International shipping emissions contribute to global climate heating and Arctic sea ice melting

Over 1 billion tonnes CO₂e per year = about 3% of global annual CO₂ emissions come from shipping.

If shipping was a country it would be the 6th biggest emitter of CO₂e

The Paris Agreement requires parties to reduce all emissions ‘economy-wide’ - shipping is not excluded. To limit heating to 1.5°C, shipping must increase efficiency by 7% annually and 77% by 2030, compared to 2008.

IMO’s greenhouse gas strategy requires international shipping to reduce emissions by at least 50% by 2050 while pursuing efforts towards phasing them out as soon as possible. It is not ambitious enough.

The current IMO proposal for urgent short-term measures could see shipping’s already high emissions rise by as much as 16% by 2030.

Action needed urgently:
(1) align IMO ambition with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C goal,
(2) reduce black carbon emissions from ships, especially those in or near the Arctic,
(3) maximise the energy efficiency of existing ships.

To protect the last of the Arctic summer sea ice, IMO must adopt reduction measures to set the maritime sector’s emissions on a pathway compatible with the Paris Agreement’s goal of keeping warming below 1.5°C.

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