



## Welcome to the IPCSEA Quarterly Newsletter!

In this edition, we will explore the significant highlights from the past quarter in all areas of IPCSEA's activities. Stay updated on the latest progress, initiatives, and accomplishments within our community. We strive to offer you insightful updates and a thorough overview of the key milestones our association has achieved. Thank you for being part of our journey as we continue to enhance the global port community systems.

### Season's Greetings to the Members of IPCSEA by Nico De Cauwer, Secretary General:

"As we approach the end of 2024, we reflect on a year filled with marvellous achievements and shared milestones. This year, once again, our global community has demonstrated resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to IPCSEA's mission of delivering the maximum value in global and regional trade and logistics for members worldwide....."

The entire management team at IPCSEA looks forward to your continued support

and welcomes your thoughts and ideas on how IPCSEA can improve even more in supporting you as members, as we will continue to adapt to changing needs and to act in the common interest of all our members.

While we set sail into a new year, I would like to thank you for all your dedication in 2024. I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident that we will achieve even greater heights within our Association.

Please find IPCSEA season greetings here: <https://ipcsea.international/news/2024/12/31/2623>

## **Greetings by Javier Gallardo, Chairman:**

"I would like to highlight some of the initiatives mentioned by our Secretary General, but it would be unfair to single out some over others, as each holds its own significance and value. Instead, I want to focus on expressing my gratitude to the people who make our success possible: Nico, Inga, and Hans, whose dedication and hard work keep the association thriving. I also wish to acknowledge Steve, whose unwavering support and collaboration have been invaluable from the very beginning.

To the entire IPCSA family, I wish you a wonderful 2025, filled with challenges that we will undoubtedly overcome together. Let's continue moving forward as one!"

## **Greetings by Steve Lamb, Vice Chairman:**

"If 2024 has proved anything, it is that our industry is an ever-changing landscape, and not only in terms of our day to day business operations; the increased use of AI and digitalisation also brings unique challenges for all our members in the spheres of both software and cyber security. Our Secretary General has been at the forefront of ensuring workshops are delivered to assist the membership in meeting not only these challenges, but wider ones in terms of compliance and ever-changing legislation across borders.

Our executive team are highly focuses, professional individuals, who are committed to the IPCSA cause and to you, the members."

Wishing one and all an exciting and fruitful 2025 in all your endeavours!!

## **Greetings by Hans Rook, IPCSA Ambassador:**

"Business as usual, I hear a lot of people say. But what is usual these days... I am sure it makes you think, usual? When I look back to 2024, I see a lot of new adventures. Adventures that we initiated to support you. Most have already been highlighted by our Secretary General. In line with these initiatives, in addition I would like to mention our member exchange program. Good to see the first handshakes are made between our members, I am looking forward to bring more people together to exchange views, gain experience and not to forget a friendship forever.

So business as usual? Well I do not think so. 2025 also memorable as closing year of the first quarter of this century, a period with a tremendous lot of changes compared with the last part of the 20th century. Wifi, e-mail, e-commerce, social media and today AI that have changed our lives. Living in a completely different world than I was used to, a world full of turbulence. It is my wish and for sure for many of you that the complex situation around us where many people suffer from will find a peaceful way out.

I wish you all a very prosperous 2025, in good health and with respect to each other. I look forward to meeting you in person in the course of next year. I will be happy to support you also in 2025."





# SOGET

## ExCo Meeting in Le Havre , 24th October, 2024, hosted by SOGET, a founding member of IPCSA

The IPCSA Executive Committee convened in Le Havre on the 24th of October, 2024, and made several key decisions that will shape our activities in 2025. These decisions include the approval of the budget for the upcoming year, outlining the strategic direction, and establishing the provisional agenda for IPCSA meetings in 2025.

We are delighted to share that the IPCSA budget for 2025 has been approved. Additionally, it has been decided that the IPCSA membership fee for 2025 will remain unchanged from the previous year, as the Executive Committee opted not to apply the annual inflation rate this time.

