Roundtable theme: ETHICAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OVERSIGHT

Main horizontal ethical principle considering all transport modes is respect for human rights. Ships equipped with autonomous systems should have equivalent or better safety level compared to conventional operations of vessels. Life, property and environment should be safeguarded but the primary trigger for automation is do no harm. Thus, navigation and situational awareness are crucial for ethics. Traffic safety should be ensured by design in all operations, processes, products and algorithms. It should be prohibited to make any distinctions based on personal features in the case of unavoidable accident.

There are several tools to implement ethical principles: legislation, guidelines, safety requirements, testing, validation, certification and oversight, transparency, safety culture, certificates.

There are ethical concerns replacing humans by AI during emergency situations. How to prioritise human life, environment or other aspects? Some sort of AI creator to justify the results. If AI is controlling autonomous vehicles: who is legally responsible? How to value human life as implicit and environmental protection? What kind of test results and studies are available to support the development of legal requirements and oversight in this context? Examples of development and outcome of testing, demonstrations or simulator testing that may facilitate development of legislation?

There should always be a human override. How to enable transparency and explainability to legislators and other third parties and traceability in case of accident? The intention is not to reveal business secrets.

What should be the ethical basis of AI in the context of MASS and could we learn something from other sectors or transport modes?

What should be the role of legislation and soft law when establishing the ethical basis of AI for MASS?