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Arkas Line Supports UN's Global Call: *"Business Call to Action"*

Arkas Line has strengthened its sustainability and environmental responsibility efforts and signed the "Business Call to Action for Our Oceans" declaration launched at the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC).

Oceans carry 80% of the world's trade and provide livelihoods for more than 3 billion people. Therefore, protecting marine ecosystems and preventing pollution is crucial for both environmental and economic sustainability. With this awareness, Arkas Line is committed to investing in long-term environmental projects and playing an active role on a global scale. Signed on June 8, 2025, this call aims to protect at least 30% of the oceans by 2030 and to increase business support for sustainable development goals such as Life Below Water (SDG14) and Life on Land (SDG15).

This step once again demonstrates Arkas Line's commitment to the environment and its vision of a sustainable future.

news from us

We are happy to share the latest developments in our sustainability projects and our journey toward decarbonization in every issue.

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World Bank Research on “Women and Decarbonization in the Maritime Sector” Concludes



The international workshop on “Women and Decarbonization in Maritime: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Recommendations”, organized by the World Bank with support from PROBLUE, was successfully held in Istanbul on June 23.

This year–long research aimed to identify the barriers women face in the maritime sector, highlight participation opportunities, and develop policy and institutional transformation recommendations.

At Arkas Line, we are proud to have contributed to this important initiative through one–on–one interviews, focus group studies, and active participation in the workshops conducted by the World Bank.

The study comprehensively addressed issues such as women’s underrepresentation in the industry, legal and cultural barriers, workplace safety, and unequal access to education. It also highlighted the opportunities presented by the green transition, the importance of female leadership, and the need for inclusive policies developed through public–private collaboration.

Arkas Line was represented in the two workshops held on May 16 and June 23 by Afag Genc (General Manager, Arkas Shipping), Serra Tükel (Director of Sustainability, Arkas Maritime Group), and Çiğdem Çapa (Senior HR Manager, Arkas Line).

Gender equality and sustainability are not just goals—they are a shared vision for the future for Arkas.

Only together can we shape what lies ahead. We are proud to be a part of this important research on women empowerment in the maritime industry.



Green Office Award System: We Accomplished Sustainability Together



Arkas Line launched the Green Office Award System with the “Blue for Green” initiative to promote sustainable lifestyles and raise environmental awareness throughout 2024. In this context, a comprehensive project and reward system was implemented that both evaluates the sustainability performance of offices and encourages individual contributions.

As part of the system implemented across all Arkas Line offices, both in Turkey and abroad, the ESG status of each location was evaluated through a comprehensive 41-question survey. In addition, the carbon footprint of each office was calculated based on electricity and water consumption data. As a result of these year-long measurements, Arkas Russia was awarded the title of Green Office of the Year 2024 with the highest score on ESG development and energy efficiency.

The project was not limited to office practices; for the individual contributions of employees ecopoints system was also implemented.

Using Ecording App sustainable behaviors were recorded on the application, and our employees collected a total of 17,223,695 ecopoints and prevented the emission of approximately 18,315,869 grams of CO₂. Employees who reached 20,000 ecopoints were presented with specially designed tote bags and thermoses with the “Blue for Green” logo. The top 10 employees who collected the most ecopoints, had the chance to win electric bicycles, iPad, Apple Watch and gift cards from brands such as Amazon and Patagonia.

At the end of all these efforts, the Arkas Russia office was selected as the Green Office of 2024 and the 10 employees who received awards were presented their prizes at a ceremony held on June 16th at the Arkas Matthey’s Mansion in Izmir. The event included a guided tour of the Carpet Exhibition, followed by the presentation of the awards to the competition winners in the presence of Arkas Shipping’s Executive Board members and management. The ceremony turned into a meaningful and inspiring gathering that reinforced Arkas Line’s sustainability vision.



Arkas Line Supports UN’s Global Call: “Business Call to Action”



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UN Global Compact Panel: Nature-Aligned Business Models for Biodiversity



United Nations
Global Compact

As part of World Environment Day, an online webinar titled “Nature-Aligned Business Models for Biodiversity” was organized by UN Global Compact Turkey on Tuesday, June 3. In the webinar, examples of good practices from different sectors were shared, and the diversity and applicability of nature compatible business models were demonstrated.

The webinar started with the opening message of UN Global Compact Turkey Chairman Ahmet Dördüncü and the speech by Sylvie Josel from UN Global Compact and continued with the information shared by Ayşe Mine Doğan from WWF-Turkey on the relationship between nature and business. She gave information about TNFD and SBTi-Nature, framework tools that support companies in this area.

In the panel section, Serra Tukul, Arkas Maritime Group Sustainability Director, Linda Strindevall, Environment and Climate Change Manager at OX2, a Swedish company operating in the field of renewable energy, and Una Meriläinen, Sustainability Manager for Nature and Biodiversity at Huhtamaki, a Finnish sustainable packaging industry leader, shared their best practices and experiences on nature-compatible business models.

As Arkas Line, we aim to make a positive contribution to society, nature and our seas through cooperation with NGOs such as TURMEPA and the Marine Life Conservation Society (DYKD), while improving the importance we attach to the protection of the seas and marine biodiversity year by year with our greenhouse gas emission reduction projects, ship modifications and biofuel use.

Arkas Line's Meaningful Contribution to Earth Day



Arkas Line contributed to environmental sustainability in cooperation with Ecording for Earth Day on April 22nd.

