

Real Life



This morning I tried to verify something that caught my eye only a few days ago on a Dutch news website. Initially it was the photograph, showing the Willem van Oranje trailing suction hopper dredger leaving the slipway at IHC Merwede's Kinderdijk yard in the Netherlands. Then came the headline, in Dutch but translating in 'Lagging growth Dutch industry' stating the ING bank's economic bureau predicted growth would drop from 6% this year to 2% next year.

So, why the image of a brand new TSHD to illustrate the industry's growth will – probably, possible – trail behind next year? Was it the trailing part? Or the fact the Willem van Oranje's 11,000 m³ hopper capacity is a step back from the 31,200m³ capacity of the Vox Máxima? Well, have we got 'news'. Not really, but IHC Dredgers is building a 30,000m³ TSHD at the moment. So now when there is an upsurge in industrial activity, the news website can again take an image of a TSHD to show economic growth is on the rise again.

I do not know who selects the images they use, but he or she must have found him- of herself corrected as the image now featured is the obligatory image of a guy with a safety helmet doing, well, something 'industrial'. In a sense, it resembles real life: "Shipbuilding? That picture is probably taken abroad. Oh, we do build ships over here? Well, anyway, here is an image of a guy with a helmet. There is Dutch industry for you."

It is probably best to check our subscriptions to make sure both the original source and the website receive our publications from now on. There is the occasional man or woman with a safety helmet, to give them something they will understand. And as they of course are interested in Dutch politics, we have a feature on three new pilot tenders for the Dutch Pilotage Organisation. With our new government in office this will surely lead to some fierce debates in Parliament. Why? They hold a US, UK, Dutch, Swiss and even a 'green' passport. Shipbuilding – real life.

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Editor-in-chief

Ship Building i n d u s t r y

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Front cover and background picture (contents page): Photographer Danny Cornelissen has made quite a number of impressive photos of and in the port of Rotterdam. His love for the port and the maritime industry is reflected in each and every image. Upon request his work is available for advertising campaigns, corporate brochures and websites. His website www.portpictures.nl is a never-ending source of inspiration for many photographers and ship lovers.