure that ballast water management systems can be installed onboard ships on time", said Christophe Tytgat, CESA/SEA Europe Secretary General. *"Another delay by two years would not only extend the implementation of the Convention from 2022 to 2024 – in other words 7 years from today – but it would also give a wrong political signal",* he added.

According to Mr. Tytgat, since the adoption of the BWMC in 2004, the shipping industry has been fully aware of the requirement to install a ballast water management system onboard ships and has thus had numerous opportunities to prepare itself for this new legislation.

"Many maritime equipment manufacturers have made significant investments in innovative technologies, in producing ballast water management systems and in ensuring that these systems are tested and certified", Mr. Tytgat stressed. *"If the IMO would delay the BWMC again, this would be a blow for all maritime equipment manufacturers that have done what they were invited to do: invest in ballast water management systems for ships to protect the marine environment for this and future generations",* he added.

Certainly, in Europe, another delay would be interpreted as if the IMO does not care enough about the environment and it may risk putting the IMO again in a difficult situation in the European Union. But any new delay to install ballast water management systems onboard ships will undoubtedly mean a further deterioration of the marine environment by means of invasive species coming from ships' ballast water.

This would be against the spirit of words from the then IMO Secretary-General Mitropoulos, who addressed the Diplomatic Conference that adopted the BWMC in February 2004 as follows: *"Our duty to our children and their children cannot be over-stated. I am sure we would all wish them to inherit a world with clean, productive, safe and secure seas and the outcome of this Conference, by staving off an increasingly serious threat, will be essential to ensuring this is so".*

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