

Excuse



I probably missed out on a lot of below-the-radar deals, contracts and ‘my people will call your people’ appointments this Europort, involving all sorts of parties, entities, associations and what else have you. But one I did not miss. How could I as one of the parties involved – Wärtsilä – explicitly invited me over. The event itself involved Wärtsilä of course, BLRT and Shipdock signing formal papers.

True – and no offence meant of course – there are more exciting things in life to watch, but it is the message that counts. This time being the fact that the parties were officially sealing their cooperation plans on facilitating scrubber installation for the maritime market and improving on their collecting offering with Wärtsilä supplying the technology and the yards their expertise in retrofitting, converting and refitting seagoing vessels of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Installing scrubber technology is one way to update existing vessels to meet upcoming legislation, which is aimed at drastically reducing SOx emissions worldwide. At the same time it allows you to keep on powering the vessel with HFO that in itself might not be compatible with the present and upcoming mandatory limits – be it in EU ports, SECAs or wherever you want to berth or sail. And you better prepare as legislation will come and you will have to comply. And their probably will be an extensive waiting list at the yards mentioned – and all others for that matter as yard capacity worldwide is probably not enough to have all vessels converted in time.

It is down to human nature to postpone urgent matters. Therefore, for your New Year’s Resolution in finding a way to get your priorities straight you can have a look at www.structuredprocrastination.com. Find a cause with a higher priority – where to spend Boxing Day for instance – put SOx compliance second, and you will have the best excuse ever.

From all of us at Yellow & Finch Publishers, a joyous festive season for you and your loved ones and all the best for the year to come, in your professional as well as your private life.

Robin Zander

Editor-in-chief

Ship Building i n d u s t r y

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Front cover and background picture contents page: ShipBuilding Industry met with IHC Dredgers' project manager Wouter Blaas, who led the build of the dedicated marine aggregates dredger, Victor Horta, built for DEME subsidiary DEME Building Materials (DBM). DBM is set on increasing its seaborne sand and gravel turnover significantly and the Victor Horta will be a key asset in achieving that goal. More on page 8. Photo courtesy background picture of Flying Focus.