

ESTA NEWSLETTER

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**THE ESTA TEAM WISHES YOU
HAPPY HOLIDAYS !**



Fabio Belli
ESTA President Fabio Belli

Ton Klijn
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ESTA Safety Survey



ESTA Safety Survey - key findings and next steps

The recently conducted ESTA Safety Survey provided valuable insights into safety perception, practices and expectations across the European lifting and transport sector.

The results highlighted the need for transparency and knowledge-sharing regarding incidents, as well as the demand for harmonisation of HSE training standards.

Based on these findings, the ESTA HSE Commission has decided to set up two dedicated working groups.

The first will focus on developing processes and a system for structured incident sharing within the sector. The second will concentrate on setting up ESTA safety standards to promote consistent, high safety standards across Europe.

Participants in the ESTA Safety Survey who provided their email address will receive the full survey findings by the end of January 2026.

"A remarkable 175 people and organisations from across Europe completed the ESTA Safety Survey and I would like to thank everyone who participated. Having such a high response rate provides valuable insights into the importance of safety in the market and demonstrates the strong foundations on which the ESTA HSE Commission can build in the future," said Iffet Türken, Chair of the ESTA HSE Commission.





AMBRO SMIT STEPS DOWN FROM ESTA AFTER 20 YEARS

ESTA's General Assembly in Copenhagen paid tribute to Ambro Smit from the Dutch transport and logistics association TLN - Transport en Logistiek Nederland - who is stepping down from ESTA after more than 20 years.

Ambro is staying with TLN, but in a different role that means he will no longer be attending ESTA meetings.

ESTA Director Ton Klijn said: "All at ESTA and in the wider industry have benefitted hugely from Ambro's commitment and expertise - as well as his company and good humour. We wish him all the best for the future and look forward to working with his successor."



BIG MOVE'S BECKEDORF RE-ELECTED TO ESTA BOARD

Olaf Beckedorf, Chairman of the Board of German company Big Move, has been unanimously re-elected to the ESTA Board by ESTA's governing General Assembly. BigMove is a Europe-wide network of heavy-duty logistics companies and is a member of ESTA's German member association BSK.

BIG MOVE

BRUSSELS HOLDS UNIQUE DEBATE IN PUSH FOR ABNORMAL TRANSPORT REFORMS

A unique public debate on the central role of abnormal transport in delivering Europe's green, military and economic agendas has been held in the European Parliament in Brussels.



The so-called 'High Level Debate' took place on November 18 and is the latest in a series of actions taken by representatives of Europe's heavy transport industry – including ESTA – to ensure that Europe's decision makers and regulators understand the importance of the sector to their military and economic goals.

There were important contributions and support from MEPs, senior European Commission officials and a wide range of companies and organisations from across Europe.

Speakers included MEP Dariusz Joński, Filip-Alexandru Negreanu-Arboreanu from DG Move and the Council's Nicolas Lyrakides who said that the upcoming Cyprus Presidency would aim to turn discussions into "tangible progress".

The event was hosted by Elżbieta Łukacijewska, a Polish MEP who serves on the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism and it featured an opening presentation from ESTA Director Ton Klijn who set out ESTA's four key priorities for the military mobility agenda:

They are:

- implementing the weights and dimensions directive's requirements for abnormal transports
- developing abnormal transport corridors
- aligning permitting procedures with NATO urgency levels.
- ensuring corridors are available for all abnormal transports

Ton Klijn said: "The whole event was a considerable success. Of course, little concrete has been achieved yet on the ground, but it confirmed the positive and growing level of support for our industry and its requirements among Europe's politicians, regulators and officials."

Further reports are on the ESTA website at www.estaeurope.eu.



PRESSURE GROWS FOR ALIGNED EUROPEAN CRANE INSPECTION REGIME

ESTA is stepping up pressure on European and national regulatory authorities to agree aligned inspection regime for mobile cranes. EU states are currently revising their inspection rules to bring them into line with the new EU Machinery Regulation which comes fully into force from January 2027.

