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Major European seaports warn of unnecessary throughput delays as a direct result of extending the reporting chain with an extra EU level

In the discussion on the European Maritime Single Window proposal, MEPs have tabled an amendment introducing an EU level access point interface, in addition to the new harmonised interface that will be developed at European level for the national single windows (NSW).

The ports of Hamburg, Antwerp and Rotterdam strongly urge the European Transport Committee to vote against this amendment. They warn that if an additional EU level access point interface is introduced for ship reporting, the current availability of reported data will be compromised, causing unnecessary delays and endangering safety and environmental protection in European seaports.

In ports, the data from ship reporting formalities is used by port authorities for assessing the safety involved in facilitating a port call. Consequently, this data is used for ship clearance purposes, to support the safe conduct of navigation of ships in the port area, and in accommodating mooring, berthing, servicing and other operational processes to protect the environment on a 24/7 basis.

Should the reporting chain be further extended with an extra access point at EU level, the level of availability of operational safety data will be reduced and the risk of losing data will be enlarged.

The above mentioned ports are strongly in favour of data standardization, but argue that an extra EU level access point does not add to this. On the contrary, if the amendment were to be passed, the reporting chain will consist of 3 system environments and several new interfaces, prompting the EU reporting chain to become less available by default, resulting in extra hours of non-availability.

European ports support the general idea of the Commission's proposal to work with enhanced and harmonized NSW's as an EU backbone of the current system, keeping the new data access points and interface systems at a minimum, while making maximum use of proven access points such as the NSW and Port Community Systems.