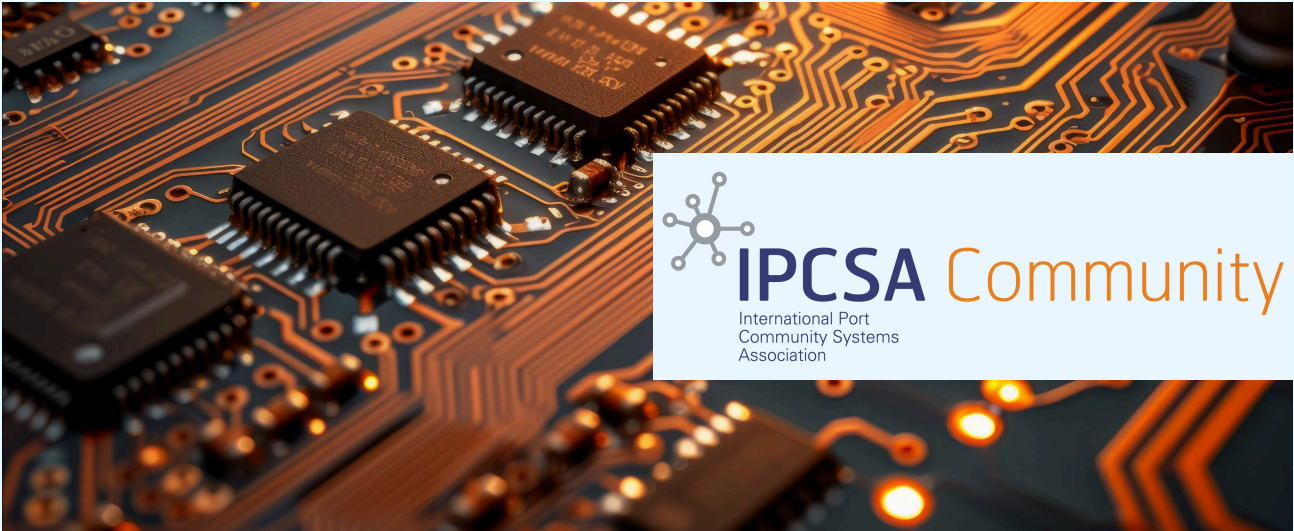


# IPCSA Quarterly Newsletter:

## January – March 2026



### Welcome to a New Era of IPCSA Collaboration!

Why keep your brilliant insights hidden in private 1:1 email chains when you can shape the future alongside the entire IPCSA network? We are moving the conversation out of the inbox and into the IPCSA Community, where your expertise benefits everyone. Dive into our latest events and join the vibrant debates happening right now to support each other through regional challenges, celebrate our tech advancements, and align our strategic goals as a united community!



### Catching Up Over Coffee: Regional Highlights

*We had an amazing turnout for our recent regional e-Coffees, with an 83.3% attendance rate in North America, Latin America & Caribbean, 66.7% in our Africa region, and 51.9% in Europe.*

**Africa:** Our conversations focused heavily on business strategy and stability. We discussed the hurdles private operators face when negotiating renewals at the end of concessions and PPPs. We also celebrated the exciting, strategic evolution of Port Community Systems (PCS)—shifting from purely operational logistics tools to strategic government assets that provide real-time economic data and offer vital transparency, especially during times of regional instability.

**Europe:** Customs compliance and disruptive technology were the hot topics! We talked through a severe operational bottleneck caused by an Automated Export System (AES) version discrepancy between France and Spain, as well as an industry-wide misunderstanding regarding Sanction List Screening. We also had a fascinating deep dive into Artificial Intelligence. Members weighed the incredible rapid development capabilities of AI against the severe cybersecurity, data privacy, and intellectual property risks associated with opening our PCS databases to open AI tools.

