



LOISTE

NEWS FROM PORT OF HAMINAKOTKA 2/2020



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Constant efforts to reduce environmental impacts

Ports must be established along waterways to enable shipping. Port operations always have an impact on the environment, because both hydraulic engineering and cargo handling can cause emissions to water. In addition to seaports and transport, the Gulf of Finland is typically subject to the environmental impacts of agriculture, industry and coastal settlement.

Most of the load entering the sea area in Pyhtää, Kotka and Hamina comes to the area along the Kymijoki River, although point loads from industrial and municipal wastewater also play a role. In its own operations, Port of HaminaKotka Ltd is committed to keeping the environmental impacts to a minimum.

The law requires an environmental permit

In Finland, all operations that may pose a risk of environmental contamination require an environmental permit in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act. By virtue of the environmental permit, the operator must limit the environmental emissions of its operations to a minimum, and the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY) and local environmental protection authorities supervise conformance to the environmental permits. The Port of HaminaKotka has valid environmental permits for its operations.

In order to monitor compliance with environmental permits, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment also

conducts regular periodic inspections at the port of HaminaKotka, too. The inspections ensure, for example, that the permits are up to date and that the permit regulations are complied with.

"If necessary, the environmental permit can be revised," says Environmental Expert **Minna Miettinen** from Ramboll Finland Oy.

The Port of HaminaKotka participates, in accordance with the provisions of the environmental permit, in the joint monitoring of the sea area in Hamina and Kotka. The monitoring is carried out by the association Kymijoen vesi ja ympäristö ry.

"All monitoring and analyses of the quality of water at the port are carried out by an external service provider. The monitoring is conducted in accordance with the monitoring programmes approved by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, and the results are reported to the authorities. This ensures the reliability and transparency of monitoring," says Minna Miettinen.

Action to reduce environmental impacts

The Port of HaminaKotka carries out regular stormwater monitoring, too. Moreover, the stormwater load from the fertilizer terminal at the A-quay at Mussalo has been monitored more closely since 2015.

"Some loads are released into the sea from the port with rainwater," Minna Miettinen continues. "Cargo or other debris is spilled on the paved

areas and is washed into the stormwater system by rainwater. The stormwater system contains sand and oil separation sumps intended to prevent the load from entering the sea."

Various measures are constantly undertaken together with port operators in order to reduce the environmental impact. When fertilizers are being handled, the stormwater inlets are closed with covers to minimise the impacts on the body of water. In addition, rainwater inlets and sewers are washed regularly with a circulating system and, if necessary, repairs are made if damage is found. The rainwater inlets at the A-quay at Mussalo are cleaned three times a year.

"We do a lot of visible and invisible work for the environment," says Sales Manager **Ville Kuitunen** from the Port of HaminaKotka. It is important to remember that it is not easy to achieve a completely closed environment which would have no emissions at all. In Finland, effective regulatory control and responsible efforts by companies both play a key role in preventing environmental contamination. We are intensely involved in this work, and the operations of the port are guided by a certified ISO 14001:2015 environmental system," says Ville Kuitunen.

Prime Minister Sanna Marin visited Hamina

Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland, visited Hamina on 20 November 2020. **Kimmo Naski**, CEO of Port of HaminaKotka Ltd, had an opportunity to tell the Prime Minister about the Port of HaminaKotka and its current situation. Kimmo Naski requested the Finnish Government to reconsider the establishment of a project planning company for the coastal railway running east of Helsinki. The reasons for this include the financial capacity in accordance with the Government programme and the need for a comprehensive survey that takes freight traffic into account. He expressed the view that the railway should be a mixed railway, and gave reasons why the eastern coastal railway would be the best option for Finland.

In the meeting, Kimmo Naski emphasised the importance of the Government doing its best to promote the location of UPM's biorefinery and the battery plants of Suomen Malmijalostus Oy in the vicinity of our port. He also asked the Government to remove shipping fairway charges, because they have a major role in the competitiveness of our port and Finland as a whole.

Other ministers also visited our region earlier in the same week, when **Mika Lintilä**, Minister of Economic Affairs, and **Ville Skinnari**, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, visited Kotka on 16 November 2020. During this visit, Kimmo Naski asked the Government to support UPM's biorefinery project and to abolish shipping fairway charges.



Fintoil's tall oil distillation plant making progress on schedule

Fintoil announced in February 2020 that it will build a tall oil distillation plant at the Liquid Harbour in Hamina. The Regional State Administrative Agency granted an environmental permit to the operations of the company in November, and the building of the plant will commence when the necessary building permits have been obtained. The building permit process is expected to run quickly, and building work will be launched as soon as possible.

According to **Jukka Ravaska**, Managing Director of Fintoil, the planning of the plant has made progress on schedule despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Basic engineering was completed in early November. When the necessary permits are available, the actual work can begin.

"The delivery periods of the main equipment are long, and it remains to be seen whether the coronavirus pandemic will extend the delivery times. So far, the effects of the pandemic have mainly been reflected in challenges with communications with the surrounding community and regional partners," Jukka Ravaska says.



Conceptual image of Fintoil's plant (Photograph by Fintoil Oy).

Impacts of coronavirus on the operations of Port of HaminaKotka Ltd

The global coronavirus pandemic has also had an effect on the operations of the Port of HaminaKotka, although the most severe threat scenarios have been avoided to date. The most significant impacts have been experienced in international cruise traffic due to the travel restrictions, and all visits by cruise ships confirmed for last summer were cancelled. In cargo transport, the coronavirus pandemic has had the greatest impact on the exports of paper as a result of the declined demand for graphical papers.

