

A quarter century of teamwork and development

by Andrzej Urbaś

Photo: Port of Helsinki



Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Photo: Walhalla Restaurant Helsinki

This year's annual BPO meeting will be hosted by the ports of Helsinki and HaminaKotka and will gather all guests and members in the Finnish capital on September 8-9th. The Organization's 25th anniversary will be a good opportunity to stress the role of the Baltic Sea region as a role model for clean ports and shipping.

Since sustainability and environmental awareness are currently some of the most important issues for the transport industry, it is no coincidence that the 2016 conference will focus on topics concerned with ports in pursuit of sustainable solutions, ship-owners looking for zero emission tools, and new eco-regulations. Further strengthening of regional cooperation remains, besides the state of the economy and trade in the Baltic Sea region, one of BPO's top priorities. Participants will also examine the shipping and port market and cast a closer look at the topic of TEN-T core and comprehensive ports and port legislation.

The event will take place at the Grand Marina Congress Center, located in the heart of Helsinki. On the second day of the

conference, a tour of the Port of Helsinki will be available.

The anniversary will be celebrated at an official gala dinner. At the end of the first day of the conference, a boat will take the guests for an evening cruise to the fortress of Suomenlinna, located on the southern edge of the Kustaanmiekka isle. The venue chosen for the gala is the Walhalla restaurant, which was built into the fortress itself.

"This year's 25th anniversary conference will summarize the past, but first of all talk about the future of the region and of the port industry. Our guests, people who have had a decisive influence on today's shape of northern Europe, together with port experts and scientists will try to determine and predict the future of the Baltic region," Julian Skelnik, BPO Chairman said, commenting on the 2016 conference. ■

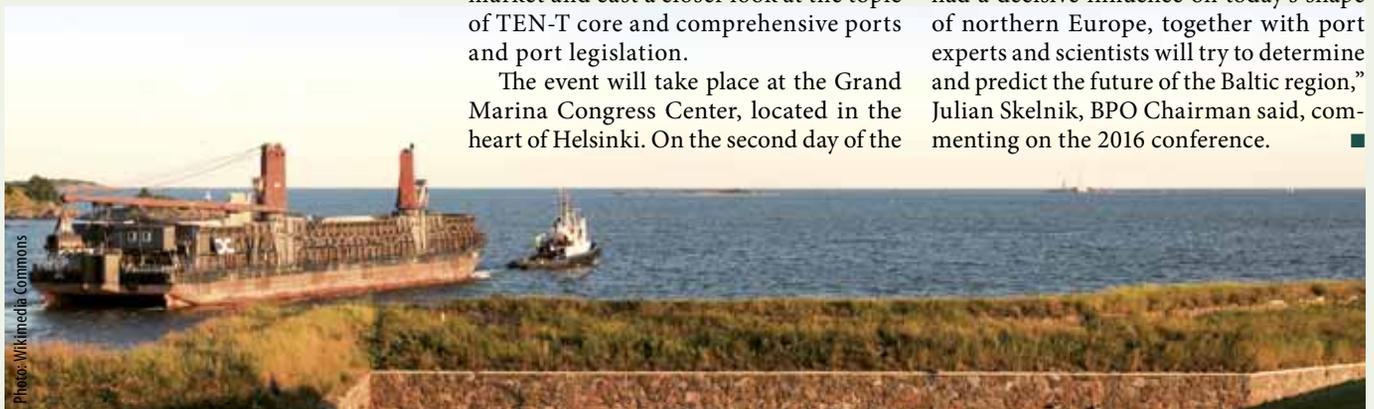


Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Breaking records

by Przemysław Myszka

The Swedish Port of Ystad is on an upswing path these days. In years 2013-2015, the port set a new all-time high in total freight (3.25 mln tn), trucks & trailers (204 thou.), passengers (1.99 mln), and pax cars (511.5 thou.).

The Port of Ystad has a rich history to boast about. The very first seaborne shipments took place in the 13th century, when significant amounts of grains were exported.

In the 17th century, a sea postal service was established between Ystad and Stralsund, which in 1868 became Sweden's first liner service with the continent with the use of what was at that time a great novelty, namely a steam ship.

Ystad is also famous for its role in bypassing Napoleon's so-called Continental Blockade of England. After his visit to the town, the writer August Strindberg gave the point of Ystad in this regard, "The den of smugglers and thieves." The enterprising

citizens took a chance and smuggled coffee, cacao, and rice from the British Isles.

While today's Ystad differs considerably from Strindberg's description, entrepreneurship is still valued extremely high, and propels the actions of the company Ystad Hamn Logistik, which runs the port. Its vision is to offer conditions and services that stimulate sustainability, increase integration, and add to international trade by the means of farsighted and eco-friendly port management.

The Port of Ystad is most likely best known for its numerous daily ferry services to/from the Danish Island of Bornholm (in place for over 40 years), as well as with Poland's Świnoujście.

In 2015 alone, Ystad handled nearly 210 thou. of ferry cargo units (incl. over 10.5 thou. of railcars), along with almost 2 mln passengers and 0.5 mln of their vehicles (plus nearly 3 thou. busses). Thanks to these numbers, Ystad is Sweden's third-largest passenger ferry port.

Because ferry services and eco-awareness are at the heart of the port business concept, the port authority some time ago installed the world's largest onshore power supply system for 50 Hz as well as for 60 Hz.

Cold ironing makes it possible to shut down ships' engines while berthing, with clean electricity plug-supplied. Thanks to this solution, the air quality both in the port and in the city has improved; the noise level is lower, too. ■



Photos: Port of Ystad