

# MARITIME PARLIAMENTARY BULLETIN

## W/C 25 January 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.*

### Recent developments and events

- Acknowledging the pressures on vaccination capabilities, the UK's maritime sector is asking the Government to prioritise maritime key workers for Covid-19 vaccinations, recognising their vital role in keeping trade flowing and the country supplied with essential goods such as food, energy and medicine. Setting an international precedent, Singapore, a key global maritime hub, recently started offering vaccinations to frontline maritime personnel.
- UK port operators have a long history of operating with high standards of sustainability and integrity. A number of the largest operators have recently declared their intention to carry over such high standards of sustainability and integrity to the operation of freeports. The commitment covers sustainability across each of its three primary dimensions:
  - Environmental – where the commitment is to high standards of environmental integrity
  - Social – where the commitment is to benefits to local communities, skills and employment rights
  - Economic – where the commitment is to grow long-term investment in physical, intellectual and social capital

Freeports should be an opportunity to stimulate significant investment that would further strengthen the UK's capability to trade and bring more jobs and prosperity to areas that

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need it. They should not be a 'race to the bottom'. UK port operators are committed to fully playing their role in ensuring that these benefits are also delivered sustainably.

- Nautilus International have sent a letter to the Minister for Maritime, expressing concern over the thousands of seafarers who will not qualify for the Seafarers Earnings Deduction due to restrictions put in place by many countries in response to Covid-19. They are asking HM Treasury to grant concessions to UK seafarers to avoid causing unnecessary financial hardship.
- Maritime UK have recently made submissions to the following parliamentary inquiries:
  - Science and Technology Committee: Inquiry into the role of hydrogen in achieving Net Zero (January 2021)
  - Public Accounts Committee – Special session on impact of UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (January 2021)

## UK maritime news

- Union updates Covid test and quarantine exemption certificate for UK arrivals - [Nautilus International](#)
  - Maritime UK Chair Sarah Kenny delivers keynote address at Maritime Autonomous Systems Regulatory Conference 2021 – [Maritime UK](#)
  - Vaccine prioritisation needed for the unsung heroes of the UK ports sector - [British Ports Association](#)
  - Netherlands can be 'EU gateway' for UK firms - [Mersey Maritime](#)
  - Artemis Technologies unveils first look at electric foiling workboat – [Belfast Maritime Consortium](#)
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- Commitment to sustainable Freeports - [UK Major Ports Group](#)
- British Marine releases guidance on trading with the EU - [British Marine](#)
- Forced hiatus of shipping loan sales – [The Baltic Exchange](#)
- ‘Things can only get better...’ Ports survey reflects mood of tentative optimism for 2021 – [British Ports Association](#)
- The role of customs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – [UK Chamber of Shipping](#)

## 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
  - **1 Feb – Defence questions** – To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what support his department is providing to ensure Royal Navy vessels are built in the UK.
  - **3 Feb – Wales questions** – To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what support his department is providing to the Welsh maritime industry.
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Additionally, we are looking to arrange a Backbench Business debate and/or Westminster Hall debate on maritime – if you are able to help support this, please contact

[barney.scholes@beyond2050.co.uk](mailto:barney.scholes@beyond2050.co.uk)

### Lords

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

- **16 Feb – Oral question:** Aims for the outcome of COP26

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.

## The maritime industry - 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.
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- 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 priorities for the year ahead

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.
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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](#).

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