The Port of HaminaKotka has a contingency plan, which we are following and which we update as necessary on the basis of instructions issued by the authorities. We monitor the situation and will provide information on potential impacts on our operations on our website at www.haminakotka.com.

Well-earned retirement awaits Markku Koskinen of Port of HaminaKotka

Markku Koskinen,
Director, Traffic
Operations,
will start his
retirement days
soon.



Markku Koskinen, Director, Traffic Operations, of Port of HaminaKotka will go on holiday in mid-December and start his well-earned retirement days next year. Markku Koskinen has worked in logistics in many different positions for a length of time, both at sea and on dry land.

During his career, Markku has lived through the transformation of the port from a department of the city to a municipal business enterprise and further through two separate limited company ports to the current Port of HaminaKotka. Over the years, the port industry has changed tremendously, and so has the role of the port from an authority to a commercial operator and to being part of a national and international logistics environment.

"The work duties and work environment have changed a lot during my career, and this has kept up the interest. The port and logistics industries have taken a huge leap forward in the past 30 years or so, and it has been great to be in the front seat of developments."

Markku embarks on a new phase in his life with a nostalgic mind. "Working at the port has been a very important part of my life, but now it is time to give room for other important things, too," says Markku. A manor house built in the 18th century near the eastern border of Finland in Hurppu will offer plenty of things to do in the summer, and the motorhome that replaced his sailboat will keep Markku and his wife on the road in the winter. Much of Markku's life has been about moving from one place to another, and the movement will not stop even after his work career. Markku Koskinen does not intend to leave the logistics sector completely, because his position as the executive director of the Finnish Transit Transport Association keeps him involved in the development of the sector also in his retirement days.

Read more about Markku Koskinen's career on our website: www.haminakotka.com.

Christmas donation to the local associations of Save the Children in Hamina and Kotka

This year, Port of HaminaKotka Ltd has donated the funds intended for Christmas gifts to the local associations of Save the Children in Hamina and Kotka. The local associations are part of the national and global Save the Children organisation. Through their own efforts, the associations contribute to the shared goals of the organisation. All activities are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The objective is to improve the way in which children are treated and to accomplish immediate and sustained changes in their lives. Special attention is paid to children in the most vulnerable position, and the activities are always guided by the best interests of the child. Families may have varying challenging situations, and, as an example, the continuation of a child's hobby is important even when many other things have to be dropped.

Leena Sareskorpi, chairperson of the local association in Hamina, thanks Port of HaminaKotka Ltd for the donation and says that the donated funds will be used directly to support families with children.

"The main focus at the Hamina association is now on distributing financial relief directly to families with children. We are involved in a programme of Save the Children, under which we provide support for hobbies and school material support for secondary education studies due to a family's poor financial situation. Moreover, this year more than 10,000 euros worth of food gift cards valued at 70 euros each have been given to families with children in distress due to the coronavirus crisis. These cards have been distributed through social work for adults, child welfare and church social work," says Leena Sareskorpi.

Save the Children in Kotka will also distribute Christmas relief to low-income families with children in Kotka this year. The relief is given as

purchase cards. The families to whom the relief is given come through Kymssote's social services, the church social work of parishes and the Kymenlaakso Association of Mother and Child Home and Shelter.

"This year, we have distributed approximately 27,000 euros worth of purchase cards as corona relief. We are also involved in the programme for providing study material support for secondary education students as well as hobby support for children and adolescents under the age of 18. More than 15,000 euros of study material support has been granted to 55 young people, and more than 10,000 euros of hobby support has been given to 35 children and adolescents this year. The funds donated to us by Port of HaminaKotka Ltd will be used for these projects," says **Airi Karvinen**, chairperson of the local association in Kotka.

Further information:

<http://kotka.pelastakaalapset.fi/>

<http://hamina.pelastakaalapset.fi/>



Airi Karvinen, chairperson of the local association of Save the Children in Kotka, on the left, and Leena Sareskorpi, chairperson of the local association in Hamina, on the right.

Port of HaminaKotka also involved in the Pink Ribbon campaign

During the past autumn, Port of HaminaKotka Ltd has also supported the operations of Cancer Foundation Finland by giving a Pink Ribbon to all its personnel. The funds received through the Pink Ribbon campaign are used for supporting cancer research as well as free-of-charge counselling service intended for those with cancer and people close to them. The support provided by the Port of HaminaKotka has been allocated to regional activities to the Kymenlaakso Cancer Association.



Appointments



Ville Kuitunen (43), Master of Engineering, has been appointed Director, Traffic Operations of Port of HaminaKotka Ltd as of 16 December 2020 when Markku Koskinen will retire.

Ville Kuitunen will take on the new position from the duties of the Sales Manager of Port of HaminaKotka Ltd.



Antti Lallukka (38), Bachelor of Engineering, started as the Sales Manager of Port of HaminaKotka Ltd on 26 October 2020.

Before shifting to the Port of HaminaKotka, Antti Lallukka worked at DFDS Logistics Oy as Customer Service Manager for international trailer transport.



Pelastakaa Lapset

**WE SUPPORT
CHILDREN IN
FINLAND
DURING
CHRISTMAS
2020**

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year 2021

Port of HaminaKotka Ltd and
Kotkan Satamatalot Oy