



Dutch – German cooperation in the maritime sector presented to the Dutch King and Queen at LNG conference

23.03.2015

On the morning of Friday the 20th of March the conference 'LNG, full speed ahead' took place in the Fischauktionhalle in Hamburg, Germany. The Dutch King Willem Alexander and Queen Maxima visited this conference as part of their work visit to Hamburg. The work visit of the King and Queen aims to improve the trade and investment relationship and the cooperation in, amongst others, the maritime industry. The Dutch maritime association Netherlands Maritime Technology and the German Shipbuilding and Ocean Industries Association VSM were glad to learn that the royal couple showed their interest in maritime matters. This fits in the long tradition of cooperation between the Dutch and German maritime sector.

Dutch – German Cooperation

All together the Dutch and German maritime industries contain approximately 220 shipyards, 1100 maritime and offshore suppliers, 130 000 employees in shipbuilding and maritime supply industry and a total turnover of 27 billion Euro. Many Dutch and German maritime producers, often family owned, play a worldwide leading role in their respective field of specialization.

Both countries – the Netherlands and Germany - are characterized by a concentration on innovation and maritime excellence. Together there are around 30 prominent Maritime Universities and Research Institutes and 40 joint EU-funded Maritime Academic & Innovation Research projects in the Netherlands and Germany. EU-funded projects with Dutch or German leadership and participation are for example SMARTYards and RETROFIT.

Netherlands Maritime Technology and VSM

The bilateral cooperation and partnership between Netherlands Maritime Technology and VSM exists for decades. Jointly they are also among the main drivers at EU level having conducted countless joint initiatives.

Netherlands Maritime Technology is a close-knit network of Dutch shipyards, suppliers and service providers. In the field of maritime technology, these companies – large and small – aim to lead the way in the quest for new challenges and solutions.

The German maritime association VSM represents commercial and policy interests of the German maritime industry, comprising the full supply chain in shipbuilding and Ocean industries, including shipyards building and repairing oceangoing and inland waterway vessels at all areas of marine equipment systems and components as well as various service providers.



Both associations represent their members nationally and internationally and work closely together with Center of Maritime Technologies e.V. CMT is taking a leading role in national and European industry clusters, networks and funding schemes for dissemination and technology transfer of R&D activities. The association's goal is to strengthen innovation in the maritime industry by promoting cooperation, research and development between the various players in industry and the academic world in Germany and Europe. Despite the countries being neighbors and the cooperation being practiced for many years, there is still room to further expand maritime exchange on a continuous basis.

Conference

During this conference King Willem Alexander and Queen Maxima learned about several LNG developments in the maritime sector. The use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as an environmentally friendly fuel for ships may contribute to the reduction of emissions in shipping and in the improvement of air quality in port cities. It also provides opportunities for the sustainable operation and maintenance of future offshore wind farms. After the opening of the conference the King and Queen visited the LNG barge 'Hummel' engineered by VSM member Becker Marine Systems in the port of Hamburg.

The conference 'LNG – Full speed ahead' was organized by the Netherlands Business Support Office in Hamburg, the Behörde für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Innovation of Hamburg. In this they were supported by Netherlands Maritime Technology, the Dutch LNG Platform, the German Maritime LNG Platform and Maritimes Cluster Norddeutschland.

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