

Chair Summary

The conference has demonstrated that ASEM offers an ideal context to address the topic Green Shipping and Blue Business. The timing of the conference was perfect, just weeks after the countries in the IMO agreed on an ambitious climate goal for shipping with 50% reduction in emissions until 2050. The high-level opening session of the conference contained the following clear messages:

The environmental challenges for international shipping need further response.

Reaching global agreements at the IMO is the number one priority. There is a need to create a level playing field for green shipping.

The IMO agreement on climate change is fully embraced. Attention must now turn to implementation.

In the first session of the conference, it was demonstrated that the ASEAN region depends on international shipping, with its busy shipping routes. Among the main regions for the maritime industry, it is also a key to the solutions for the most important challenges for international shipping.

In its second session, it was inspiring to learn about the range of technological solutions developing within the field of green shipping, and already commercially available. The blue business is growing. The presentations delivered at the conference proved that the ambitious goals of the IMO Climate Change Agreement can be met.

In the third session, it was made clear that partnerships between Asia and Europe are indeed important in moving forward. The mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe will not only enhance the growth in the blue economy in these two regions, but offers also the key for global success in the bold transition into sustainable shipping. That partnership must include the smaller vessels in domestic operation as well as the larger vessels in international operation.

The last session of the conference underlined that new policies and new partnership initiatives are required in order to release the full potential for green shipping. One example of such initiatives are public-private partnerships. This is already taking place and it may be further developed in order to make Green Shipping, Blue Business, Moving Forward Together, a successful reality!

The Conference key recommendations may be captured in the following points:

ASEM dialogue and co-operation should support the implementation of the IMO global goals of emission reductions, improve sustainable connectivity and help create green business opportunities within the maritime sector.

Technical co-operation, capacity building and promotion of public-private partnerships should be included in the enhanced co-operation between Asia and Europe on green shipping.