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New kind of river-seagoing vessel for the Amadeus fleet: “Amadeus Saffier” enhances HGK Shipping’s short-sea activities

Duisburg. Amadeus Schiffahrts- und Speditions GmbH, a subsidiary of HGK Shipping, is enhancing its charter fleet during the autumn of this year to now include the innovative river-going coastal vessel called “Amadeus Saffier”. The reasons to modernise the fleet include the high average age of the European short-sea fleet and the growing requirements for logistics operations triggered by the energy transition. At the beginning of October 2024, the “Amadeus Saffier” started its first journey from Antwerp to Gijon in Spain.

The vessel’s modern design is contributing to the necessary reduction in CO₂ emissions within the transport sector. Equipped with a diesel-electric, “future-fuel-ready“ drive system, the vessel can switch from the fuel that is currently used, sulphur-reduced marine gas oil (MGO), to alternative, more sustainable energy sources. The new vessel is also equipped with so-called VentoFoil, a wind-assisted propulsion system (WAPS). When combined with the adapted shape of the hull and an optimised propeller, this cuts up to 50 percent of emissions and is set to be able to achieve a level of energy efficiency that is up to 30 percent higher when compared to the existing international fleet.

An important element for greater sustainability

“Thanks to welcoming the ‘Amadeus Saffier’ into our fleet, we can offer our customers another important building block to provide a resource-saving supply chain. It enables us to implement a seamless, more environmentally-friendly transport solution both out at sea and along rivers. We’re consistently pursuing this development in conjunction with our long-standing partner, De Bock Maritiem B.V.,” says Wolfgang Nowak, the Managing Director of Amadeus Schiffahrts- und Speditions GmbH.

Amadeus is operating the vessel, which is owned by the shipping company De Bock Maritiem, as part of a long-term charter agreement. The operational areas for the vessel, which has been designed by Conoship and has a payload capacity of 3,500 tonnes (tdwcc), include bulk and break-bulk cargo on European short-sea routes in the North Sea and Baltic Sea as well as in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. Thanks to having a low draught

of just 5.00 metres when fully loaded, the vessel can also be used to handle the transition between the open sea and the river Rhine, the Albert Canal and other inland waterways.

“Commissioning the ‘Amadeus Saffier’ marks a new chapter for our company. We’re also continuing to espouse innovations and sustainability in shipping and are placing the partner-like cooperation with Amadeus on a broad footing,” says Gilbert de Bock, the Owner and General Manager of De Bock Maritiem B.V.

Steffen Bauer, the CEO of HGK Shipping, comments on the expansion of the fleet in the following way. “The renewal of the European short-sea fleet is indispensable in order to meet the growing demands on the part of customers for modern transport logistics operations. The ‘Amadeus Saffier’ is an excellent example of a future-orientated, efficient fleet, which offers persuasive arguments both at sea and along inland waterways.”

Notes on the attached photos:

1. The “Amadeus Saffier” is enhancing the charter fleet of HGK Shipping subsidiary Amadeus.
2. Thanks to its wind-assisted propulsion system, the so-called VentoFoil, the emissions of this river-seagoing vessel are reduced.

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About the HGK Group:

Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG (HGK) is the logistics company within the City of Cologne’s public utilities group. Formerly just a port operator, HGK has developed into a group that provides integrated transport and logistics services with operations across Europe. Structured in five divisions, Logistics & Intermodal, Shipping, Rail Operations, Infrastructure & Maintenance and Real Estate, the HGK Group operates the largest inland waterway port network in Germany, one of the largest private railway companies for transporting cargo, specialist logistics firms and terminals as well as its own railway network and workshops for railway goods traffic through its subsidiaries and holding companies. HGK Shipping GmbH is the largest inland waterway shipping company in Europe.

About the HGK Shipping division:

HGK Shipping is part of Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG. Its fleet comprises about 350 vessels, including owner-operated ships. The spectrum of goods transported ranges from liquid chemical products and liquefied gases to dry goods and even break-bulk cargo.