



EUROPEAN SHIPPERS' COUNCIL



Become a Member



OUR MISSION

European Shippers' Council (ESC) aims to contribute to the competitiveness of the European industrial and trading base while driving growth, wealth, and employment within Europe.

ESC is committed to fostering a highly efficient and sustainable freight transport system both within and beyond Europe, promoting openness and competition in all freight services.

In today's complex global landscape, international trade faces numerous challenges, including evolving sanctions regimes, taxation systems, and regulatory frameworks. ESC is dedicated to ensuring that global trade remains open and efficient, advocating for policies that facilitate seamless international commerce and strengthen Europe's position in the global market.

OUR STRUCTURE

ESC represents the interests of transport users (cargo owners) from approximately 100,000 companies across Europe, collectively referred to as 'shippers.'

Members include national transport user organisations/shippers' councils, key European trade organisations, and corporate entities.

ESC operates through a permanent secretariat based in the heart of the European Union in Brussels and is overseen by a Management Board.





ESC TEAM

MANAGEMENT BOARD

ROMAN STIFTNER, President
DENIS CHOUMERT, Vice-President
BART JAN KOOPMAN, Vice-President

SECRETARY-GENERAL

GODFRIED SMIT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATION

KATSIARYNA KLIUYEVA

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

ANDREAS KORTENHAUS

POLICY MANAGERS

Inland Transport Council
Rail Transport Council
GODFRIED SMIT

Air Transport Council
KATSIARYNA KLIUYEVA

Trade Facilitation Council
Maritime Transport Council
GODFRIED SMIT

Sustainability Manager
MATTEO ALEXANDER NENCIOLINI

ESC Membership Benefits



INFLUENCING EU POLICY

ESC is directly and continually lobbying for shippers' positions vis-à-vis the European institutions. As an ESC member, you will have a voice at the EU level. Your priorities will be heard and included in ESC's key political lobbying efforts.

Our key political dossiers:

Maritime Transport:

- > Decarbonisation of the maritime sector and the use of renewable fuels
- > EU Emissions Trading System
- > Demurrage and detention
- > Bill of Cargo Rights (to ensure fair trade)

Inland Transport:

- > Sustainable transport
- > Combined transport
- > Solving the problem of lack of drivers
- > Weights and dimensions

Rail Transport:

- > Increasing capacity and quality
- > Rail freight noise
- > Rail capacity regulation

Air Transport:

- > Slots allocation
- > Sustainable fuels
- > Cargo iQ KPIs

Trade Facilitation:

- > Reform of the Union Customs Code
- > International trade agreements
- > Harmonisation of internal market
- > Due diligence: Businesses' Duty of Care for Sustainability

Digitalisation:

- > Electronic freight transport information

Sustainability:

- > Corporate sustainability reporting
- > EU Emissions Trading System
- > Reducing administrative burdens on companies while implementing legislation
- > European Green Deal
- > Green Industrial Deal

POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES

ESC provides its members with opportunities to engage directly with policymakers and industry leaders. Through participation in council meetings and strategic working groups, members can shape the future direction of the industry and advocate for policies that support their business interests.

POLICY AND MARKET INTELLIGENCE

ESC provides its members with the most up-to-date, tailor-made market intelligence so they are always informed of the latest business opportunities.

ESC members stay ahead of the competition with exclusive intelligence services:

- > Reports
- > Policy briefings
- > Specialised webinars led by industry experts
- > Content from task forces focused on emerging issues

NETWORKING

Beyond shaping policy, ESC offers excellent opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing. As a member you can connect with industry leaders and decision-makers through:

- > Council meetings where key industry discussions take place
- > Strategic Working Groups shaping sector-specific policies
- > ESC's annual conference

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATION

Access to finance for research and innovation in the supply chain is a priority for ESC. ESC's active involvement in securing funding helps drive industry innovation and ensures members stay ahead in a rapidly evolving market. As a member, you benefit from:

- > Opportunities to define ESC's R&D priorities
- > Early access to information about upcoming funding calls
- > Insights into the results of EU projects, first-hand access to emerging trends, and 'must know' information.

Key funding programs include:

- > Horizon Europe
- > Connecting European Facilities
- > EU Innovation Fund

BRAND EXPOSURE

ESC increases your brand visibility through our communication channels. As a member, your business and services are promoted to a broad audience, increasing your brand exposure and attracting new opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- > **National shippers' councils:** these associations represent the interests of shippers at a national level.
- > **European associations:** these associations represent the interests of shippers at an EU, national, or regional level in a specific industry/sector.
- > **Individual companies / corporate members.**

MEMBERSHIP FEE

The membership fees are divided in categories depending on the company type and size. The annual membership fee for ESC is tax deductible.