

Interpreting Port Business into EU Port Policy

ESPO is a family. These were the words that welcomed me six years ago when having the first meeting at European Port House. After these years and four years of holding the position of vice chairman at ESPO, I'm proud to consider myself as a member of the ESPO Family. And what an inspiring Family ESPO is!

On behalf of Finnish Ports it is a great pleasure to congratulate ESPO for the 25th anniversary of representing European Sea Ports and presenting one voice of the seaports.

ESPO is the only organisation that gathers the views from all European seaports for the decision makers in all levels and in all EU institutions. I believe it is not only communicating towards EU institutions but as well communicating with EU member states via ESPO's membership. During these 25 years of active lobbying ESPO has achieved well recognised conspicuousness, credibility and respect that is needed to put out the voice of port authorities in an efficient manner.

ESPO is at the same time a Forum for the executives and experts. In that respect ESPO brings together ports from East to West and from South to North!

I believe that even looking back after decades one of the most important EU port policy issues has been the creation of the Port Services Regulation. As it is eventually becoming a reality we are facing a most interesting period of analysing the impact of the regulation given the fact that there exists so many different port governance models in Europe.

Finnish Ports value the work that ESPO and ESPO Secretariat has been carrying out. Different aspects of various ports are taken seriously into account. I feel that specially relatively small or mid-size ports find ESPO extremely effective platform to work with.

Congrats, ESPO! And nice, breezy tailwind in the future! And to Isabelle and the whole team: You may cover many different EU port policy areas but what I find most important is that you know how, when and with whom to talk with – you interpret port business language into policy makers' own language.

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