

INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



(02-02-2026)

EU PORTS STRATEGY EVENT

Ports at the heart of European Strategies and Regional Development

Hosted by MEP **Nina Carberry, Vice-Chair of the SEArica Intergroup**

& Organised with the support of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

 **3 February 2026 | 10:00–12:00**  **European Parliament, Brussels (ASP 5F385)**

 **The meeting will be conducted in English**

As the EU shapes its future Port Strategy, it is time to recognise the strategic role of ports as more than gateways. They are the engines of economic growth, green innovation, and connectivity across Europe's coastal and maritime areas. They are platforms for industrial activity, job creation, green innovation, and connectivity, especially in peripheral, island and outermost regions that rely on maritime access to connect with the rest of Europe.

Ports also have growing relevance for Europe's resilience and defence. Planning for dual-use capacity, secure supply chains, and maritime corridors requires joined-up thinking across sectors and territories. Crucially, ports are enablers of the green transition. Their role in supplying alternative fuels, hosting clean energy, and driving modal shift hinges on smart investment and coordination, especially in areas positioned to lead on hydrogen, offshore wind, or ship recycling.

To deliver on these ambitions, EU funding instruments, and in particular the future Connecting Europe Facility which defines ports as cross-border infrastructures, will have to guarantee fair access for all actors, especially smaller or less-central ports. The proposed envelope for the CEF remains subject to ongoing negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework. It is still uncertain whether it will provide the necessary means to fully support the adaptation of ports and help build strategic maritime economic zones coupling logistics, industry, defence preparedness and innovation.

In this timely political moment, MEP **Nina Carberry, SEArica Vice-Chair**, warmly invites you to join the discussion and help shape a European future that truly unlocks the full potential of our ports for the benefit of our coastal communities, citizens, and all of Europe.

SEArica event organised with the support of the CPMR



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AGENDA

Welcome by:

- **Nina Carberry**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArica Vice-Chair

Session I.

Ports as strategic clusters for competitiveness and territories

Aligning Green Investments and Industrial Sovereignty

*Introduction & moderation by Nina Carberry, Member of the European Parliament,
SEArica Vice-Chair*

➤ *Panel*

- **Georges Alexakis**, Vice Governor of Crete Region, CPMR Vice-President for Transport & Accessibility
- **Anna-Maja Henriksson**, Member of the European Parliament, Member of SEArica
- **Isabelle Ryckbost**, Secretary general, ESPO
- **Joseph Hiney**, Director, Bremore Ireland Port
- **Christophe Chabert**, Director of the Port of Brest (FR), speaking on behalf of a representative group of medium and regional ports from across Europe's different maritime basins

➤ *Reaction by*

- **Fotini Ioannidou**, Director, DG MOVE, European Commission

➤ *Concluding remarks*

- **Christophe Clergeau**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArica Chair

Q&A

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Session II.

Protecting Europe: Ports, Critical Flows, and Military Readiness

The role of ports in European defense, military mobility, management of critical flows and prevention of foreign interference.

*Introduction & moderation by Merja Kyllönen, Member of the European Parliament,
SEArica Member*

- **Brigadier General Stefan Lampl**, Director Logistics, European Union Military Staff, European External Action Service
- **Jens Larsson**, Head of Public Affairs, Port of Gothenburg (SE)
- **José María Gómez Fuster**, General Manager, Port of Cartagena (ES)
- **Mats Brandt**, Regional Mayor, Ostrobothnia (FIN)

Q&A

Conclusive remarks by

- **Merja Kyllönen**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArica Member