

Cooperation on new technology in the Baltic Sea Region to improve air quality

Head words to a speech by the Deputy Mayor of the City of Bergen, Ms Trude Drevland.

Dear Ms President, Mr Senator, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a pleasure to be back in Lübeck,and I have had time yesterday to once more "take in" the wonderful atmosphere in your city!

As you well know we are fully avared of the long lasting cooperation between the Hanseatic cities of Lübeck and Bergen through more then four hundred years , still vital through the Hanseatic organisation. *We have a common future, we have a history of trade and economic relationship ,in 1996 we signed an agreement between our two cities, where we agreed in close cooperation in business issues of interest for both cities! And here we are in 2008.*

In the old days cooperation between our cities was characterized by ships and fish. Today I will like to speak to you about cooperation on ships and gas.

It is now almost 25 years since Marintek, one of the Magalog-partners, started to test marine engines using natural gas as fuel. For many years now natural gas has been used as fuel for engines producing electric power and heat in municipalities, hospitals and local industries. This is something you all know a lot about.

Many years later, during the last five years the gas company Gasnor has been making the natural gas liquid, to be able to supply natural gas to Norwegian industry along the coast.

As you know there are a lot of mountains and long fjords in Norway, making it almost impossible to build the kind of gas pipeline you have here in continental Europe.

Innovative engineers and shipowners like Eidesvik and Fjord1 realised the new possibilities which was opened by Small Scale LNG, and found solutions, together with Rolls-Royce Marine Engines and other manufacturers to use liquid natural gas – LNG – as fuel for their ships.

To save money and to reduce pollution to the air at the same time!

A win-win situation!

Switching to LNG as fuel gives ships with no smoke – no particles. Also with no sulphur emissions. With almost no nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and with 15-20 % less greenhouse gases. ***It is simple, it is very effective to the environment, it works today, and it is cost effective.***

I was very pleased to know that Hordaland Oil and Gas, Marintek and Gasnor was working together with the Stadtwerke Lübeck, Baltic Energy Forum and the city of Swinoujscie to find practical solutions to open up for use of natural gas as a fuel for ships also in the Baltic Sea. Combining our strengths through the Magalog –project.

The City of Bergen, as one of the owners of Hordaland Oil and Gas – HOG – is very happy to find that traditional partners like Lübeck and Bergen, once pioneers in European cooperation, today can pioneer together to solve modern environmental challenges.

I know that Lübeck successfully promotes its beaches and seaside parks for recreation and holidays. At the same time preparing for growth in industry and trade. ***Clean shipping makes it easier to obtain both.***

I am very proud that the Bergen ship-owner Sea-Cargo has ordered LNG-fuelled Ro-Ro vessels for North Sea operations. This demonstrates that they have found LNG competitive also in international waters. The two first of these vessels are being built in India and will start operation in 2010.

In an initial phase I think it can be very useful for politicians to set up grants and taxes to stimulate the use of environmental friendly new technologies. In our country we have found it practical to put up a NO_x-tax, making shipowners pay 15 kroners, or 2 euros for each kilogram of nitrogen oxide they emit. As an alternative solution shipowners can choose to pay a reduced voluntary fee to a NO_x-grant fund. This fund shall be used to cover part of the costs to retrofit gas-solutions, or other NO_x-reducing technologies on vessels.

I hope you all here today will want to take part in the technology shift from oil to gas. After all that is what Magalog is all about.

I would very much like to see the old traditional climate of cooperation between Lübeck and Bergen being used to develop clean solutions for tomorrow – starting today.

We have a common responsibility for the future generations!

This is an important possibility.

And now some words about our to Hanseatic cities;
Our common Hanseatic future on the sea was thank God much more peaceful
than the Vikings!

The sea have in all times been our faith and happiness , and shipping and the sea
are still connecting us with the world around!

That's why developing new, environmental solutions for shipping in the future
is so important! I am happy to be here just now!

I want briefly to mention the very important work we have started about going
through the fabulous archive about our common history you have here in
Lubeck! We are now building the future, but I am sure that this important work
also will give us new knowledge about our common economic history in the
past. The city of Bergen are prepared for this cooperation with The Archive of
the city of Lubeck and we want to strengthen the relationship in the future.

I am looking forward to new economic relationship, and the city of Bergen will
give the support that is expected!!!

Thank you!