



Ministry of Transport
and Communications

Maritime Transport Strategy for Finland 2014–2022



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Maritime Transport Strategy for Finland 2014–2022



Photo: Arctia Shipping

Finland is a maritime nation. About 90 per cent of its exports and 80 per cent of its imports are carried by sea. Smart and efficient maritime connections are vital for the competitiveness of Finland's businesses and its economy and for Finnish society in general. Finland is very dependent on shipping for its national prosperity and wellbeing.

The key goal of the Maritime Transport Strategy for Finland is to ensure that maritime transport and the country's maritime industries can operate effectively and that the competitiveness of the national economy as well as environmental and safety issues are taken extensively into account.

A vision for maritime transport and a related action programme have been developed in collaboration with the maritime transport sector and with users of the sector's services. The parties involved in the preparation of the strategy are committed to furthering the implementation of the measures.

A maritime transport sector cooperation forum will be set up to monitor progress in implementing the action programme.



Vision 2030: A prosperous Finland with efficient sea routes

FINLAND AND ITS BUSINESSES and citizens are prospering in 2030, and the country is competitive on world markets. Baltic Sea shipping is safe and environmentally friendly, and risks are minimised, especially in regard to oil spill accidents.

FINLAND'S SUCCESS is supported by smart and efficient sea routes. Industry is served by reliable transport chains with a minimum of inconvenience caused by winter conditions, and its transport costs are reasonable. Maritime transport has retained its position as an environmentally friendly, energy-efficient and cost-efficient transport mode.

FINNISH SHIPPING COMPANY OPERATIONS are profitable and have a strong market position in the Baltic Sea area, and the companies are well placed to operate in competition alongside foreign operators. The profitability of shipping company operations is based on good customer relationships created through high-quality and competitive services.

FINLAND HAS A ROBUST and well-networked maritime cluster that relies especially on products and services of green and clean technologies and on special ice and weather expertise, for which there is a growing demand in regard to the surge of interest in the world's northern sea areas.

FINNISH MARITIME EXPERTISE is of a high standard and innovative. This expertise will also be exported. Young people have confidence in the maritime transport sector, and occupations within the sector are considered good career options that open up opportunities for career development in positions at sea and on land.

THE BALTIC SEA is a safe, clean and attractive sea. Opportunities for Finland and the Baltic Sea in areas such as recreation and tourism are well used and awareness of these increased.

The factors critical for success in achieving the vision

Cooperation and trust

are paramount elements for developing efficient maritime connections. This requires information exchange between all parties, as well as trust and new forms of cooperation.

Winner's attitude

describes an approach by which all parties come together and resolve today's challenges and those of tomorrow. The approach includes anticipating change, adjusting to change and making good use of new circumstances. It also covers the courage to react quickly to changing circumstances.

Forward-looking oversight of interests, vigorously exerting influence and international partnership

will all allow messages important to Finland to be conveyed promptly to international forums.

Enabling governance

will build a successful and motivating operating environment for new approaches and innovations. The governance system will facilitate, open new doors, advance partnerships and operate actively in international and EU arenas.

Efficient transport chains that support competitiveness

The aim is to ensure that Finland's foreign trade and domestic waterborne transport are free of disruption, cost-efficient for the national economy and guarantee international competitiveness, also in the winter months. To secure Finland's national competitiveness, fairway dues, even after 2017, should not be a greater burden for maritime transport than at present.

- A network of fairways will be developed and maintained to meet the needs of maritime transport and inland navigation.
- The outmoded definition of winter ports will be discontinued. The fairway dues system will be revised. Changes to service levels for ice-breaking will be reviewed in the medium term.
- The contingency preparations for maritime transport and port operations will be developed further as part of a comprehensive logistics system.
- Maritime cluster cooperation will be enhanced. The competitiveness of ports will

Finnish maritime transport in numbers

- The maritime cluster employs approx. 43,500 people.
- There were 9,469 people in seafarer employment in 2012.
- Finland's Register of Ships listed 1,213 registered vessels at the end of 2013 (gross tonnage of approx. 2 million units).
- The Register of Merchant Vessels listed 118 vessels at the end of 2013 (gross tonnage approx. 1.73 million units).
- The Finnish merchant fleet transports approximately 30% of Finland's sea freight.
- Imports to Finland by sea in 2013 amounted to approx. 49.3 million tonnes, or about 80% of all imports.
- Exports from Finland by sea in 2013 amounted to approx. 47 million tonnes, or almost 90% of all exports.
- 80% of cargoes are transported via the 10 largest ports.
- Transit traffic via Finland's ports totalled 7.54 million tonnes in 2012.
- Passenger traffic to and from Finland amounted to 18.2 million passengers in 2013.