During the meeting, several administrative decisions were made. The IPCSA Financial Statement for 2023 received approval based on the Internal Audit Report. Furthermore, the IPCSA Standard on Related Parties' Disclosures was approved to ensure that financial statements include necessary disclosures. This will draw attention to the potential impact on financial positions and profit or loss due to related parties and any transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments, with these parties. The service contracts for key management positions, including the Secretary General, General Manager, and Ambassador, have been extended for another term.

Looking ahead to 2025, the IPCSA business plan was approved, focusing on creating value for our members, generating new income, attracting new members, and further developing IPCSA products and initiatives.

Maintaining the established relationships with our strategic partners is a priority. We aim to assist the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with our expertise on MSW and PCS requests, which could potentially lead to new memberships. Additionally, we are committed to assisting Development Banks like the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB), and the World Bank Group.

Cooperation with strategic partners, including the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), is essential. We are actively involved in the SCR initiative, collaborating with ChainPort, IAPH, the Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA), and TIC4.0.

In collaboration with TIC4.0, we propose the creation of a joint whitepaper. This initiative will also involve brainstorming how associations can reinforce each other, maximizing our collective impact. IPCSA Agenda 2025 is available on IPCSA Community at: [https://www.ipcsa.community/calendar\\_events](https://www.ipcsa.community/calendar_events)

## 11th session of the Expert Group on Data Harmonization, IMO

On the 14th of October, the 11th session of the Expert Group on Data Harmonization (EGDH #11) commenced at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters in London. Nico De Cauwer, the Secretary-General of the IPCSA), has joined this expert group. The group's primary goal is to harmonize data elements used worldwide in the maritime shipping industry by establishing the "IMO Reference Model."

IPCSA has contributed to EGDH #11 by submitting a data set aimed at expanding the current data elements related to the transport of dangerous goods.

For detailed information, refer to the submission document EGDH 11/3/1 attached. These new data elements are designed to enhance the existing IMO Reference Model by going beyond the standard FAL 7 declaration. They are also incorporated into the PROTECT IFTDGN-message and are fully compliant with the EMSWe regulation currently in effect in the EU.

The full agenda and all related documents of the EGDH #11 can be found on IPCSA Community at:  
<https://www.ipcsa.community/thoughts/2409>



## IPCSA Sustainability workshop hosted by HAROPA PORT, 23rd Of October 2024

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jérôme BESANCENOT and his exceptional team for hosting the IPCSA Sustainability workshop at HAROPA PORT. Special gratitude goes to Stephanie van den Berg, leader of the IPCSA Sustainability initiative at Portbase, and Martijn Maatman, Consultant Strategy & Innovation at Portbase, for their unwavering dedication to sustainability and their valuable contributions to this workshop. Our sincere appreciation also goes out to all IPCSA Members who participated in this initiative and shared their invaluable experiences.

During the workshop, we established clear goals to achieve by 2025 and formed dedicated working groups to focus on these objectives. Our goals include:

1. Creating a sustainability trend radar and addressing rules & regulations by analyzing upcoming trends and sharing knowledge to apply the latest technologies for sustainability. We also aim to evaluate and publish the business impact of legal changes affecting PCS and its community members.
2. Defining data standards and analytics for sustainability, facilitating the sharing of emissions data among parties, providing examples of emission reduction calculations through PCS services, and enhancing PCS services to make a positive impact.
3. Determining necessary data sharing within the community to enhance sustainability, potentially through existing or new PCS services or external partnerships.
4. Promoting best practice sharing by disseminating knowledge through sustainability guidelines, workshops, and webinars. This will offer opportunities for members to learn from others about implementing sustainability strategies within their communities and provide business recovery planning actions to ensure continuity in emergencies.

We deeply value the contributions and insights shared during the discussions in Le Havre, which were highly productive and led to significant progress.