**North America, Latin America & Caribbean:** This group focused on the realities of system integration and funding. We discussed the ongoing constraints with ASYCUDA, where data flows smoothly from the PCS to the Customs but struggles to receive information back. The Port of LA shared valuable insights on the challenge of securing funding for tech projects over physical infrastructure, while Guadeloupe inspired us with ways to measure the local impact of PCS—like tracking clearance times and highlighting low transactional costs—to truly demonstrate our value to consumers.

**Action Points Forward:** We are thrilled to announce the establishment of a worldwide IPCSA AI Working Group to tackle technical applications and governance. Regionally, we are setting up a dedicated "African region" group on the Community Platform, asking European members to share AES feedback, and connecting Barbados, Suriname, and Guadeloupe for customs and benchmarking collaboration.

Want to dive deeper into these conversations? All meeting minutes and presentation slides are available for you on the **IPCSA Community Agenda**. Please use the links provided below for each e-Coffee to catch up on the full discussions:

**[Africa e-Coffee](#)**

**[Europe e-Coffee](#)**

**[North America, Latin America & Caribbean e-Coffee](#)**

An e-coffee for West Asia and the Pacific will be organised next quarter. We will be having a second round of e-coffees for every region in the second half of the year. Follow updates on the IPCSA Community.

## Ongoing Discussions: Let's Hear Your Voice!

### **Debate #1: eFTI – Evolve or Integrate?**

As the eFTI regulation revolutionizes digital transport, should existing PCS evolve into eFTI platforms themselves, or is the smarter play to integrate with already established, dedicated platforms? The community is already buzzing with insights: **Nico De Cauwer** notes that the right path depends on a country's specific context and whether a PCS wants to step up as a governmental access point; meanwhile, **Holger Hubner** and **Sandrine Petit-Soares** strongly advocate for strategic integration, warning that orchestrating a massive, EU-wide eFTI community could stretch PCS capacities and distract from core port operations; adding to this, **Javier Gallardo** highlights that while connecting to an eFTI Gate introduces compliance complexities, PCS have a massive competitive advantage with their established stakeholder bases; and finally, **Evelyn Eggers** advises that while this requires massive investment and creativity to identify new services, every PCS must at least build interfaces to existing platforms while keeping the door open to future platform development.

Your Turn: Don't wait on the sidelines! We want your perspective to fuel the conversation in advance of our upcoming April 22nd eFTI workshop. [Join the Debate.](#)

### **Debate #2 AI Supercharges Innovation**

Our Chairman, Javier Gallardo, invites you to join the conversation on the IPCSA Community platform to discuss current AI trends! Sharing your insights right now will directly help us shape the AI Working Group's future agenda.

[Join the Debate](#)

**Debate #3: eMSWe – Threat or Opportunity?** The rollout of the European Maritime Single Window environment (eMSWe) is radically shifting vessel formalities. Is this a threat of more national adaptations, or a golden opportunity for PCS to move closer to customers with value-added digital services? Your Turn: IPCSA Chairman Javier Gallardo has thrown down the gauntlet. **We are especially calling on our eMSWe taskforce members**—and the wider community—to dive into this critical debate. Let's tackle these strategic challenges together!

[Join the Debate](#)

