

EUROPEAN SHIPPING DIRECTIVES'S REVISION : SURFRIDER EUROPE DELIVERS ITS WHITE PAPER ON SHIPPING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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While the European Commission is currently working on the revision of 5 European Directives linked to Maritime Transport, Surfrider Foundation Europe delivers its White Paper for Maritime Safety to Adina Valean, European Commissioner for the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission. This delivery happens on the eve of European Maritime Days.

5 directives to be reviewed

Announced to be presented by the European Commission at the first semester of 2023, **5 directives related to Maritime Transport** are awaited from the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport. 3 of them were adopted following the accident of the ship Erika off the Coast of Brittany (France) : **Flag State Directive, Port State Control Directive, Accident Investigation Directive** adopted in April 2009, and which were known as Erika III package.

2 other directives are also on the table: **Ship Source Pollution Directive** that was adopted in 2005, and the directive related to **EMSA Mandate**.

A decisive time to reinforce Maritime Safety

While some directives have been revised in the margins, none have ever been fully revised.

For Surfrider Foundation Europe, who follows Maritime Transport pollutions issues for more than 20 years; it's an amazing opportunity to take the chance to improve legislation on the of transportation of goods: 90% of manufactured goods are transported by ships. Therefore, it creates a lot of different sources of pollution: oil spills/oil pollution, ecological impacts of shipping, degassing, ballast water discharge, domestic or atmospheric pollution, noise pollution, introduction of invasive species, or even pollution due to ships dismantling.

Surfrider delivers its white paper to Adina Valean, European Commissioner for Transports

In order to assist the European Commission in effectively addressing key issues and presenting a text that is responsive to the challenges faced in 2023, Surfrider Foundation Europe is virtually submitting its white paper on Maritime Safety to Adina Valean, the European Commissioner Delegate for the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.

Through a tweet that is to be posted on May 23th, just the day before [the European Maritime Days which will take place in Brest \(France\) on may 24-25](#), the NGO that is also the provider of [Green Marine Europe certification](#) calls for strong measures on 5 topics identified as priority.

5 topics targeted

Loss of containers at sea

Surfrider Europe invites the legislator to seize the opportunity of these new standards for shipping and integrate new measures related to transparency, traceability, prevention and remediation of these pollution events.

Surfrider Europe calls for:

- **Establishing a tolerance threshold for containers weigh**
- **A quality standard for containers, for their stacking and their stowage arrangement**
- **A recognition of plastic pallets in containers as hazardous materials**
- **A transparent reporting for loss of containers at sea**
- **Preventing risks of loss of containers related to chartered ships**
- **Clarifying the legal status of containers lost at sea**

The use of open loop scrubbers

Many reports (For example, the report of the International Council for the Exploitation of the Sea on the discharge water from scrubbers, published in 2020) reveal the toxicity of water discharged at sea by open loop devices on marine biodiversity.

Surfrider Europe calls for:

- **into Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control, adding an access ban for ships using open loop scrubbers.**
- **Extending the scope of Directive 2005/35 to cover the issue of open loop scrubber.**

Underwater noise

Sources of underwater noise emissions may have various origins. They are related to offshore drilling activities, but also to shipping activities. This noise of anthropogenic origin presents several risks for marine species: significant mortality, disturbance of marine ecosystems and masking communications between members of the same group.

Surfrider Europe calls for:

- **Defining underwater noise as pollution and include it as such into Directive 2005/3**
- **Defining underwater noise as a pollution and inclusion as such into Directive 2008/99**
- **Strengthening the control by port State to include noise reduction measures.**

Collisions between cetaceans and ships

The impact of underwater noise is directly linked to another risk from shipping: collisions between cetaceans and ships. While noise affects all species, the noise impact is larger in areas with a significant presence of cetaceans. Indeed, the two aspects may, to a certain extent, be a matter for concordant legislative measures, which Surfrider Europe strongly supports.

Surfrider Europe calls for:

- **Including collisions between cetaceans and ships into Directive 2009/18**

Standardization of a European Flag

All the impacts of shipping mentioned above can be prevented thanks to effective legislation from the flag States under which ships are registered.

To that extent, Surfrider Europe calls for:

- **Fighting against flags of convenience**
- **Providing for strong obligations with regards to marine pollution prevention for all ships flying a European flag**

[Click here to access to the full white paper](#)

Loss of containers: doubts remaining on a real will of improvement

According to our information, the European Commission is expected to ensure the incorporation of the International Convention's MARPOL into the revised Accident Investigation Directive. However, these measures do not include any strong provisions specifically addressing the issue of container loss. Surfrider Europe is deeply concerned about this as there is currently a lack of robust regulations to address such pollution. The

existing European regulation only requires owners of shipwrecked or accident-affected vessels to report container losses.

Surfrider Europe will closely scrutinize the draft of these legislations to assess their effectiveness.

[Click here to access to the full white paper](#)

We remain at the disposal of journalists for any information or interview requests.

About Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Foundation Europe is a non-profit association, dedicated to the protection, safeguarding, enhancing and sustainable management of the world's ocean, coastlines, waves and beaches, for all people enjoying those. Created in 1990 in Europe (Biarritz) by surfers, the NGO is present in 12 European countries. For more than 30 years, Surfrider has been active in three expert areas: marine litter, quality of water and climate change Find out more about the association at <https://surfrider.eu/> or via [this vidéo](#)

CONTACT :

Lionel Cheylus | Medias Relations Manager | + 33 6 08 10 58 02 | lcheylus@surfrider.eu
Manon Claire | Medias Relations Assistant | presse@surfrider.eu



SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE

www.surfrider.eu



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