

# EMPA GM Report 2024



# EMPA

The annual General Meeting convened at the architecturally striking Port House in Antwerp, designed by Zaha Hadid, serving as a testament to modern architectural prowess. The chosen theme, “Pilots for Safety - Safety for Pilots”, served to underscore the pivotal role we undertake in ensuring maritime safety and the effectiveness of supply chains. The event underscored our unwavering dedication and continual endeavours to uphold pilot safety while executing this critical yet indispensable service. It also sheds light on the perils inherent in our occupation and the available resources to ensure the utmost safety in our duties.



*Figure 1 Zaha Hadid designed Port of Antwerp Building*



*Figure 2 EMPA Board*

The event opened with an address from EMPA President Erik Dalege and the Vice Mayor of Antwerp and President of the Board of the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Annick de Ridder. This was followed by Mr Jacob Terling, who is currently the principal administrator in the European Commission's DG MOVE Maritime Safety Unit with responsibilities, among other areas, for the development of EU policy and legislation related to flag State as well as coastal State



Figure 3 Jacob Terling

issues, including vessel traffic monitoring and situational awareness at sea (maritime surveillance). In this context, Mr Terling is involved in MASS developments at EU and IMO levels. He is chairing the EU expert group on Autonomous shipping and the EU expert group on ships needing assistance seeking a place of refuge. He said that the EU is starting to look at maritime transport as part of a single unit with many moving parts and that Pilots are one of the main cogs in that supply chain.



Figure 4 Santiago Encabo

Mr Santiago Encabo, Senior Project Officer at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), gave an excellent presentation on the work on the origin of EMSA and the work they carry out. He then branched into a project EMSA worked on called the EMSAFE report; this report is an analysis of maritime accidents in Europe and was published in 2022. As an established partner of EMSA and a leading stakeholder within our industry, Mr Encabo invited EMPA to aid in writing the next EMSAFE Report.

EMPA VP Patrick Galvin moderated the mid-morning session, which began with three Pilots who shared their harrowing experiences of falling while boarding or disembarking ships. Their resilience was truly inspiring, as one of them managed to escape unscathed, while the other two, despite suffering broken bones, are still dedicated to their profession and the safety of maritime operations. We are grateful to

Dominique Vaugrenard, João Dourado Pais, and Olivier Allaert for sharing their personal experiences with accidents.

This was followed by a presentation by Dave Cooper, a UK Pilot who gave an excellent presentation on Pilot Helmets. Henry Caubrière, President of the French Pilots, introduced a video on lifejacket selection. The video is in French, and they hope to subtitle it in English. Kaj Hahtonen, a Finnish Pilot and member of the EMPA Board, followed this. Kaj gave an excellent presentation on how the Finnish test and select PPE.



Figure 5 Accident Survivors

The afternoon session, moderated by Willem Bentinck (Chairman of the Dutch Maritime Pilots corporation), started with a presentation by Kenneth Ruyts. Kenneth presented a product he is developing in which AI can be used to detect fatigue in bridge watchkeeping officers. Dr Claire Pekcan followed Kenneth, who gave an excellent presentation on fatigue management. Camille Jégo, a French psychologist, then presented on the CIRP programme developed for the support of the



Figure 6 James Musgrove

French Pilots after an accident. James Musgrove, a UK Pilot, then gave an excellent presentation on a similar programme developed by the UKMPA, called “Safe Haven”.



Figure 7 Camille Jégo

The final session, moderated by Henry Caubrière (EMPA VP), started with François-Xavier Rubin de Cervens, head of the French marine accident investigation unit. This is called BEAmer. He gave a good presentation on their work in France. Stefan Van der Stap gave a good presentation on how well the Dutch/Belgian Pilot boats are equipped for MoB and how they train for MoB recovery. This was followed by Arie Palmers, who gave an excellent presentation on Pilot training of new



Pilots on climbing ladders and what to do “when all goes wrong”.



Figure 8 Joost Mulder

That evening sponsors Abeking & Rasmussen treated all delegates to a delicious meal at the Antwerp Zoo. At this dinner, former EMPA VP Joost Mulder was presented with an EMPA medal in commemoration of his services to EMPA.

After the dinner, Turkish Pilot Renda Aslantas presented a gift from the Turkish Maritime Pilots Association to EMPA President Erik Dalege.



Figure 9 Renda Aslantas

The next day started with a presentation from Agata Polcwiartek, who works with Airam Rodriguez, the owner of a Spanish Tech company called Amura. In collaboration with EMPA, AMURA is building an app that will connect all Pilots in the European Area. The app will enable users to report ship defects between EMPA members while giving members an option to report defects to the Port State Control.

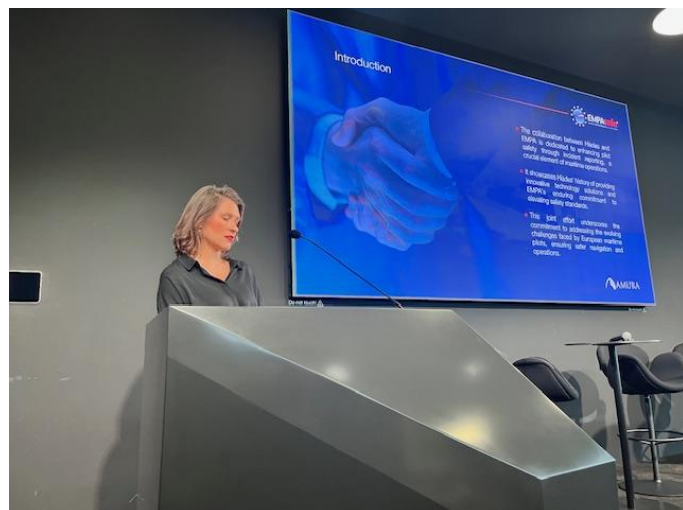


Figure 10 Agata Polcwiartek (Amura)



Figure 11 Ross Millar (IG P&I Club)

Ross Millar, Chairman of the Pilotage Committee of the International Group of P&I clubs, then gave a presentation on container ship accidents during pilotage. The P&I Clubs are concerned about the number of accidents that seem to be happening with large containerships. Ross gave a brief description of some accidents he has dealt with.

We then concluded the event with our General Meeting. Eka Siradze, representing our Georgian members, gave a presentation on next year's EMPA GM, which will be held in Batumi from April 28th to May 2nd.



Figure 12 Eka Siradze

In the meticulous planning and execution of these events, it is paramount to express our profound gratitude for the invaluable support extended by our sponsors. Their generous contributions play a pivotal role in ensuring the successful realisation of this event. Without their unwavering support, we would encounter significant challenges in orchestrating and delivering this event to the highest standards expected by our members.

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