



EUROPEAN  
SHIPPING  
SUMMIT



**EuDA @ EUROPEAN SHIPPING SUMMIT – TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS IN BRUSSELS**

**“MARITIME TRANSPORT:  
Enabler of Europe’s open strategic autonomy through the Global Gateway”**

### **Session Moderator**

**Paris Sansoglou**

*Secretary General*

*European Dredging Association*

### **Speakers**

**The importance of the European maritime cluster**

**Kathleen Van Brempt**

*Honourable Member of the European Parliament*

**The importance of the Global Gateway with a focus on  
maritime transport**

**Sergio Oliete Josa**

*European Commission - DG INTPA*

*Head of Unit for Sustainable Transport & Urban Development*

**The enabling role of the dredging industry in the Global  
Gateway**

**Alan Lievens**

*Chairman of the European Dredging Association*



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China uses its Belt and Road initiative as a long-term political framework to take control of key markets, infrastructures, and resources around the world, which often leads to conflicts with European interests.

In order to foster its own strategic autonomy and to respond to the Belt and Road initiative, the European Union has launched the Global Gateway to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. The Global Gateway aims to mobilise up to €300 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027.

European waterborne transport companies, including shipping, ports and dredging operations play a key role in building Europe’s strategic autonomy. This session will focus on the respective roles of the Global Gateway and the maritime transport sectors to mutually maintain and develop each other.

The workshop will explore the following questions:

- How can the Global Gateway reinforce European strategic autonomy in maritime transport?
- How can European waterborne transport companies, including shipping, ports and dredging, contribute to the Global Gateway and enhance Europe’s strategic autonomy?





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### **Conference Moderator**



#### **Introduction to the Session**

**Mr Paris Sansoglou**

**Secretary General  
European Dredging Association**

Paris Sansoglou holds a degree of Commercial Engineer from the Solvay Business School (ULB) that he has complemented with degrees in Environmental Studies (ULB), Business Informatics (VUB) and Financial Analysis (CIAF).

His professional experience is varied and includes research (in ULB on sustainable development), statistics (Business Statistics for Eurostat), knowledge management, economic, environmental & financial consulting activities (for Ernst & Young). He has spent most of his career on the ‘European’ scene working in the European Commission (Eurostat) and in trade associations (representing successively the European manufacturers of synthetic fibres, the European shipyards and now the European dredgers).

Paris developed his strong kinship with maritime policies and technologies since he joined the Community of European Shipyards’ Associations and he still pursues his passion for the sea and related issues with the European Dredging Association (EuDA). He has been managing maritime strategic activities covering research projects (incl. H2020 ThinkNature), trade issues, social aspects, technical and environmental issues, statistics, market monitoring.

Paris joined the European Dredging Association (EuDA) in April 2009 as Secretary General and has been part of various European teams advocating and actively working towards improving market access worldwide, global level playing field and sustainability. As EuDA representative, he has been promoting sustainable approaches like Building with Nature and was involved in the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance (advising on the implementation of the Green Taxonomy).





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### **Speaker**



**The importance of the European maritime cluster**

**Ms Kathleen Van Brempt**

**Honourable Member of the European Parliament**

Kathleen Van Brempt has been serving as Member of the European Parliament since 2009. Ms Van Brempt is a full Member of the International Trade committee (INTA) and substitute Member of the Transport committee (TRAN). Her work focusses on international trade and sustainability, human rights, transport and the maritime sector. From 2022 until July 2023, she chaired the Special Committee on Covid-19 (COVI) in the European Parliament.

In her past career, Ms Van Brempt served as Minister for Mobility, Equal Opportunities and Social Economy in the Flemish government between 2004 and 2009. She has a keen interest in the maritime sector and is closely connected to the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, for which she serves as a member board.







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### **Speaker**



**The importance of the Global Gateway  
with a focus on maritime transport**

**Mr Sergio Oliete Josa**

**Head of Unit – DG INTPA  
European Commission**

Sergio Oliete Josa is a civil engineer by training. He holds a PhD in Transport Engineering and Infrastructure from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and a DESS in Urban Planning from the Université de Montréal.

He joined the European Commission in the Delegations to Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cameroon, where he gained extensive experience in international cooperation in the field of infrastructure. After 15 years in Africa, he is now advising from Brussels EU Delegations on policy and providing quality support to operations.

Sergio Oliete Josa is Head of the Sustainable Transport and Urban Development Unit at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA).





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### **Speaker**



**The enabling role of the dredging industry  
in the Global Gateway**

**Alan Lievens**

**EuDA Chairman**

Alan Lievens holds a degree in civil engineering from Ghent State University and speaks fluently Dutch (mother tongue), French, English and Spanish.

He started his career in the mid-seventies and immediately started to work for the company Jan De Nul. He worked all over the world, doing projects in China (Jiuzhou, 1985), in the Mediterranean and Middle East as well as in the Baltic Sea. Very soon though he became a specialist of Latin America and managed dredging projects in Brazil, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Honduras, etc. He was Area Director for the Americas, West Mediterranean, and the Caribbean for the Jan De Nul Group when he retired in 2015.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, Alan Lievens is the Chairman of the European Dredging Association (EuDA).



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#### **ABOUT EuDA**

Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, the European Dredging Association (“EuDA”) was founded in 1993 as a non-profit industry organisation for European dredging companies and related organisations to interface with the various European Union’s (“EU”) Institutions and also some International Organizations (such as IMO, HELCOM, OECD or ILO). EuDA members employ approximately 25,000 European employees directly “on land and on board of the ships” and more than 48,300 people indirectly (through the suppliers and services companies). The combined fleet of EuDA’s members counts approximately 750 seaworthy EU-flagged ships.

Dredging activities are not well known by the wider public, but as a matter of fact, the European dredging companies, members of EuDA, are world market leaders with about 80% share of the worldwide open dredging market and a turnover of 8.6 bn Euro in 2021. Although 70% of operations take place outside Europe, 90% of the returns flow back to Europe.

The Association assists its members with all kinds of requests related to dredging issues, presently strongly focusing on Social, Environmental, Technical, Tax and Trade issues. These issues are coordinated by the Secretariat and executed by its specialised working groups composed of experts from the member companies.

EuDA has registered as Interest Representative Nr. 2492574893-58 under the EU transparency register. The Association will pursue its goals by endorsing policies to create fair and equitable conditions for competition; commits to respecting applicable national, European and international rules and regulations; commits to operating its fleet safely, effectively and responsibly.