

# IVR Congress

Lyon | 19-21 May 2026



*"Connected Across Boundaries: The Next Wave of Innovation"*



**Anneke Kooiman**

13:30 - 13:35

Official opening of the workshop by the president of IVR.



**Eloi Flipo | Voies navigables de France**

13:35 - 14:05

Modal shift on inland waterways in France: situation and forecasts, including the new Seine North Europe canal under construction

Inland Waterways offer significant potential to reduce cargo transportation carbon print in France. Some results are already to be seen, but many actions still need to be taken, including inland ports new management entities, large promotion actions, modal shift incentive schemes and on top of that, the construction of the new Seine north Europe canal to be delivered at the beginning of the next decade.



**Laurens van Wesep | Optimorrow**

14:05 - 15:00

Navigating the Future: Why AI Needs a Human Captain

In the world of inland shipping, success is defined by finding the most efficient route and managing a complex flow of information. During this keynote, Laurens van Wesep takes you into the fascinating world of AI, showing you how to use this technology as a powerful engine for your daily operations—whether you are at the helm or managing the logistics from the shore.

Even more importantly, he demonstrates why your human expertise remains the essential compass in this digital transformation. Prepare for an interactive session filled with practical applications, where you and your colleagues will discover how to navigate the many possibilities of AI and keep your organization moving forward in a rapidly changing landscape.



**Coffee break | 15:00 - 15:30**

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## "Connected Across Boundaries: The Next Wave of Innovation"



**Mark Broekhuisen | Van Traa Advocaten**  
Biofuels: a Blend of Legal Issues

15:30 - 16:00

The growing use of biofuels in inland shipping is reshaping the industry, but not without legal and technical challenges. Questions around fuel quality, safety and engine compatibility are becoming increasingly relevant. When things go wrong, who bears the risk? This presentation offers a practical legal overview of liability and claims related to biofuel use, highlighting the key positions of shipowners, bunker suppliers, charterers and insurers.



**Alexandre Tuytens | Dutch Barging Services BV**  
Risk Mitigation for All Involved Parties During Emergency Response

16:00 - 16:30

My name is Alexandre Tuytens, and I have spent the last 20 years in the industry, currently serving as the Managing Director of Dutch Barging Services BV and as an owner of tanker barges. Throughout my journey, I have always prioritized safety, operational excellence, and innovation. I also own Shevanti BV, a firm dedicated to providing safety advice for inland tanker barges, shippers, owners and operators. I am passionate about enhancing safety standards to protect both personnel and assets. Today, I will be discussing "Risk Mitigation for All Involved Parties During Emergency Response." My aim is to share practical insights on effectively managing risks in critical situations, ensuring that we safeguard lives and maintain our organizational integrity.



**Ray Berkhout & Nancy Scheijven | Seafar**  
Beyond the Wheelhouse: Who Is Really in Control?

16:30 - 17:00

When navigation is no longer confined to the wheelhouse, the question of control becomes less obvious — and far more relevant. Remote operations are already part of daily practice in inland shipping, yet they continue to be treated as exceptions. This creates a growing gap between operational reality and the frameworks designed to govern it. In this session, Ray Berkhout (former CEO of DARI) and Nancy Scheijven (Strategic Consultant at Seafar) will engage in a candid dialogue from both the user and provider perspective. Drawing on real-world experience — including the development and use of an in-house Remote Operations Centre in Dordrecht — they will explore how remote navigation actually works in practice, and why companies are making the shift.

But the conversation goes further. What does "being in control" really mean when navigation is partially shifted ashore? How are responsibilities divided between ship and shore? And do current regulatory and liability frameworks still reflect how operations are truly conducted? By bringing together the perspectives of DARI and Seafar, this session challenges existing assumptions and invites the sector to rethink how remote operations can move from controlled experiments to a credible, scalable standard.



**Frouwke de Vries | IVR**

17:00 - 17:05

Secretary General of IVR Frouwke de Vries will give the final closing remarks of the workshop.