**Please note the important dates for our upcoming events in 2025:**

- Online sustainability group progress meeting on January 29th, from 13:00 to 15:00 CET
- Online sustainability group progress meeting on June 5th, from 13:00 to 15:00 CET
- Sustainability Group meeting in Rotterdam on September 24th, 2025

**Group Nr.1 Sustainability trend radar and rules & regulations**

**Frédéric Gilletta** Haropa Port, France  
**Youssef Bokhabrine** Portnet, Morocco  
**Inga Morton**, IPCSA  
**Martijn Maatman** Portbase, Netherlands

**Group Nr. 2 “Best practice sharing”**

**Lucie Charmeteau** Haropa Port, France  
**Sandrine Petit Soarés** Haropa Port, France  
**Alan Gates** CNS, United Kingdom  
**Javier Gallardo** Portic, Spain  
**Javier Garrido Salsas** Port of Barcelona, Spain  
**Evelyn Eggers** Dakosy, Germany

**Group Nr. 3 “Data sharing for sustainability impact”**

**Stephanie van den Berg** Portbase, Netherlands  
**Jerome Besancenot** Haropa Port, France  
**Aude Paquerot** SOGET, France  
**Clément Désollé** SOGET, France  
**Nico De Cauwer**, IPCSA

**Group Nr. 4 “Data standards & analytics for sustainability”**

**Marlene Herbold** DBH, Germany  
**Donna M. Mullins** Kale Logistics, USA  
**Vineet Malhotra** Kale Logitsics, India  
**Tarik Maaouani** ANP, Morocco  
**Dmytro Iakymenkov**, Ukraine  
**Galina Rozizna** Ukraine  
**Houmed Ali** Djibouti PCS, Djibouti

More information is available on the IPCSA Community at:

<https://www.ipcsa.community/groups/53-sustainability-working-group/welcome>



## IPCSA first Foresight workshop in Dubai, hosted and sponsored by Kale Logistics Solutions

The IPCSA Foresight workshop in Dubai marked the onset of a crucial journey towards comprehending the future of data exchange in international trade, especially regarding Port Community Systems (PCS) and Single Windows (SW). Sponsored by Kale Logistics Solutions, this two-day gathering united IPCSA members and external experts to explore the factors influencing the future landscape of these systems.

Facilitator Will Sambrook from Akenham highlighted the necessity of exploration and foresight, encouraging attendees to consider a range of possible futures instead of focusing on predicting one specific outcome. Discussions were steered by the 'Futures Triangle' framework, concentrating on current trends driving change, potential future developments, and historical aspects that might resist transformation.

Vibrant group discussions covered various subjects, including climate change, the green economy, resource accessibility, political dynamics, protectionism, and advancements in technology such as AI and cryptocurrency. Participants were urged to actively participate, share insights, and embrace diverse viewpoints to better prepare themselves for future uncertainties.

The workshop laid the groundwork for future sessions, aiming to develop a strategic roadmap to help IPCSA members navigate the evolving challenges and opportunities within the sphere of global trade data exchange.

We are eagerly anticipating the **second Foresight workshop scheduled to occur in Morocco, generously sponsored by IPCSA member PORTNET, on the 21st and 22nd of May, 2025.**

This upcoming workshop will shift its focus to the development of scenarios and a deep dive into understanding their implications. Participants can look forward to engaging sessions designed to foster collaborative thinking and innovative approaches, further enhancing our collective foresight capabilities.

This event represents a significant opportunity to build on the insights gained from the first workshop, driving forward our mission to anticipate and prepare for future challenges and opportunities in our field.





## IPCSA webinar on IMO's Maritime Single Window (MSW) regulation, November 20th 2024

The IPCSA webinar on IMO's Maritime Single Window (MSW) regulation provided valuable insights into the implementation of this significant change set to take effect on January 1st, 2024. Under the new regulation, all IMO Member States must adopt a centralized digital platform to facilitate the exchange of information with ships in ports. This initiative aims to streamline the processes involved in the arrival, stay, and departure of ships, thereby boosting the efficiency of global shipping operations.