The new regulation introduces updated safety requirements, including measures covering technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. In response, ESTA is considering whether to produce a model inspection regime for mobile cranes that different countries could be persuaded to adopt when their national legislation changes to bring it into line with the new EU regulations.

In the meantime, it is lobbying Brussels and national regulators to coordinate their work.

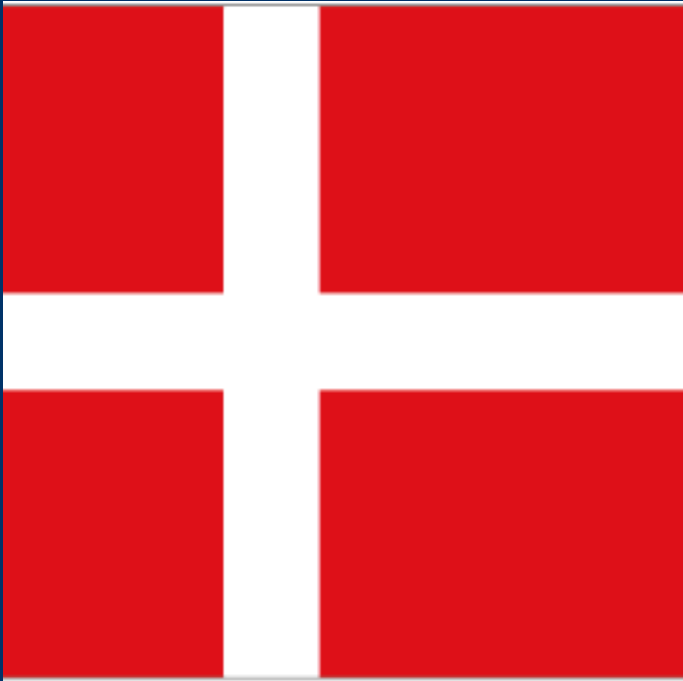
In addition, the Dutch organisation TCVT (Stichting Toezicht Certificatie Verticaal Transport) - the foundation that supervises certification for operators of certain lifting equipment, such as cranes - is sounding out its equivalent bodies around Europe to see if they would support the creation of a common inspection regime.

FINLAND LATEST COUNTRY TO BACK ECOL

Finland is the latest country to formally recognise ESTA's European Crane Operators Licence as the scheme continues to slowly expand its influence. Approval has been given by AVI, the country's Regional State Administrative Agencies. The agencies are regional arms of the state with a wide range of regulatory, supervisory and permit-granting responsibilities across basic public services and occupational safety. In future, an ECOL licenced operator will be able to request the issue of a crane operator licence - on provision and acceptance of their credentials - without the need for any further training or testing. Finland is the sixth territory to recognise ECOL, following Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and British Columbia in Canada. "We are delighted at the Finnish decision," said Ton Klijn, ESTA Director and General Manager of ECTOL, the body that oversees the crane and transport operator projects. "Getting Europe-wide recognition for ECOL is a long process - as we always knew it would be.

Each country has its own regulatory authorities and each has to be individually convinced of the benefits of ECOL and of our high standards.

"Having said that, the support for what we are doing remains as strong as ever, both within our industry and among our clients and we keep moving forward, one step at a time."



SAFETY AND HEAVY TRANSPORT REFORMS DOMINATE COPENHAGEN

Reform of Europe's abnormal transport regulations along with developments in safety and training topped the agenda at ESTA's successful series of autumn meetings, held in Copenhagen on October 23 and 24.

The meetings and dinner - and a hugely enjoyable boat trip around the city's harbours and canals - were hosted by ESTA member Dansk Kran Forening (the Danish Crane Association) with support from BMS Heavy Cranes, and attracted an audience of users, manufacturers and suppliers from across Europe and beyond.

The agendas covered the latest news on Europe's plans for pan-European abnormal transport corridors, important reforms of the EU's Weights and Dimensions Directive and ESTA's proposals to create a system to share anonymously accident information in the same way as happens in the airline industry.

