Invitation to workshop on harmonisation of maritime digital interfaces

BIMCO House, Copenhagen, 18-19 March, 2026

Digitalisation in the maritime industry is rapidly evolving and digital information exchanges between various stakeholders are becoming the norm. The maritime industry is international and multi-faceted, so information exchanges are often across country borders and between different segments of the industry. To efficiently continue the digitalisation process, a suitable level of international and cross-segment standardisation is required.

In 2023, several workshops were arranged to discuss the challenges related to the exchange of information between ships and shore, with the main emphasis on the maritime single window. The conclusions at that time were that no single standard could be identified for use at international level, but that it was extremely important to keep each other informed about developments and experiences. Such collaboration is essential for identifying a path for convergence to ensure a sustainable development in maritime digitalisation.

Since then, there has been further improvements in digital interfaces and standards, but sufficient harmonisation is still lacking. There are significant differences in approaches between the industry segments, as well as notable regional differences.

To provide a better picture of the status of standardisation and to emphasise the business value of accelerating digitalisation as well as encourage communication between the various stakeholders, the BIMCO, ITS Norway and the DYNAPORT project invite you to a **two-day workshop at BIMCO House in Copenhagen, on 18 and 19 March 2026**. On the evening before the workshop, 17 March, we will host an informal get-together dinner in central Copenhagen for those who wish to join. Please note that the dinner will be at participants' own expense.

The workshop will be divided into three parts. The first part will be a discussion on the importance of business value in driving adoption and harmonisation of maritime digitalization. For example, developments of machine-to-machine communication to automate administrative processes – as highlighted in the conclusions from the 2023 BIMCO workshop - needs more attention to accelerate progress. Without a strong push from shipowners, managers, the industry will not be able to sufficiently influence solution providers.

The second part will be a discussion on different approaches to digital information exchanges, including how the information payload is organised, what data models provide semantic meaning, and what transport mechanisms are used.

The third part will be a discussion on message authentication and identity management in the international maritime domain. This will be more oriented towards the requirements for the different types of entities to be identified, which identity registers to use and the governance of the identity registers.

The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop will be reported to the IMO Facilitation Committee for further consideration. If possible and agreed upon, the outcome will also be used as requirements for a new ISO standard for digital interfaces in the maritime sector.

The agenda will be circulated in due course ahead of the workshop. We will allocate time for short presentations, 5-7 minutes for each, followed by a moderated discussion on the various sub-topics.

The workshop will be by invitation only, but if anyone else is interested, they are encouraged to request an invitation from BIMCO. The meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, but in-person participation is encouraged to support a more productive and a higher quality discussion. Space is limited to 45 seats.

Further details will follow shortly. We look forward to seeing you in March.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (jsj@bimco.org)

On behalf of the organisers,

Kind regards

Jeppe Skovbakke Juhl

BIMCO