

Think Climate Newsletter

February 2016



As reported on the Think Climate website <http://www.pianc.org/thinkclimate.php>, several coalition partners attended the transport-related side events in Paris at COP21

A few weeks on from the historic Paris Agreement, where 195 countries decided to take steps to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting warming to well below 2°C, the Think Climate coalition partner Associations met in Brussels on 1st February 2016. The focus of this meeting was to progress the actions set out in the Navigating a Changing Climate Action Plan. We had a useful and productive meeting, with partners reporting on progress already made and agreeing to take forward a number of actions in the coming months.

The following summary provides an overview of these actions and highlights a number of activities of particular relevance to Think Climate coalition supporters.



Action 1: Expand network; identify new coalition partners and supporters; raise awareness

The first set of actions in the Navigating a Changing Climate Action Plan includes raising awareness both of the work of the Think Climate coalition, and of the challenges and opportunities climate change is bringing.

Nine associations have now joined as partners in the Think Climate coalition:

- The World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC)
- International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)
- International Harbour Masters' Association (IHMA)
- International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA)
- International Bulk Terminals Association (IBTA) a coalition of the International Dry Bulk Terminals Group and the Coal Export Terminal Operators Association
- European Dredging Association (EuDA)
- Smart Freight Centre (SFC)
- European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)
- Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST)

Each of these partners is active in climate change mitigation and adaptation issues, and each brings something different to the coalition. Following the 1st February meeting, the Navigating a Changing Climate Action Plan will be updated to include new activities that build on ESPO's EcoPorts, Green Guide and PORTOPIA initiatives, and to reflect the additional knowledge-related opportunities of working with IMarEST.

There are also now twelve organisations registered as supporters of the Think Climate coalition:

- Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO)
- SedNet (the European Sediment Network)
- North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP)
- PIANC UK Section
- Institut français des sciences et technologies des transports, de l'aménagement et des réseaux (IFSTtar)
- Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR)
- Bremenports GmbH & Co. KG
- Port of Antwerp
- Cerema (Centre d'études et d'expertise sur les risques, l'environnement, la mobilité et l'aménagement)
- Ports Australia
- European Federation of Inland Ports (EFIP)
- Norwegian Ports Association

An initiative to attract more supporters will be instigated later in 2016: it is an objective of the coalition to have 40 supporters registered by the end of the year.

Coalition partners Coalition partner also discussed three other major initiatives for 2016-2017:

- the development of a dedicated website to act as a sector-wide platform for exchange of information and good practice: it is intended that this will be progressed in collaboration with IMarEST
- the production of a series of short videos or electronic 'tool-box talks' representing good practice in climate change mitigation and adaptation, to be uploaded either onto a dedicated platform or accessed via YouTube. This is another initiative being progressed with IMarEST
- the organisation of an international conference on climate change and waterborne transport infrastructure to be held in Brussels, Belgium, on 27th and 28th March 2017. More information on the conference will follow shortly ...

SAVE THE DATE!!!

NAVIGATING A CHANGING CLIMATE

An international conference exploring the implications of climate change for waterborne transport infrastructure

Brussels, Belgium

27th – 28th March 2017

Action 2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions; promote shift to low carbon infrastructure

In line with the Agreement reached in Paris, the navigation sector around the world needs to increase its efforts to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with waterborne transport infrastructure and to move to low or no carbon alternatives. There are already several actions in the Navigating a Changing Climate Action Plan, with the main areas of recent progress being as follows:

In order to work towards a consistent means of **carbon measurement and accounting** across the navigation sector, the Smart Freight Centre will undertake a review of the various available methods (e.g. Global Logistics Emissions Council; IAPH's carbon foot-printing tool; and ESPO's PORTOPIA initiative).

PIANC Working Group 188 held its kick-off meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 4th – 5th February 2016. This Group, which includes representatives from many of the coalition partners, will produce **technical good practice guidance on carbon management for ports and waterways**. In addition to providing an overview of carbon accounting methodologies, the Working Group will consider:

- good practice options to reduce emissions during dredging or construction activities
- the role of infrastructure design or management in improving shipping efficiency (e.g. by identifying and addressing physical, infrastructural or administrative bottlenecks) and in turn reducing emissions
- options for carbon offsetting, for example through Blue Carbon initiatives (such as is being promoted by EuDA) to create or enhance wetland and marine habitats that provide a natural carbon sink, and
- possible transferable practice and lessons from other sectors.

Action 3: Improve preparedness; strengthen resilience and adapt

The Paris Agreement, which is due to enter into force in 2020, commits countries to limit global warming to 2°C and ideally 1.5°C. However, the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to which countries agreed in the run up to the Paris talks will only currently result in a cap at around 2.7°C. Significant additional measures that go far beyond what is already pledged are therefore needed, and even if this is achieved, we are already locked-in to a level of ongoing change in key climate parameters.

Some of the challenges associated with adapting transport infrastructure to the effects of climate change are significant. Many international institutions are already recognising the urgency of adaptation. For stakeholders, including those in the navigation community, there is no need to wait until 2020. **The time to act is now!**

Several of the actions set out in the adaptation section of the Navigating a Changing Climate Action Plan are already underway and others are now being instigated, in particular:

- PIANC's Technical Working Group 178 on **Climate change adaptation for ports and navigation infrastructure** is making good progress. The Group met in London, UK at the end of January 2016 and will meet again, likely in Spain, in June. In addition to developing the text of the guidance, several workshops are being held with the dual objective of raising awareness and collecting case study information. Planning for some workshops is more advanced than for others. It is hoped to hold workshops in South Africa, Argentina, Iran, the USA or Caribbean and Dubai, and some details are already available for the following:
 - London, UK (7th March 2016; details at <http://www.pianc.org.uk/events.html>)
 - Manila, The Philippines (12th -13th July 2016, details from jan@janbrooke.co.uk)
- work is underway to update PIANC's Task Group 3 report 'Waterborne transport, ports and waterways: **A review of climate change drivers, impacts, responses and mitigation**'. The objective of this update is to incorporate the outputs of the 2014 fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The revised report should be complete by the end of 2016
- PIANC's ExCom has approved the Terms of Reference for a new **Working Group on resilience**. Those who may be interested in participating in this Working Group on behalf of their PIANC National Section or representing one of the Think Climate coalition partners are encouraged to contact jan@janbrooke.co.uk to find out more.



Action 4: Work with Nature; seek integrated and sustainable solutions

The main activities underway in respect of Action 4 are:

- PIANC's Working Group 176, which is developing practical guidance on **applying the Working with Nature philosophy**. This Working Group is making good progress, and is drawing on wider experience with the Building with Nature and Engineering with Nature initiatives, and
- The work by IHMA and others that aims to rationalise, and promote uniform definitions for, **ship-port operations** including scheduling.

And finally, more information about the Navigating a Changing Climate initiative can be found on the Think Climate coalition's website <http://www.pianc.org/thinkclimate.php>

Jan Brooke
Focal Point Think Climate coalition
February 2016