

***ESTA is the leading European association for the abnormal road transport and mobile crane rental industry***



## **WELCOME TO THIS ROUND-UP OF ESTA'S WORK, EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS**

ESTA - the European Association of Abnormal Road Transport and Mobile Cranes - welcomes you to this latest newsletter on current developments in the abnormal transport and heavy lift industries.



If you and your organisation would like to become more involved in ESTA's work, and take part in some top quality and enjoyable networking at the same time [both online and - when allowed - in person!], then why not see if you are eligible to become an official ESTA Supporter. It costs just 840 euros a year and comes with a range of benefits. To find out more, go to [here](#)

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### ESTA publishes new guide on mobile crane winch gearbox maintenance

ESTA is appealing to members to reconsider their approach to mobile crane winch gearbox maintenance following publication of the first edition of the association's new guide which is now available to members.

The document was officially launched at ESTA's Spring meeting in Paris and is now on ESTA's website alongside a special calculation tool that will help crane owners calculate the remaining hours of usage for the winch based on its usage and the related wear and tear.

The requirement to calculate the remaining life of a winch is a crucial safety consideration because if the crane winch gearbox fails the crane's load can come down. Supporters believe the new proposals could both improve safety and – in some cases – save money.

Further details are in the news section of the ESTA website and the report is in the members' section of the Library



PHOTO CAPTION, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KLAUS MEISSNER (ESTA), WOUTER VAN NOORT (ESTA SECTION CRANE PRESIDENT), HERMEN KAMP (MAMMOET) AND GERRIT VAN HOVE (SARENS)

## US construction giant Bechtel and Turkey's Yilnak join ESTA

ESTA is delighted to welcome Bechtel - one of the world's leading construction and project management companies - and Turkish transport specialist Yilnak who have both joined us as affiliate members.

Bechtel is the biggest contractor in the US. It works worldwide and has offices in London, Warsaw and Istanbul.

Ankara-headquartered Yilnak was founded in 1973 and today is part of the Alp Özler Group of Companies. It works across a wide range of sectors including industrial, oil and gas, construction and renewable energy.

Interested in learning more about ESTA membership opportunities?

Have a look at our webpage [www.estaeurope.eu](http://www.estaeurope.eu) or contact our ESTA Marketing Officer Connie Lindhoud [marketing@estaeurope.eu](mailto:marketing@estaeurope.eu)



## Search begins for Section Transport vice president

ESTA members are being asked for nominations for the position of Vice President of the Section Transport to replace current postholder André Friderici who is stepping down.

André Friderici - technical director of Swiss heavy transport and lifting company Friderici Spécial - has spent more than a decade helping to lead ESTA's transport section, but under ESTA's rules, he is not allowed to stand for a further term in office.



Nominations should be sent to the ESTA Office for consideration by ESTA's September Board meeting with a final decision to be taken by the association's General Assembly.

## Concern grows over AdBlue-related 'malfunctions'

The AdBlue logo, which consists of the word "AdBlue" in white, sans-serif font centered within a solid blue square.

AdBlue

Companies concerned about problems with the use of AdBlue in mobile cranes are being asked to contact the ESTA Office.

AdBlue is a mixture of water and urea used in diesel engines to minimise the production of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions.

The concerns were raised at the last meeting of the European Regulations Workgroup whose attendees include ESTA members and representatives of the crane manufacturers through FEM, the European Materials Handling Federation.

Crane rental companies are reporting growing issues with the use of AdBlue with some saying almost one third of all on-road breakdowns are AdBlue related.

ESTA Director Ton Klijn said: "As a first step, we are gathering information, and we will then consult with the members of the European Regulations Workgroup and decide on the next steps."

## Call for "common sense" on undersized loads

German authorities should take a more "common sense" approach to punishing transport operators whose loads are marginally undersized, according to ESTA.

Current regulations allow for a 5 per cent variation in weight or a 15cm variation in size before a permit is deemed to be null and void.