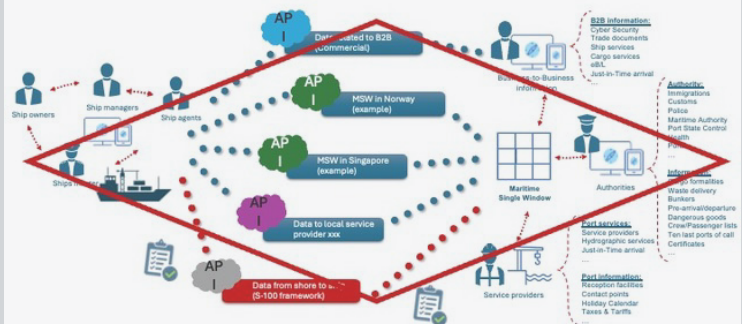
The webinar commenced with an introduction to the IMO's FAL Convention and the upcoming MSW regulation. Martina Fontanet, a Technical Officer in the Facilitation Section at IMO, elaborated on the use of the IMO's Reference Model (Compendium), highlighting its importance in the new framework. Following this, Jeppe Skovbakke Juhl from BIMCO shared valuable perspectives from the viewpoint of carriers and ship owners, emphasizing their role and responsibilities under the new regulation.

The session also included a Q&A period, allowing IPCSA Members to discuss and address challenges they face in implementing the MSW. This interaction provided a platform for sharing experiences and finding solutions to common obstacles.

For those who could not attend, the meeting recording and presentations are accessible on the IPCSA Community, ensuring that all interested parties can benefit from the insights shared during the event.

<https://www.ipcsa.community/thoughts/2466>

### Maritime Single Window concept





## IPCSA at the Nexus International Conference on DGTMP, 10 th – 13th December 2024

IPCSA was excited to participate in the Nexus International Conference on DGTMP in Portugal, focusing on sustainability in port operations. Our involvement underscores our dedication to promoting eco-friendly practices and the importance of port community systems in advancing sustainability across the logistics chain. These systems enhance efficiency and minimize environmental impact, contributing to a resilient logistics infrastructure that supports global trade sustainably.

Ambassador Hans Rook highlighted the transformative role of community systems like Port Community Systems (PCS) and Single Windows in digitalizing ports and the global supply chain. He urged global collaboration to address challenges and foster a more connected economy.

Stephanie van den Berg, Portfolio Manager for Strategy & Innovation and Lead Sustainability at Portbase, along with leading the IPCSA Sustainability Initiative, delivered a keynote speech focused on sustainability in ports. With vast experience, she is at the forefront of developing IPCSA sustainability guidelines for PCS, which are expected to be finalised by the end of next year. She concluded that sustainability in ports involves creating resilient and

regenerative (eco)systems capable of supporting life in all its forms for the long term. Innovative solutions must be prioritised to address current challenges and pave the way for future generations. As she shared, "Together, we can turn visions into reality; through leadership and cooperation, progress becomes inevitable."

Secretary General Nico De Cauwer discussed the synergy between digital and green initiatives, emphasizing that PCS integration with advanced technologies optimizes cargo movement and reduces the environmental footprint of port activities. The Nexus conference addressed sustainability, cybersecurity, and cyber resilience, offering a platform for sharing innovative strategies.

In his keynote speech IPCSA Ambassador Hans Rook called on ports globally to embrace port community systems and tackle the challenges they face, as this will contribute to a more connected, efficient, and sustainable global economy. He emphasised that success requires global collaboration, urging everyone to work together beyond local boundaries.

IPCSA thanks the organizers and the Port of Sines for their commitment to sustainable practices, setting a benchmark for the industry towards a more environmentally responsible future in ports and logistics.





**Kale Logistics**

Technology that Transforms



## IPCSA at VANTAGE POINT, launched by Kale Logistics Solutions

Kale Logistics Solutions recently launched VANTAGE POINT, marking the first edition of its premier Thought Leadership Summit for the maritime sector. This exclusive event, by invitation only, gathered influential figures from prestigious organizations like the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), international regulatory authorities, and significant ports globally. Attendees shared insights, explored groundbreaking innovations, and collaborated to shape the future trajectory of maritime logistics.

Speaking at the event, Vineet Malhotra, Co-founder and Director, Kale Logistics Solutions, said, "This summit served as a fog light for the industry, illuminating pathways for innovation and collaboration. The actionable insights shared here will shape the future of maritime logistics."