A total of 1,700 seed balls were delivered to specific areas in Muğla by ecoDrone technology on behalf of each employee. The seeds, consisting of Red Pine and Larch species, will be used for the ecological restoration of approximately 213 square meters of land, and are expected to reduce 61 tons of carbon emissions over 40 years. This meaningful step is an indication of Arkas Line's respect for nature and the future. Another important aspect of the project is that the seed balls, which are planted in hard-to-reach areas, are produced by women living in rural areas most affected by the climate crisis. In this way, both environmental and social benefits are created, protecting nature and supporting women's labor.

Earth Day is an important day of awareness that first came to the agenda at the UNESCO Earth Conference in 1969 and started to be celebrated on a global scale since the 1970s. Celebrated in nearly 200 countries every year with various activities, this day aims to draw attention to environmental pollution, global warming, and depletion of natural resources. In 2016, the Paris Climate Agreement was signed on this special date, making Earth Day a historic turning point in the climate struggle.

This step we have taken on Earth Day is a strong part of our goal to green not only today but also tomorrow. We believe that a system that values both the environment and people is possible, and we emphasize that sustainability is not just a goal, but a collective responsibility.

Collaboration Between Vocational High School and Poland within the scope of the H.U.G. Talent Program for Students



Arkas Line supported the Erasmus+ cooperation between Arkas Narlıdere Vocational High School and Zespół Szkół Technicznych Nr 1 in Chorzów, Poland, by providing sectoral knowledge and expertise as part of the H.U.G. Exploring module developed for high school students under the H.U.G. Talent Program.

As part of this meaningful collaboration, 13 students aged 15–17 and 2 accompanying teachers from Poland visited İzmir, where they had the opportunity to observe the maritime industry firsthand.

Thanks to this collaboration:

- We introduced students to the maritime sector at an early age,
- Broadened their horizons through international engagement,
- And created an inclusive learning environment for future professionals who will bring value to the industry.

This international project raised awareness about the maritime industry not only among students from Arkas Narlıdere Vocational High School but also among participants from Poland.

The visit also served as a meaningful opportunity to foster intercultural connections. With the participation of our Human Resources Director, Ms. Senem Susuzlu, and our Chief Business Strategy Officer, Mr. Ozan Taylan Uzel, the experience became truly inspiring for the students.

“Sustainable Shipping and Ports in Turkey” Workshop Held in Ankara



Turkey's low-carbon transformation in maritime transport and port infrastructure was comprehensively discussed at the “Sustainable Shipping and Ports in Turkey Final Workshop” held in Ankara on Friday, May 30, 2025. At the event, which was held with the support of the World Bank's PROBLUE program, the roadmap that will guide the decarbonization process was presented to the public.

Many stakeholders from public institutions to the private sector, international organizations and civil society representatives shared their knowledge and experiences on the production, distribution and integration of alternative marine fuels into systems.

Opening speeches were delivered by Humberto Lopez, World Bank Country Director for Turkey; Tamer Kiran, Chairman of the Board of Directors of IMEAK Chamber of Shipping; Maria Louisa Wyganowski, Head of Cooperation Department at the EU Delegation to Turkey; Öztürk Selvitop, Director General of Foreign Relations at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources; and Durmuş Ünüvar, Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure.

Digitalization & Blockchain in Sustainability



Ship digital logging systems (E-log, IoT) are becoming widespread in the US, Turkey and the EU. A study published in Arxiv reveals that digital systems will be useful in monitoring environmental regulations under MARPOL.

Emission data measured by IoT sensors can be stored in a decentralized, immutable way with blockchain technology. Compliance violations are automatically reported to the relevant authorities. This system reduces human error and enables fast and transparent regulatory interventions.

The Future of Carbon-Free Shipping Ammonia

Finnish engineering firm Wärtsilä is positioning ammonia, a bonded form of hydrogen, as a zero-carbon marine fuel. The first application of this fuel, which will start on offshore service vessels in 2026, has a high energy density and relatively low storage costs. Since ammonia is structurally toxic, advanced safety infrastructures are being developed in both fuel supply and exhaust processing systems.

Methanol, an alternative marine fuel, can offer carbon emission reductions of up to 95% when produced from waste or renewable sources. By developing methanol systems that can be integrated into existing engines, Wärtsilä is contributing to the widespread use of this fuel in maritime transportation. While fossil-based production is still dominant, investments in green methanol are increasing.

The solutions developed by Wärtsilä include carbon pricing, hybrid engines, green fuels, and digital synchronization. If all these components can be implemented effectively, up to 95% of carbon emission reductions in maritime transport will be possible.

Wärtsilä CEO Håkan Agnevall emphasizes the importance of collaboration for this fundamental change. He emphasizes that no single actor can be sufficient in this process; shipyards, fuel suppliers, shipowners and technology companies must act together.



Net Zero Movement from IMO: New Rules on the Way

At IMO's MEPC 83 meeting, held on April 7-11, 2025, legal and global regulations were approved to support maritime transport to reach the net zero target.

The binding IMO Net Zero Framework was adopted for the first time, while the Global Fuel Intensity Standard (GFI) for ships over 5,000 GT will enter into force by 2028.

Under the Data Collection System (DCS) framework, non-anonymized data will be shared with parties, while anonymized data will be made public, ensuring greater transparency. In addition, the first reporting of the IMO Net Zero Fund, created to provide incentives for low-emission ships and R&D support, will be made on January 1, 2028.

In line with the CII Amendments, it is aimed to reduce CO2 emissions from ships by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 2008. On the other hand, the regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage systems on ships has been launched and is planned to be completed by 2028. Finally, within the scope of the Marine Plastic Litter Action Plan, a new roadmap to reduce the environmental risks of ship-source plastic waste was also approved as well.



In every issue, we bring you the latest news from Arkas Line, the sustainability journey of the maritime industry, and innovative, inspiring projects from around the world.

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