# Empowering Our Community: Spotlight on IPCSA Initiatives

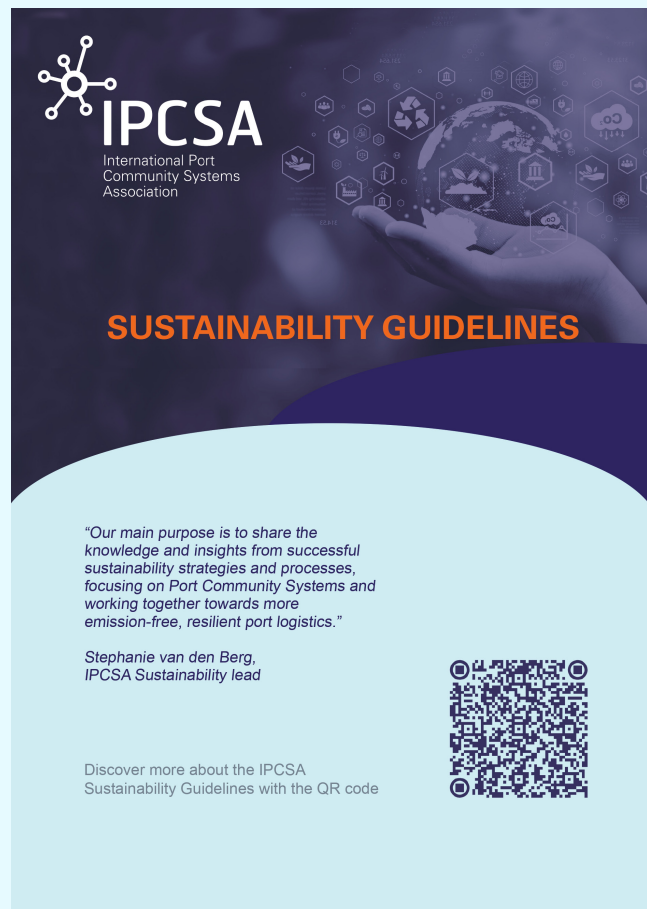
As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our members, we are excited to highlight two key initiatives designed to foster expertise and collaboration within our network:

## Sustainability Initiative

The IPCSA Sustainability Working Group successfully published its Guidelines last November, and we encourage members to share these widely.

The newly released IPCSA Sustainability Guidelines offer a highly practical framework for members to navigate complex regulations like the CSRD and FuelEU Maritime.

The guidelines are directly rooted in the collaborative group work of the IPCSA Sustainability Working Group and the insights captured in the IPCSA Sustainability Survey 2025.



The document highlights real-world experiences and pioneering case studies from contributing members, including Portbase, DAKOSY, SOGET, HAROPA PORT, dbh Logistics, the Port of Barcelona (PORTIC), CNS (UK), the Port of LA, (US), the Port of Valencia (Spain), Port of Antwerp-Bruges and others.

The working group was also recently featured in Port Technology International's (PTI) latest journal edition. We highly value your feedback on how key EU sustainability rules apply practically within your organizations.

Finally, please remember that our Sustainability Progress Meeting is scheduled for June 18th, 2026, focusing on new trends and best-practice sharing.

## [IPCSA Sustainability Guidelines](#)

[PTI Journal Article \(official edition\)](#)

[PTI Journal Article \(Internal Download\)](#)

[Key Insights Article \(IPCSA Website\)](#)

[Key EU Sustainability Rules Overview \(Internal\)](#)

## IPCSA Foresight Initiative: Charting Our Course to 2040

The IPCSA Foresight Initiative continues to make incredible strides in uncovering key uncertainties, innovations, and scenarios for Port Community Systems (PCS) and Single Windows as we look toward the year 2040.

Over the past couple of years, our community has engaged in deeply collaborative workshops to prepare for the future of our industry. The initiative was highlighted by a powerful workshop in Dubai in November 2024, where participants like emphasized the importance of diversity, collaboration, and a shared purpose to tackle massive future challenges such as climate change. Building on that momentum, our May 2025 workshop in Casablanca featured intensive discussions and debates.



As IPCSA Chairman Javier Gallardo noted, the Casablanca sessions allowed members to explore different potential industry scenarios and evaluate probabilities in an unpredictable world.

We are excited to announce the final Foresight Workshop, which will take place in Rotterdam on May 27th and 28th. This concluding event will be hosted by Portbase alongside the Port of Rotterdam.

