

Program Confirmed: SEADEVCON Special '20 Promising to Give New Impulses

Maritime industry experts and NGOs to discuss reduction of shipping emissions - Jutta Paulus, MEP to give update on latest initiative of European Parliament - Markus Rex presented SEADEVCON Maritime Award 2020 - New format due to Covid-19 - "Cancelling never an option"

Hamburg, 22 September 2020. The **SEADEVCON Special '20** (www.seadevcon.com) is ready to open its doors on 24 September. As he announces the final program of the conference addressing the maritime industry's contribution to climate change, Carsten Bullemer, SEADEVCON founder and organiser comments: "Under very taxing circumstances created by the pandemic, I think we have managed to put together an event that will not just keep awareness of the issue alive but will give some important new impulses to the discussion."

Significant developments in the European Parliament only last week have reanimated the public debate: On 14 September, the Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) passed two resolutions to include the maritime sector emissions from 2022 in the Commission's proposals to make the European Union "climate-neutral" by 2050, and for ships to be 40% more emissions-efficient by 2030.

Jutta Paulus, MEP (Greens / EFA group), ENVI rapporteur for the report, was quite clear when she presented the Committee's recommendations: "This House declared a climate emergency last November. We must live up to our responsibility for the planet and for future generations."

In a live call from Brussels, Paulus will join the conference and update the attendees on the state of play. Bullemer emphasises: "We are delighted to have secured Jutta Paulus' participation. Her initiative could not have been more encouraging and timely. It underlines the urgency of the situation and adds to the relevance of our event."

Hosted in one of the tents erected on Rathausmarkt for the 12th Hamburg Climate Week, in the heart of the city, the maritime industry conference will take on a format that fully respects all safety protocols while still providing a much needed forum for addressing issues around the impact of commercial shipping on climate change. While physical attendance has been limited to 70 participants, and tickets are going fast, the event will be streamed live here: <https://seadevcon.com/live/>.

As now published, following the opening remarks, the half-day event program consists of three building blocks: a panel discussion among senior industry and NGO representatives on "Decarbonisation in the maritime and logistics sectors"; a series of brief "Green and blue startup-presentations" where young companies and entrepreneurs showcase their proposed solutions for achieving net zero CO2 emissions; and, as the climactic close of the conference, the presentation of the **SEADEVCON Maritime Award 2020**, an accolade to recognize annually a personality whose "lifetime achievement is exemplary for the fight for a sustainable and respectful use of the world's seas".

This year's winner is Professor Dr. Markus Rex, Head of Atmospheric Physics in the Climate Sciences Division at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, in Potsdam. Rex leads the on-going historic project named MOSAiC (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) involving hundreds of researchers from 20 countries (www.mosaic-expedition.org). MOSAiC is the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring its climate system with a budget exceeding €140 million.

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Highlighting the principle of continuity, the author and expedition leader Arved Fuchs, winner of the prize in 2019, presents this year's honoree. Rex will join the conference online from the North Pole aboard the modern research icebreaker, the German ship Polarstern, to report on the status of the expedition and highlight some first findings. Rex states: "While delighted to win the award not just for me but on behalf of my whole team, what is most important is that it helps alert broader audiences to the very pressing issue of global climate change and the grave threat it poses to humanity. And it all begins and ends with the Arctic."

In closing, Bullemer stresses how important it is to hold the conference especially at a time when many other events cannot take place: "Just cancelling was never an option for us since, even in the current difficult situation, we cannot afford to lose sight of the very real threat from CO2 emissions. Instead, we have accepted the challenge to develop a new format that keeps the public debate alive. Accordingly, we have renamed this year's conference to the **SEADEVCON Special '20.**"

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