Photo: MTC

be strengthened by providing incentives for them to develop their service functions, by improving operating preconditions through reducing the administrative load and by enabling greater logistical efficiency through enhancing the usability of information.

- A national service point will be developed on the basis of the existing vessel traffic data management system, which will reduce the administrative burden on businesses.

Green growth from strong maritime cluster

The aim is that Finland will become a frontrunner in winter and environmental technologies for shipping and an exporter of leading expertise in these technologies. Finnish shipping company operations will be dynamic and competitive.

- New forms of long-term cooperation between operators in the sector will be developed.
- Financing opportunities for vessel investments will be improved in order that sufficient vessels can be modernised and replaced, and opportunities for new financing arrangements will be investigated, also taking into account the opportunities offered by the European Investment Bank and the Nordic Investment Bank.
- Efforts will be made to advance the development and take up of alternative fuel solutions, and the LNG Action Plan for Shipping 2013–2017 will be implemented.
- An increase will be sought in Finnish clean-tech project start-ups and in their financing and marketing.



Photo: Viking Line

Finland – leading expert on sea and ice

“Finland as a global centre of winter navigation know-how and Arctic expertise”

Sufficient numbers of experts will be secured in maritime transport and for the maritime cluster, and awareness of the maritime transport sector will be improved along with its appeal.

Seafarer training and education

- Support will be given for national networking of secondary-level educational institutions and polytechnics, and the scope for shared use of resources and investments (e.g. training vessel and top-grade simulator) will be investigated.
- The qualifications system for the sector will be developed to make it more closely oriented to employment needs.
- On-board training will be improved in collaboration with operators in the shipping sector.
- Career paths will be developed and further training in higher education institutions will be expanded.

Maritime cluster competence and Arctic expertise

- Support will be given for implementation of the measures concerning education, training, research and expertise in the maritime cluster as proposed by the Maritime cluster working group set up to examine the competitiveness of the maritime industry in 2020.
- The measures proposed in Finland’s Strategy for the Arctic Region concerning education, training, research, business and international cooperation will be implemented in order to strengthen the operating preconditions for Finland’s Arctic maritime industry and shipping company operations.
- Finland will become a global centre of winter navigation know-how and Arctic expertise.

Baltic Sea – a sea of opportunities

The aim is that the Baltic Sea will be safe and healthy, which will attract recreational activities and tourism to the region and high-quality sea transport services for use within the market area. A further aim is that the Finnish maritime transport sector will be the Baltic Sea region's leading service provider based on sustainable logistical concepts.

Environment and safety

- Finland will act responsibly in seeking to improve the state of the Baltic Sea to a good level by 2020 within the EU and in accordance with international commitments.
- In the environmental regulation of maritime transport, Finland will primarily seek international regulation through the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
- The risk of oil and chemical spill accidents in the Baltic Sea will be minimised and the preparedness to prevent and respond to these will be enhanced.





- The safety and convenience of maritime transport will be secured and its environmental effects minimised through national and cross-border cooperation.
- Finland's maritime rescue services will be enhanced.
- Cooperation and information exchange between maritime authorities will be improved, and a strategic goal defined for maritime enforcement capabilities.

Businesses

- Russian transit traffic will be encouraged.
- Cruises and other tourist activity in the Baltic Sea and in Finland's inland waters will be encouraged.
- Finnish shipping company operations in the Baltic Sea will be strengthened.

International activity

Maritime transport is global in nature, and regulations are adopted at a global level in the IMO. This ensures extensive harmonisation and equal treatment of ships. Maritime transport is also regulated by the European Union. Cooperation in environmental and safety matters concerning maritime transport is also undertaken within the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).

Finland is an active international actor

- Finland has a pro-active and resolute approach in influencing the handling of environmental and safety matters within the IMO, the EU and HELCOM.
- Cooperation will be enhanced at national level to improve the ability to influence matters pro-actively within the EU and internationally.
- To further develop shipping company operations and the maritime cluster, bilateral international cooperation and public and private partnerships will be strengthened, especially with Russia and the Nordic countries.



Photo: The Finnish Seamen's Union

- Finland will take an active role, as set out in the Strategy for the Arctic Region.
- Sufficient resources will be secured for actions at international level.

Finland's priorities in exerting influence at international and EU level in the maritime transport sector

To influence matters successfully it is important that all the stakeholders convey a joint message to international forums on matters that are important for Finland's interests.

- Finland must, in all situations, be able to meet the challenges of winter conditions and winter navigation in Baltic Sea shipping.
- In the formulation of EU legislation and actions, Finland's accessibility must be secured (e.g. Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)).
- The decisions about adoption of new regulations on environmental and safety issues in maritime transport must be made primarily by the IMO.







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