Please note that registration is by invitation only. For more information, please contact the IPCSA General Manager at [inga.morton@ipcsa.international](mailto:inga.morton@ipcsa.international)

You can also catch up on our progress by downloading the Dubai workshop report and the Casablanca full report and executive summary directly from **[Foresight Reports section on the IPCSA website.](#)**

## IPCSA PCS Masterclass (Deep-Dive Training)

Whether you are a new or existing operator, developing a Port Community System (PCS) can be complex. To help members avoid costly pitfalls in PCS development, IPCSA offers a specialized Masterclass. This comprehensive 4-day, face-to-face training program is structured around four core modules: Foundation, Technology, Processes & Services, and Governance & Business. Led by industry experts Hans Rook deep-dive training is an invaluable resource for optimizing your PCS operations.

The course is structured to be conducted at the location of the inviting party upon request.

For more information contact us on IPCSA Community.

## IPCSA Members Exchange Program

Collaboration is at the heart of IPCSA. Our Members Exchange Program is specifically designed to pair professionals from across different PCS operators. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for members to share hands-on, practical experience and exchange industry best practices with their peers. If you are interested in participating, please take the next step by filling out the matchmaking questionnaire available directly on the [IPCSA Community platform](#).



### PCS Masterclass

#### A unique in-depth training to leverage your PCS-knowledge!

With this educational initiative, IPCSA's commitment to knowledge dissemination and skill enhancement remains clear and steady, contributing to:

- Strengthen IPCSA's role of influencing the conditions for successful PCS implementations and operations.
- Increase IPCSA's expansion of knowledge around the use of Port Community Systems & Single Windows worldwide.
- Creating and promoting stakeholders' buy-in to support the role of PCS & SW in port logistics chains.



#### TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Members in the progress of their PCS journey
- Members with a certain level of maturity in PCS utilisation
- Interested parties who want to complete their PCS knowledge or initiating their PCS/SW-journey



#### DURATION AND FORMAT:

- 4 days for the full PCS Masterclass
- On-site classes, 4 to 5-hour sessions
- 1 session per course module



### Members Exchange Program

#### "TEAMWORK RECIPROCITY": EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE

*Aim = establishing and maintaining working relationships amongst IPCSA members*



## Announcements

### Meet Your IPCSA Regional Representatives

Our representatives function as the IPCSA Advisory Board, advocating for our network, organizing regional events, and providing crucial perspectives. Connect with your local representative today via IPCSA Community:



#### **Africa:**

***Youssef Ahouzi*** (Portnet S.A.) &  
***Warsama Guirreh*** (DPCS)



#### **Asia Pacific:**

***Vineet Malhotra*** (Kale Logistics)



#### **North America:**

***Soufyane Meftah*** (Transport Logistics Wabtec Corporation, on behalf of Port of Los Angeles)



#### **South America and Caribbean:**

***Sabine Bajazet*** (CEI.BA) &  
***Keevan Gipson*** (Port St Maarten)



#### **West Asia:**

***Riasat Ali*** (RAK Ports)



**Introducing Tarik Naciri (PORTNET S.A, Morocco) as the new IPCSA Lead of the Standards & Technology Domain.**

Serving as the Head of International Cooperation at PORTNET S.A. in Morocco, Tarik brings 10 years of maritime sector experience and an Executive MBA from Columbia Business School. He has a strong track record of international leadership through his collaborative work with PortNet and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

With a background as an IT engineer specialised in data analysis, he combines technical depth with strategic and managerial insight.

Through his work with Portnet and IMO, he has contributed to international initiatives advancing Maritime Single Windows and the digital transformation of the maritime sector. His experience includes supporting IMO missions in Mauritania, Iraq, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone.

He has also played a key role in discussions on IMO-related standards and guidelines, helping promote more harmonised, interoperable, and efficient maritime digital ecosystems.



**Congratulations to Barbados Port!**

We are thrilled to congratulate our member, Barbados Port Inc. (BPI), for winning the 2026 CIP Maritime Award of the Americas in the Digital Transformation category! This prestigious recognition highlights BPI's leadership in adopting innovative digital technologies through its National Port Community System (PCS). Their commitment to improving operational efficiency, transparency, and competitiveness sets a remarkable standard for the maritime-port sector in the Americas.