But ESTA is asking the authorities to be more flexible when loads are under weight or under sized, as such loads pose no additional threat to weak roads and bridges, or to traffic and buildings along the route.

"The current situation defies belief," said ESTA Director Ton Klijn. "To a certain extent, the size of a major load can expand or contract according to the weather. We are simply asking that the authorities apply some common sense when a load is slightly under size or weight."



## Transport operators' licence scheme making progress

Plans to develop a new European Transport Operators Licence (ETOL) are making good progress, ESTA has announced.

The latest meeting of the project's expert committee took place at the end of last month, and members are currently mapping out the training design and learning outcomes, initially focussing on SPMT operators.



ESTA has decided to develop the ETOL licence scheme using the operational and management structure of the existing European Crane Operators Licence (ECOL) – a move that will be simpler and more efficient than creating a completely new organisation from scratch.

In future, both the crane and transport operators' licences will be overseen by the European Crane and Transport Operators Licence (ECTOL) organisation, the umbrella body with ultimate responsibility for both operations.

## German authorities consult on new heavy transport regulations

ESTA has welcomed the German authorities moves to consult industry associations and their members on a package of new proposed heavy transport permit regulations - but has called on the Berlin government to align them with the new rules currently being developed by Brussels.

The proposed new regulations are currently under discussion by both federal and state authorities with the aim of agreeing them by the autumn.

ESTA Director Ton Klijn said: "We are pleased that the German authorities are finally giving the problems facing heavy transport with the attention they deserve.

"However, we will be seeking reassurance that new German regulations do not contradict new EU-wide rules that are already well advanced in the European Parliament.

"If necessary, we hope that they will amend their plans to take into account measures that have already garnered wide support across Europe, and so avoid creating unnecessary delays and uncertainty."

ESTA is involved in the discussions in Germany through its involvement with Verbändeinitiative Großraum und Schwertransporte (VI GST) – the Association Initiative for Large-scale and Heavy Transport.

VI GST has brought together 31 mostly German economic, business and transport organisations to the pressurise the German government to take urgent action to improve the difficult conditions faced by large and heavy transport in the country.



## Thanks to Liebherr for ECOL support

Liebherr invited ESTA and our European Crane Operators Licence (ECOL) to attend the company's recent customer days event in Ehingen, Germany.

ESTA took the opportunity to publicise ECOL to Liebherr's 3,000 guests as the company showed off its latest mobile and crawler crane models.

ESTA marketing manager Connie Lindhoud said: "It was great to be there and in many thanks to Michaela Gogeissl of Liebherr's Training Center for this opportunity to promote ESTA Europe and our European Crane Operator Licence."

ECOL is recognised in four European countries - Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and talk are continuing with authorities in Germany, Spain, Ireland and the UK.

## ESTA Awards 2024 - a recap

It was a great evening and we make no apology for publicising it one more time.

The winners of the 2024 ESTA Awards were announced on April 25 at the Hilton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. In total, there are 37 finalists across the ten categories from 12 different countries.

Over 400 guests attended the dinner to celebrate what ESTA believes to be the strongest list of finalists to date.

Our congratulations to the winners and finalists, and our heartfelt thanks to all who entered, attended and sponsored the 2024 awards - [click here](#) for images and videos.

We look forward to seeing you in Munich in 2025.



## ESTA meetings - from Paris to Istanbul

ESTA concluded a series of successful meetings in Paris of the transport and crane sections plus our General Assembly.

Reports from ESTA's member associations included:

- a new law for abnormal transports in the Czech Republic
- heavy transport problems in Italy
- permitting issues in Germany
- new charges for abnormal transports in France

The next round of meetings will be held in Istanbul on October 24 and 25. If any member wants to add a subject to the agendas for discussion, they are invited to contact the ESTA Office at:

**[officemanager@estaeurope.eu](mailto:officemanager@estaeurope.eu)**