Nico De Cauwer, Secretary General of IPCSA, said, "It was remarkable to see each and every one in the room. Of course, the general takeaway and challenge is digital transformation, but it's filled in by the different people here who gather today in a different way. They're using different technologies for the one, it's digital twin, which is a priority for the others, it's AI. Therefore, it's remarkable to see that for everyone, digital transformation is at the

head of the agenda."

"The different angles and perspectives which the various people have when it comes to the main challenges of the digital transformation for their environment are very insightful in the discussions to shape the maritime digital future. Also, we have port authorities and PCS operators gathered here, so it is beneficial for both parties to exchange these ideas when discussing mutual challenges", he added further.

The summit delved into the transformative effects of digitisation, emphasizing technologies like PCS (Port Community Systems), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) on boosting efficiency and promoting sustainability.

A central theme that emerged was the importance of collaboration, with Malaysia's national single window initiative being highlighted as a successful model for standardisation and trade facilitation.

For more insights on VANTAGE Point, you can check out Kale Logistics Solutions' YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRkaULXSXHY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_KYx7Xo1uYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KYx7Xo1uYA)



## Update on Customs matters

In relation to Customs matters, three key themes are of particular importance:

1) EU Customs Reform: There has been a collaborative effort between the private sector and the EU Parliament, culminating in a joint statement. This initiative is further supported by a meeting with the rapporteur from the EU Parliament, highlighting the ongoing dialogue and commitment to reform.

2) ECCG 2024: The Electronic Customs Coordination Group's November meeting was marking the second part of discussions on the PoUS. This meeting was crucial for advancing electronic customs processes and ensuring seamless coordination among stakeholders.

3) PSCG: The Private Sector Consultative Group at the World Customs Organization is focusing on the Code of Ethics and Conduct. Input from various stakeholders is requested to refine and enhance these guidelines, underscoring the importance of ethical standards in customs operations.

### **EU Customs Reform – joined statement of the private sector and meeting with the rapporteur of the EU Parliament**

The discussions on EU Customs Union reform have been ongoing, focusing on

content and legal aspects.

Multiple meetings were held to clarify the modernization concept, involving trade representatives and surveys by the European Commission. Trade associations collaborated to highlight critical concerns, leading to a statement presented to EU officials.

The IPCSA signed the letter to advocate for improved collaboration, stressing a unified business voice in shaping the Customs Union's future. This led to a joint meeting on December 11th in Brussels, organized by Mr. Dirk Gotink, with about 100 Customs officials and trade representatives. Key opinions from the EU Commission and Member States were heard, and trade expressed concerns, particularly about diminishing trust and cooperation before legal drafts are made. Uncertainty about the EU Data Hub's function and scope is a shared concern, highlighting the need for a unified industry statement.

The common statement and additional meeting information available on IPCSA Community at:

<https://www.ipcsa.community/thoughts/2502>

In September, there was the IPCSA – Future of EU Customs Webinar, which took place on 18 September 2024. If you missed it, don't worry. The video recording is now available on the IPCSA YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re27Jcm0o3o>

## **ECCG 2024 – November meeting of the Electronic Customs Coordination Group – Part 2 / PoUS**

The PoUS system functions as a platform where traders can request proof for T2L(F) documents through the EUCTP portal. If a trader is an individual, they submit an endorsement request, while economic operators with authorization enter their Authorisation Number. Once the request is submitted, PoUS validates it against interconnected databases. The Competent Customs Office (CCO) then assesses the request, deciding whether additional controls or documents are necessary. Traders can manage the submission of extra documents via the EUCTP dashboard or through other means. Once documents are registered at the CCO, controls are conducted. If the controls yield unsatisfactory results, the request is declined with a notification to the user. If satisfactory, the proof endorsement is confirmed and registered.

For registration requests from an Authorised Issuer, the process is slightly different, with simplified controls and automatic endorsements if no decision on controls exists. A Master Reference Number (MRN) is issued and stored in the Central Repository, accessible for retrieval. Notifications containing relevant proof data are sent to the EUCTP dashboard for user consultation.

