



# Maritime Parliamentary Bulletin

## W/C 4 October 2021

The purpose of this bulletin is to update MPs and Peers on the latest developments in the UK maritime sector, and to provide a forward look to opportunities within parliamentary business for positive advocacy.

- **Labour urged to 'speak up for seafarers' at key conference event:** Shadow cabinet members heard from a ferry captain and industry representatives about the challenges and opportunities facing the maritime sector at a Nautilus-sponsored event during the Labour Party's annual conference in Brighton. At the Maritime Roundtable, held on 28 September, shadow transport secretary Jim McMahon MP and shadow environment secretary Luke Pollard MP discussed a wide range of issues including the crew change crisis, maritime skills, and the need for a just transition to a greener future. Opening the event, Nautilus council member Captain Fraser Matthew, delivered a keynote speech during which he called on the opposition to 'lead the charge in putting maritime on the agenda.' He called on the Labour Party to play its part in raising the profile of seafarers and the maritime sector, arguing that there is a 'lack of awareness among the public, media and to be frank many politicians about our dependence on the maritime sector.' – [Read more](#)
- **Need to tackle 'sea blindness' raised in Parliamentary debate:** Members of Parliament from across the political divide paid tribute to the vital role of seafarers and raised the need to tackle 'sea blindness' in a House of Commons debate. 'Sea blindness' describes a lack of awareness among the public, media, and decision makers of our dependence on the maritime sector. This impacts the sector's ability to attract investment and makes it more difficult to recruit the next generation of UK seafarers. The general debate on the maritime industry saw MPs raising a plethora of important issues including minimum wage enforcement, skills, coastal communities, and maritime decarbonisation. – [Read more](#)

## Maritime UK and the Department for Transport deliver Future of Freight Workshops

- The workshops brought together Industry and Government for the purpose of gathering views and evidence from freight service providers, users, and suppliers to the freight industry about the current and future freight transport system.
- The workshops will support the development of the Future of Freight, a long-term strategic plan for freight to be co-developed with industry, focussing on cross-modal challenges and opportunities.
- Government recognises the importance of the freight sector to economic wellbeing and the role it should play in realising core Government strategic objectives.
- Freight is not only a significant economic sector, but also a critical component in every supply chain into, out of, and across the UK. An importance emphasised by the pandemic.
- The sector faces many challenges and opportunities in the coming years, including decarbonisation, changing consumer behaviour, adoption of new technology, new trading relationships, capacity and resilience.
- That is why in 2018 the Government asked the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) to provide advice on the freight sector. The NIC published its report in April 2019 and the Government has recently published its response.
- The NIC called upon Government to raise the status of freight in government and in doing so to take a cross-modal approach.
- Building upon the NICs work the Government has committed to develop a long-term and cross-modal plan for the freight sector over the course of 2021.

## Maritime businesses urged to have their say on UK Free Trade Agreements with India, Mexico, and Canada

- Maritime UK has partnered with the UK government to deliver a series of online workshops focused on Free Trade Agreements with Canada, Mexico, and India. These workshops will provide an opportunity for business to share their views on the UK's maritime trade policy objectives within the countries mentioned.
- Government will use these workshops to obtain a better understanding of UK suppliers' activities in these markets, including market access barriers.
- The UK is currently preparing for trade negotiations with India and intends to open these before the end of the year. The UK wants a deal that slashes barriers to doing business and trading with India's £2 trillion economy and 1.4 billion-strong population. India is projected to become the world's second largest economy by 2037 and is one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, making it a crucial short and long-term trading partner for the UK. HMG recognizes India's increasing demand for products and services offers significant opportunities for British businesses, but that there are some significant barriers to trade with India.
- The UK and Canada signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement (UK CAN TCA) last year which replicates, as far as possible, the effects of the EU Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and includes an ambitious International Maritime Transport Chapter. The UK and Canada have committed to start negotiating a new UK-Canada trade deal within a year of entry into force of the UK CAN TCA, which could secure even more benefits for British industries.
- The UK and Mexico signed the UK Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement (UK MEX TCA) last year, locking in the benefits of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement (1997). This agreement includes few provisions on maritime services, but both countries have committed to start negotiating a new UK-Mexico trade deal within a year of entry into force of the UK MEX TCA which could go further in areas of mutual interest such as such maritime.

## Upcoming Parliamentary opportunities to promote maritime

Suggested questions, statements and briefing material can be provided on request.

