



EUDA 2013 AGM PRESS RELEASE

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The European Dredging Association celebrates its 20th Anniversary

The European Dredging Industry: A Maritime Success Story!

Mr Siim Kallas, Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Transport & Mobility, opened the Anniversary conference with a keynote address highlighting the importance of the waterborne infrastructures for Transport Policy and the European economy as a whole. He also insisted on the key role the European Dredgers play in expanding and maintaining these infrastructures.

Eminent speakers then presented the innovative realisations of the European Dredgers around the world: the Port expansion of Rotterdam (Maasvlakte 2), the Panama Canal Expansion Programme, the expansion of the Port of Melbourne and the construction of energy islands 120 km from the shore of Abu Dhabi and energy islands linked with a causeway near the shore of Saudi Arabia.

With more than 100 high level participants from the European Institutions, the EU Member States administrations and representatives from the industry the conference concluded on: **European Dredgers innovate worldwide together with their clients.**

For the past 20 years, European Dredgers have built up momentum and increased their strength and resilience as individual companies but also as a united and reputable sector organisation.

Dredging, a vector of globalisation

In the past 20 years, the European dredging companies have developed into well respected world leaders in a diversified industry segment of high strategic and economic importance. Their knowledge and capacity has allowed them to tackle innovatively many of the world's new challenges, including the modernisation of ports and their adaptation to the new reality of seaborne trade, the protection and adaptation of coasts to climate change, the procurement of diverse services to the offshore infrastructures. Some of the most impressive projects have been the feat of the European Dredgers.



EuDA

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2013, the European Dredging Association (“EuDA”) was founded in 1993 as a non-profit industry organisation for European dredging companies and related organisations to interface with the various European Union’s (“EU”) Institutions and also some International Organizations (such as IMO, HELCOM or ILO). EuDA members employ approximately 25,000 European employees directly “on land and on board of the vessels” and more than 48,300 people indirectly (through the suppliers and services companies). The combined fleet of EuDA’s members counts approximately 750 seaworthy EU-flagged vessels.

Dredging activities are not well known by the wider public, but as a matter of fact, the European dredging companies, members of EuDA, are world market leaders with about 80% share of the worldwide open dredging market and a turnover of 7.5bn Euro in 2012. Although 70% of operations take place outside Europe, 90% of the returns flow back to Europe.

The Association serves its members in all kinds of requests related to dredging issues, presently strongly emphasising Social and Environmental affairs. These issues are coordinated by the Secretariat and executed by its specialised working groups composed of experts from the member companies.

The Association will pursue its goals by endorsing policies to create fair and equitable conditions for competition; commits to respecting applicable national, European and international rules and regulations; commits to operating its fleet safely, effectively and responsibly.