Phase 1, which began on 1 March 2024, includes T2L and T2LF data. Phase 2, scheduled for 15 August 2025, will cover the Customs Goods Manifest. However, there has been debate over the lack of a "system-to-system" connection. The EU Commission blamed the private sector for not requesting this feature. Discussions led to a timeline where various member states expressed the need for such a connection, resulting in an 18-month delay in the MNSW, which will provide this feature for maritime companies in PoUS Phase 2.

As of December 2024, the EU Commission is assessing implementation options, but

budget restrictions hinder high-cost solutions. This has led to disappointment among traders and member states, notably Germany, who criticized the EU Commission for not fulfilling its promise to include all national-level functionalities, including the S-2-S connection, in the central solution. Germany is reconsidering its support for future centralized systems due to this issue.

More information prepared by Uwe Liebschner, IPCSA customs lead, is available on the IPCSA Community platform. For those seeking more detailed insights into customs matters, please feel free to reach out to Uwe.

## **PSCG – Private Sector Consultative Group at the WCO – Code of Ethics and Conduct/ your input requested**

The establishment of the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) at the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 2005 marked a significant step in enhancing the dialogue between the private sector and the WCO. With the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA) joining the PSCG in 2021, the collaboration has broadened, contributing to various important topics like "green customs," "SAFE framework of standards," and "trade facilitation measures."

In 2024, following the election of a new Secretary General and the initiation of a strategy overhaul for the WCO, the importance of strengthening cooperation between the WCO Secretariat and the private sector was underscored.

As part of this redesign process, it was identified that there is a lack of a collectively agreed framework for the 'Terms of ethics and conduct.' Consequently, the PSCG formed an internal working group to draft a document outlining these terms, incorporating suggestions from the WCO Secretariat.

Documents and more information available on IPCSA Community:  
<https://www.ipcsa.community/thoughts/2481>



## Port of NEOM welcomed as newest member of the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA)

We are delighted to announce our newest Member in West Asia - Port of NEOM. We welcome Port of NEOM as a new member of IPCSA. As part of the membership, we look forward to supporting the port's broader digitization agenda, sharing our knowledge and expertise in Port Community Systems and Single Window operations – while learning more about Port of NEOM and @NEOMOxagon.

See press release at:

<https://ipcsa.international/news/2024/11/27/port-of-neom-welcomed-as-newest-member-of-the-international-port-community-systems-association-ipcsa/>



**PORT  
OF NEOM**



## About IPSCSA

IPSCSA is an international association of Sea and Air Port Community System operators, sea and air port authorities and Single Window operators that is recognised across the globe for providing advice and guidance on the electronic exchange of information across borders and throughout the whole supply chain.

The association has members from across the globe who handle the exchange of information for Business to Business, Government to Business and Government to Government processes and facilitate the smooth cross-border movement of goods. This equates to the electronic exchange of information relating to more than 500 million TEU movements and 10 billion tonnes of cargo for air, sea and land transport – estimated to be in excess of 50 billion million exchanges every year.

IPSCSA focuses on supporting and facilitating systems and innovations for Port Community System members and users, and promoting the use of international data standards in sea and air ports, at border crossings and via Single Window systems around the world. IPSCSA is a recognised NGO with consultative status at UNECOSOC and IMO.

IPSCSA regularly publishes, Newsletters, information leaflets about IPSCSA and Port Community Systems

<https://ipcsa.international>



The IPSCSA Community platform is your go-to destination for IPSCSA members staying connected and informed. This central hub ensures seamless engagement and access to essential information, empowering participants and members to deepen their understanding and enhance their involvement. By offering comprehensive access, the IPSCSA Community nurtures a collaborative space where sharing ideas and fostering innovation is encouraged. Whether revisiting past discussions, exploring the expertise of members, or reviewing insightful presentations, everything you need is readily accessible with just a few clicks. Join the IPSCSA Community to stay updated and be part of a thriving network.

**For more information, please contact:**  
[inga.morton@ipcsa.international](mailto:inga.morton@ipcsa.international)