### Commons

We would be delighted if MPs would be willing to use any opportunities at PMQs and Business of the House Questions to promote the UK maritime industry (these questions are drafted to be suitable as either oral or written parliamentary questions):

- **PMQs – Wednesdays:** We would be delighted if MPs would be willing to raise maritime at PMQs if they are selected in the ballot, and happy to support in drafting a question
- **20 Oct – Oral questions** – To ask the President of COP26 what steps he will take to support the decarbonisation of the UK maritime industry
- **21 Oct – Oral questions** - To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade what steps they are taking to attract inward investment into the UK maritime industry
- **25 Oct – Oral questions** – To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government what steps they are taking to support coastal regions
- **28 Oct – Oral questions** – To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his department has made of the role that decarbonising maritime can play in improving air quality

### Lords

The following oral questions in the House of Lords represent opportunities for the maritime industry to be raised:

- **11 Oct – Oral question:** Fiscal measures in pursuit of the government's net zero emissions target.
- **11 Oct – Oral questions:** Expanding the UK's Emissions Trading Scheme to include all forms of transport

- **14 Oct – Debate:** Free Trade Agreement between Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- **20 Oct – Oral Questions:** Influence of environment considerations on government trade policy

We would be delighted if parliamentarians would be willing to table requests for parliamentary debates on the UK maritime industry, and we can support with suggestions for these.

### **Written Questions**

We are also happy to support parliamentarians with ideas and production of additional written questions.

### Events for Parliamentarians

- **International Maritime Hub at COP26:** Maritime UK and City of Glasgow College have announced plans to showcase green technology, innovation, and capabilities from across the UK maritime sector to the world, at an International Maritime Hub at COP26. To be hosted at City of Glasgow College's Riverside Campus on the bank of the river Clyde, the Hub will be the location for a number of different events throughout the duration of the international conference, highlighting UK maritime expertise within areas such as technology, policy, regulation, education and training. - [Learn more](#)

## UK Maritime News

- The Green Blue and the Final Straw Foundation launch ground-breaking Single-Use Plastic Free Accreditation - [British Marine](#)
- The global Open Day was a great opportunity for members and students to come together - [Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers](#)
- Jump on the sanctions ‘cart’ or get left behind- [Baltic Exchange](#)
- Campbell Johnston Clark joins the UK Chamber of Shipping - [UK Chamber of Shipping](#)
- Royal Navy named Maritime Ambassador at Mersey Maritime Industry Awards 2021 - [Mersey Maritime](#)
- Lloyd’s Register and UK P&I Club launch new and improved Port State Control pocket checklist mobile app - [SMI](#)

## The Maritime Sector - key messages

- Maritime contributes **£46.1bn to the UK economy and supports 1 million jobs** (more than air and rail combined).
- Maritime is **responsible for keeping the country supplied** (resilience): 95 percent of British imports and exports in goods are moved by sea, including 25 percent of the UK's energy supply and 48 percent of food supplies. Investment is essential for maintaining these resilient supply chains that every constituent relies upon.
- Ports **invest over £600m of private capital each year**, benefiting coastal economies through job creation and infrastructure investment.
- Maritime workers are **43% more productive** than UK average.
- Maritime is a source of **well-paid highly skilled roles**, which pay an average of £38,000 per year - £9,000 more than the national average.
- Globally, **the maritime sector will double to \$3trn by 2030**.
- Maritime makes a significant contribution to **all nations and regions of the United Kingdom**.

### Maritime UK's 2021 Priorities

Over the coming year, Maritime UK intends to focus on the following priorities, both by engaging with the UK maritime industry, and by working constructively with the Government and other political stakeholders:

- **Supporting maritime businesses and the UK maritime industry through Brexit changes**, as well as maximising the opportunities that arise from the UK once again becoming an independent trading nation.
- **Boosting the export and international trade potential of UK maritime** and improving the competitiveness of the UK's business environment to attract maritime businesses.
- **Delivering regional growth** through Maritime UK's Regional Cluster Development Plans in a way that aligns with the Government's wider levelling-up agenda.
- **Demonstrating the benefits (both environmental and economic) of maritime decarbonisation** ahead of the COP26 UN Climate Conference taking place in the UK this year, with a particular focus on **innovation** – Maritime UK will be working with the Government to ensure that funding allocated for maritime decarbonisation is effectively utilised.
- **Supporting and growing the workforce** by continuing to develop our Diversity in Maritime Programme, our Careers and Outreach Programme, and our Maritime Skills Commission.

Please email [barney.scholes@beyond2050.co.uk](mailto:barney.scholes@beyond2050.co.uk) for further information.

You can follow our Maritime UK Twitter account [here](#), and our website is [here](#).