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FLEXIBLE VESSELS,
SMARTER WATERWAYS

FINAL CONFERENCE

24 November 2026 | **A Poppa, Eilandkaai, Ghent**

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT

DISCOVER THE FULL AGENDA



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Opening session

09:00-10:00

09:00-09:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:30-09:40 Opening Words & Welcome
Rik van Klinken, KGT

09:40-09:50 Keynote speech
Susanne Lanzerstorfer, CINEA

09:50-10:00 Keynote speech
Alexander Hoffmann, DG MOVE European Commission

SESSION 1

10:00-10:45

How Do Small Autonomous Vessels Enable Modal Shift?

10:00-10:05 FOREMAST
Freight vOlumes transfer from Road to waterborne transport, using zeroEMission, Automated, Small, and flexible vessel (SFAZ) protoTypes
Georgia Tsiochantari, INLECOM

10:05-10:10 AUTOFLEX
Autonomous small and flexible vessels
Kristine Bruun Ludvigsen, SINTEF Ocean

10:10-10:30 JOINT USE CASE
Towards autonomous inland waterway logistics
Håvard Nordahl, SINTEF Ocean &Pauline Bernat, VLTN

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

ODD ERIK MØRKRID
MODERATOR

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SESSION 2

10:45-12:30

Autonomous Vessels in Action: Technology and Demonstrations

10:45-10:55	AUTOFLEX	Oskar 2.0: Towards a new standard for small inland cargo vessels **Dr. Igor Bačkalov, DST**
10:55-11:00	FOREMAST	Living Lab Ghent - From Concept to Reality: Autonomous Vessel Platooning **Prof. Evert Lataire, University of Ghent**
11:00-11:15	AUTOFLEX	Autonomy Stack and Full-Scale Demonstration on the Ghent–Terneuzen Canal **Øyvind Pedersen, Maritime Robotics**
11:15-11:35	FOREMAST	Digital Twins in Action: Enabling Smarter Waterborne Transport and Logistics **Antonis Antonopoulos, Konnecta**
11:35-11:50	AUTOFLEX	Virtual Maneuvering of Oskar 2.0: CFD-Based Hydrodynamic Modeling for Autonomous Inland Vessels **Krisztián Kiss-Nagy, Budapest University of Technology and Economics**
11:50-11:55	FOREMAST	Living Lab Caen - Advancing Safe Sustainable Urban Waterways with Remote and Autonomous Zero-Emission Navigation **Inna Alliot, NEAC Industry**
11:55-12:05	FOREMAST	Autonomous Navigation Validation Framework: Simulation of Secure and Interoperable Control Systems **Michal Smolana, ABB**
12:05-12:30		**Panel discussion with Slido Q&A**
12:30-13:30		Lunch

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ANTONIS ANTONOPOULOS Konnecta
MODERATOR

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SESSION 3

From Research to Market: Business Models, Policy & Standardisation

MURIEL ANDURAND Circoe
MODERATOR

13:30-15:00

13:30-13:45 AUTOFLEX	Business Case and Commercial Viability for Autonomous Inland Cargo Vessels **Cyril Alias, DST**
13:45-13:55 FOREMAST	From KERs to Market: Exploitation Pathways for FOREMAST Results **Javier Rivas, PNO**
13:55-14:05 AUTOFLEX	Regulatory Pathways and Standardisation for Autonomous CEMT Class II Vessels **Robert Grundmann, Fraunhofer CML**
14:05-14:15 FOREMAST	FlowScope, SFAZ Transferability Assessment Tool **Muriel Andurand, CIRCOÉ**
14:15-14:30 AUTOFLEX	Identifying deviations from the Operational Envelope during autonomous ship navigation **Konstantinos Louzis, NTUA**
14:30-15:00	**Panel discussion** • Benjamin Boyer, CCNR • Bart Van Rossen, Lalemant Shipping • Carl Verhamme, Catena • Patrick Potgraven, Rijkswaterstaat • Stefan Yzewyn, North Sea Port

Closing programme

15:00-19:00

15:00-15:30	Final Words by Project Coordinators & Wrap-Up
16:00-17:00	Swap box energy solution demonstration **PEL**
17:00-19:00	Networking cocktail

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