The IPCSA community is proud to see such dedication to building a sustainable and secure port environment.

## IPCSA on the Move & Upcoming Events



**Global Event Highlights.** Our Secretary General, Nico De Cauwer, has been highly active globally, representing the community at IMO FAL 50, IMO EGDH 14, IAPH and BIMCO events, the ICC DSI Workshop in Tbilisi, and Singapore Maritime Week. More detailed updates will follow soon on the IPCSA Community platform.

### Upcoming Events You Won't Want to Miss. Mark your calendars!

#### April 16-17 & May 2026 | ECCG & WCO Meetings:

Follow real-time updates from Customs Lead Uwe Liebschner.

[Join the Customs Group](#)

#### April 22, 10:00 – 11:30 CET | Webinar S&T: eFTI:

Evelyn Eggers will deliver essential, cutting-edge insights on the EU's Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation.

[Register Here.](#)

#### April 29, 10:00 – 11:30 CET | PROTECT Group Meeting (Online):

Secure your spot for this crucial strategic meeting.

[Register Here](#)



As previously announced, our **next IPCSA Members Meeting** is officially set for **October 28th and 29th** in the beautiful port city of Marseille, proudly hosted by MGI (Marseille Gypsis International).

But this isn't just another meeting—this is your stage.

As we build the agenda for the upcoming IPCSA Members Meeting in Marseille this October, we want to highlight the fantastic topics **suggested by you, the IPCSA Community**. While our final agenda is still taking shape and these topics may evolve, we are listening closely to your feedback.

Here are the leading themes you've asked us to explore—and **we encourage you to keep sharing your ideas to help us finalize the program!**

**Unlocking the Power of AI and Big Data** Many of you are eager to discuss Artificial Intelligence. The community has suggested focusing on **practical AI business cases**, big data approaches in Port Community Systems (PCS), and using advanced analytics for operational forecasting and anomaly detection. You also rightly pointed out the need to discuss how we can **qualify the integrity of source data** to make these tools reliable.

**Interoperability and Data Sharing Ecosystems** A strong message from our members is the desire to move beyond basic system deployment toward true digital port ecosystems. You've suggested we discuss **interoperability between PCS platforms, Maritime Single Windows (MSW), and national trade windows**. Members also want to dive into the standardization of APIs and explore the complex roles, responsibilities, and risks of sharing data between private initiatives and public authorities.

**Navigating Regulatory Frameworks** Staying ahead of legislative changes is a shared priority across our network. The community has heavily requested discussions around the practical implications of the **European Maritime Single Window environment (eMSWE), electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI), and the EU Customs Data Hub**.

**Operational Optimization and Joint Innovations** You've told us you want to see real-world, measurable results. Members have proposed presenting **joint projects between PCS members**, such as vessel and cargo track-and-trace initiatives. There is also great interest in discussing how to operationalize pre-arrival data for **port call optimization, cargo risk assessment, and berth planning**.

**Sustainability and Cybersecurity** Finally, the community wants to tackle the challenge of future-proofing our operations. Members have asked to explore how **sustainability and new emissions regulations** will impact day-to-day PCS functions. Alongside this, you've highlighted the critical need for **cybersecurity and governance frameworks** designed to protect maritime digital infrastructure while maintaining interoperability.

**This is your network, and your voice matters.** If you have specific use cases, projects, or additional ideas that fit these themes, please share them with us on the IPCSA Community platform. Let's work together to shape the agenda and make the Marseille meeting our most impactful yet!

We can't wait to read your ideas and see you all in Marseille this October! Do not forget to fill in **[IPCSA Member Engagement Survey](#)**.

A massive thank you to everyone who has already fueled the fire by sharing their insights!