



## PRESS RELEASE

The island of **Milos** hosted on **21 & 22 April 2017** the 2nd international conference titled “**Ports, Maritime Transport & Insularity: Business, Innovation, Environment**”. This event, organized by the **Aegean Energy & Environment Agency**, the **Network of Sustainable Islands DAFNI** and the portal **energypress**, with the support of the **Municipality of Milos**, was focused to the challenges arising for islands and the shipping industry, by incorporating the smart/green technologies in port infrastructure, maritime transports, and logistics.

As it was mentioned by the vice minister of Maritime Affairs and Island Policy, Mr. **Nektarios Santorinios** and many of the participating speakers, islands and small ports can be the test-beds for innovative technologies in the shipping sector and port infrastructures. This approach is in line with the strategy under the **Smart Islands Initiative**, recently undertaken by the European Islands, as a response to the need of common actions against Climate Change and coastal environmental degradation.

Among the eminent speakers, Dr. **Torsten Sevecke**, director of innovation, economics and development at the Port of Hamburg, highlighted the key role of the core ports of the European Union as vehicles of technology and supporting structures in the capacity building process for small and medium size ports. On his part, **Christopher Wooldridge**, Science Coordinator of EcoPorts and ESPO’s consultant, underlined the importance of improving the Green Certification schemes, and setting up advanced training structures, guidelines and tools for local port management. In the same line, **Sotiris Raptis**, Senior Advisor for Environment and Safety, European Sea Ports Organization (ESPO) emphasized the benefits for small – medium ports of joining the Eco-Ports network and learning from the experience of its advanced members. **Vassilia Argyraki**, Project manager at Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) of the European Commission stressed out the funding possibilities, for new vessels, maritime roads and infrastructures. **Leo van der Burg**, Business Development Manager of FME, **Katja Baumann**, Managing Director of MARIKO GmbH and **Mark Hull**, Innovation Manager at Community Energy Scotland (CES), all presented a panorama of applications and innovative solutions from Germany, Holland and Scotland. **Panagiotis Mitrou**, Marine Technology & Innovation Manager at Hellenic Lloyd’s S.A., made an update of the electrification of the marine sector through the ELEMED project, while other speakers (**M. Zoulias**, **D. Lyridis**, **G. Ayeridis**, **A. Konidaris**) referred to the opportunities and applications in Greek islands among which Milos and Santorini.

Finally, **Ilias Efthymiopoulos**, General Director of Aegean Energy & Environment Agency and coordinator of the conference, concluded with a summary of recommendations drafted by an ad- hoc committee and presented for comments and discussion at the final session. Here are the main points:

1. A research pathway will be established to identify the relevant data and information available through the EcoPorts Network ([www.ecoport.com](http://www.ecoport.com)) to assist with the energy and environmental objectives of small-medium ports, with special focus on island ports. Dedicated support material will be developed to assist the managers of such ports with the options available to implement practicable, time and cost-effective Environmental Management Programmes so that the ports are well-placed to optimise the application of any of the factors that may support sustainable development. Particular attention will be paid to the identification of existing good practices, and the options presented for the exchange of knowledge and experience.
2. The participant institutions will work to encourage the cooperation between big experienced ports and small - medium ports especially in islands. This would include workshops, visits etc.
3. Open the eligibility of participants/applicants in CEF CALLS (maritime infrastructure and transport) to include comprehensive ports in islands or regions with an isolated network without long distance rail freight transport. This point is to be forwarded to the Malta Presidency of the EC.
4. Investigating the possibility of adapting the status and structure of the Port Authorities in Greece, towards a more autonomous operation, learning from the European experience. Public-private partnerships (PPP) could be an indicative scheme. Dissemination of knowledge and experience through education and training by creating a generic training module for all small-medium ports, which could be adapted to the specific needs of each port separately.
5. The electrification of infrastructures and maritime transportation and the smart management of electricity as well, is a core technology for the ports of the future. Still open are the issues of the electricity cost and renewable energy storage.

The conference has been supported among others by the **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**, Athens office, represented by **Nicole Katsioulis**, director. It was also sponsored by the private companies **DEPA** (natural gas) and **Protergia** (energy provider).



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