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Subject: ECSA C-14075 ECSA SF WG - EC Study on mapping ship finance instruments - For Information
Date: Πέμπτη, 16 Ιανουαρίου 2025 10:35:35 π.μ.

To ECSA - WG Ship Finance
Cc ECSA - National Associations
ECSA - Secretariat

Ref. ECSA C-14075

16/01/2025

ECSA SF WG - EC Study on mapping ship finance instruments - For Information

Dear Members,

We would like to inform you that the European Commission has published their study *'Support study for the development of a living inventory of relevant instruments to support investments in the shipping sector'*.

The study consists of three documents, which you can find on the below links:

- [Final report](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Summary Report on the Recommendations](#)

To recap, this study is the outcome of the mapping exercise on ship finance instruments that was conducted by the European Commission with the help of external consultants (RICARDO and PROW Capital) last year, and to which ECSA contributed.

To sum up, the report recognizes the ship finance gaps and obstacles in Europe and underlines the ECSA findings. The study is in line with the ECSA Priorities on ship finance.

A brief summary can be found below. The study is a good first step towards a balanced ship finance environment, where either private or public finance instruments play a balanced role.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,
Katalin

Summary

The Commission study is complementary to ECSA Priorities

The Commission Report builds on the high-level priorities that ECSA highlighted and is focused on detailed implementation strategies. The Commission shares a cohesive vision for advancing sustainable and competitive shipping finance in the EU.

Similarly to ECSA, the Commission stresses the importance of ship finance as key to shipping's energy transition and highlight the constrained availability of adequate ship finance in Europe. The Commission also aims at finding solutions to support shipping's energy transition and climate goals.

Funding tools and regulation

The Commission report supports ECSA's view that stricter banking regulations along with a lack of recognition of shipping's specific requirements have negatively impacted shipping finance availability. The Commission agrees that,

in general, regulatory initiatives and funding tools should be adapted to shipping's unique features (namely the longer-term commitments and high capital investment required for ship funding). The Commission also agrees that access to specialised finance instruments should be enhanced. Similarly to ECSA, the Commission report advocates for a range of tailored financing tools incorporating public and private investment. The Commission study proposes to encourage more extensive use of blended finance instruments, such as guarantees.

Better access to finance for SMEs

The Commission study agrees on the need to 'bridge the innovation gap' and fund innovative, energy transition focused projects enabling SMEs to benefit. The Study highlights the need to adapt the eligibility criteria assessing sustainable shipping activities (based on a clear taxonomy) specifically adapted for maritime decarbonisation projects to support compliance and enable clearer access to specialised 'green' financing.

The Study focuses on the need for centralized information platforms to increase the accessibility/visibility of funding opportunities (including for SMEs) combined with a streamlining of the various application processes involved. The project also supported the creation and publication of the [Ship Financing Portal](#), which provides an inventory of financing products supporting investments in the shipping sector and the wider maritime industry.