Other issues discussed included the ongoing problems with AdBlue/DEF; ESTA's best practice guide on the safe use, inspection and maintenance of rope sheaves on mobile cranes; the advantages of using modular road trains and double trailer combinations; plus the development of the European Transport Operator Licence.

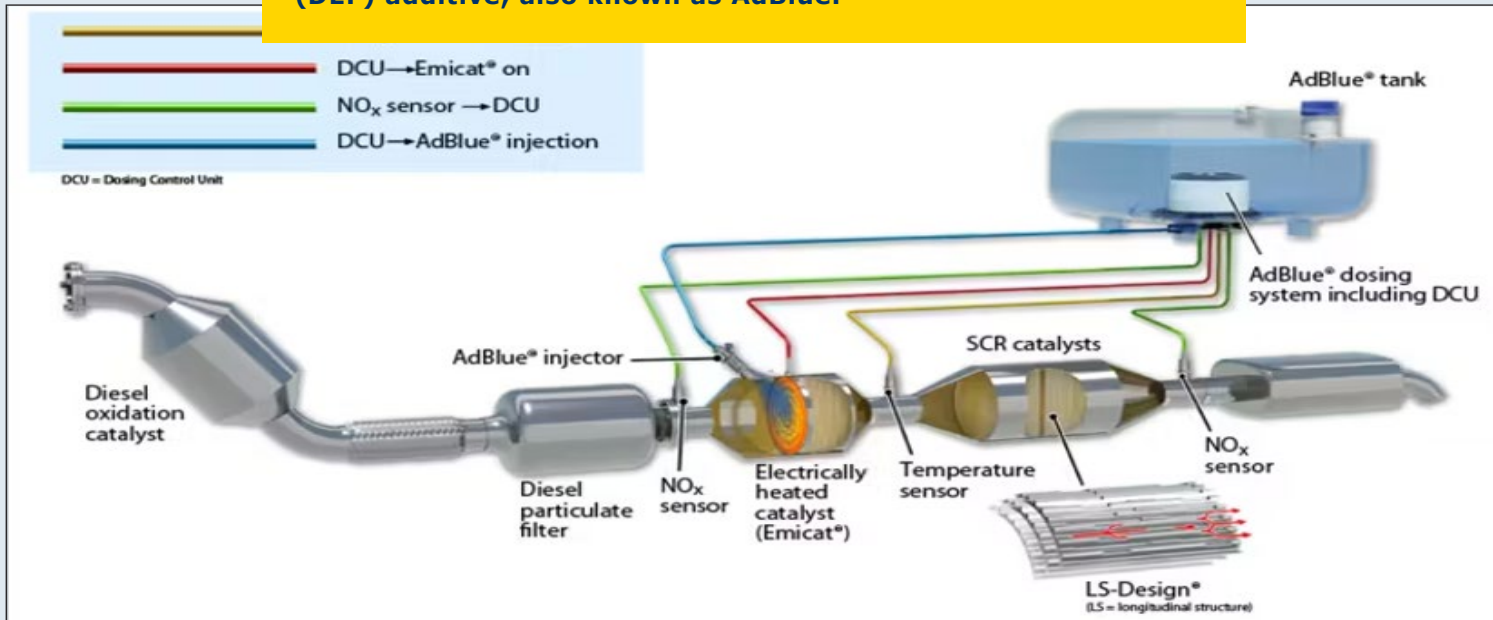
ESTA President Fabio Belli said: "Our Danish colleagues deserve a huge vote of thanks for their organisation, hospitality and support. We got through a lot of business and greatly appreciated catching up with old friends, and meeting new faces.

"Events like this are both enjoyable and essential to give our members the opportunity to hear about ESTA's work, to ask questions and make suggestions about our future plans. For ESTA such conversations mean we are able to ensure that our work is properly focussed on what our members need."

