

# Abstract

## (Session 2) Port Innovation & Sustainability

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### A Greener Future Requires a Cooperative Approach

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A greener future requires a cooperative approach

As global gateways of trade and industry, ports are at the frontline of some of the most pressing challenges of our time: climate change, digital transformation, and geopolitical uncertainty. The path to a greener, more resilient future does not lie in isolated action - but in global cooperation.

Jens Meier advocates for a deeply cooperative approach among ports, supply chain actors, and policy- makers to accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality and digital readiness. From cybersecurity to hydrogen infrastructure, from green corridors to interoperable digital systems - the complexity of today's challenges demands a shared strategic mindset and coordinated action across borders and sectors.

Port authorities must not only decarbonize their own operations, but also take on a leadership role in shaping the conditions for scalable, sustainable energy solutions. Whether it's building shore power capacity, facilitating green fuels, or ensuring data security, the technological foundations of the future port must be designed with openness, resilience, and compatibility in mind.

But technology alone will not get us there. A greener future requires trust, alignment, and commitment

- from large global hubs to smaller regional players. It means actively sharing knowledge, harmonizing standards, and building long-term partnerships. In a global network where the slowest link can determine the pace of change, true progress depends on solidarity.

Drawing on the experience of the Port of Hamburg and its international partners, this session will offer practical insights into what cooperative climate and innovation strategies can look like—and how ports can move from ambition to action through collaboration.