The next set of meetings will take place in Noordwijk in the Netherlands on April 16 and 17 alongside the 2026 edition of the ESTA Awards.

CALLS FOR "OVERRRIDE" IN RESPONSE TO GROWING DEF/ADBLUE CONCERNS

ESTA is calling for the development of a time-limited override system to reduce the number of dangerous safety incidents resulting from problems with the use of the Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) additive, also known as AdBlue.



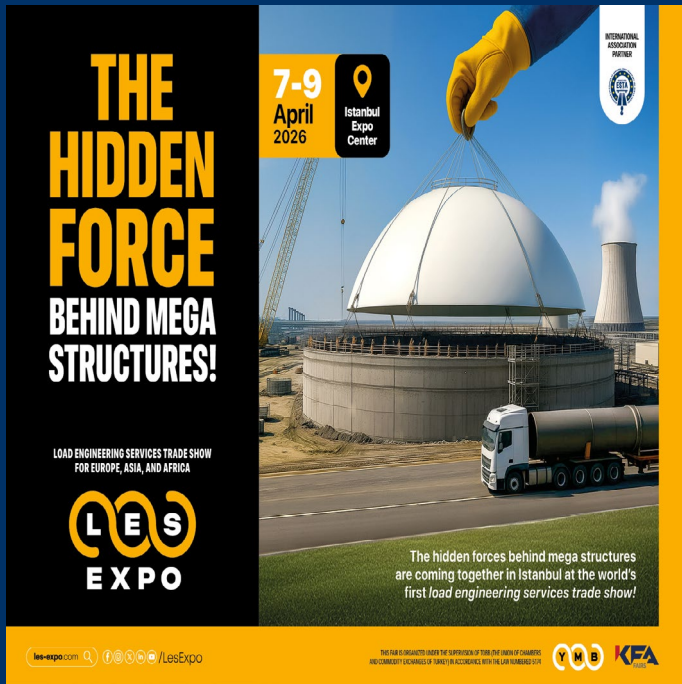
Last year, ESTA asked members to report any incidents with DEF/AdBlue and received replies from ten different countries, including problems with mobile and crawler cranes, trucks and SPMTs. Almost half of the respondents saying that safety had been compromised as a result.

Those concerns have now been amplified by similar research carried out in Canada by the Canadian Crane Rental Association.

AdBlue is a mixture of water and urea used in diesel engines to minimise the production of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions. Particular concern is focussed on the current system of derating when the engine control unit intentionally reduces engine power or speed to ensure compliance with emissions requirements.

Earlier this year, ESTA's European Regulations Working Group – which includes members from the crane manufacturers and the European Materials Handling Federation (FEM) – produced a new Technical Bulletin to help companies reduce the risks.

Now ESTA is taking its concerns a step further and requesting a temporary override or derate reset so a vehicle can be moved to a service location, or safely finish its current operation.



ESTA SIGNS UP AS INTERNATIONAL PARTNER FOR LES-EXPO 2026 IN ISTANBUL

ESTA is the International Cooperation Partner for LES-EXPO 2026, the new load engineering services trade show for Europe, Asia and Africa that will take place from April 7 to 9 next year at the Istanbul Expo Center in Turkey.

Organized by ESTA's Turkish member association YMB - the Union of Load Engineering Services/Yük Mühendisliği Birliği - and KFA Fairs, LES-EXPO 2026 aims to bring together manufacturers, service providers, contractors and suppliers from across Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The organisers intend the event to serve as a global meeting point for companies working behind the scenes of the world's mega projects and will showcase the latest advancements, technologies, and sustainable solutions shaping the load engineering sector.

ESTA AWARDS - SAVE THE DATE

The ESTA Users' Night and Awards 2026 will take place on April 16th, 2026 in Noordwijk, Netherlands at the Grand Hotel Huis ter Duin. Don't forget to enter.

More details on all of the stories and - where relevant - supporting reports and documentation - can be found on ESTA's website at www.estaeurope.eu