



Norway Offers a Passport to Friluftsliv

Friluftsliv, translated as “open air living”, is the Norwegian way of outdoor recreation and an important part of the Norwegian cultural legacy. Friluftsliv means spending time outside and experiencing nature first-hand.

People who spend time in Norway's mountains, fjords and forests develop a greater understanding of interactions between species and the ecological balance, with the possibility of recreation, rejuvenation and the benefits of increased physical activity and reduced stress levels.

Friluftsliv is a big part of Norwegians' every-day life; it's what they seek on their days off, weekends and vacations.

The word Friluftsliv was first introduced in print by Norwegian playwright [Henrik Ibsen](#) in 1859. Allemannsretten “the right to access” plays an important role in how Friluftsliv has evolved in Norway. Allemannsretten “directly translated “all man's right” gives everyone in Norway a wide-ranging right of access to the countryside, originally a traditional right but since 1957 set out in the legislation through the [Outdoor Recreation act](#).

Surrounded by the magnificent nature of the Norwegian mountains, fjords and forests, the spellbinding natural phenomenon of the midnight sun and the [Aurora Borealis](#) (the Northern lights), it is no wonder that Norwegians have always been mesmerized by and drawn to nature.

By following the links you will find lots of background information, as well as suggestions as to how you can experience the Norwegian Friluftsliv first hand. [Passport to Friluftsliv](#)



Nancy Bundt Innovation Norway



Nancy Bundt Innovation Norway



Pål Bugge Innovation Norway



Nancy Bundt Innovation Norway

Norway Comments on U.S. Commitment to an Open Investment Environment

In a comment to the proposal for regulations of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), the Ministry of Finance welcomes the U.S. commitment to an open investment environment. The Ministry also highlights the importance

of reassuring foreign investors that there are clear lines of responsibilities between the Executive and the Legislative Branch, and that the framework for foreign investments in the U.S. is clear and predictable.

[The letter is available here](#) 9 June 08



Chamber Happenings Around the Country

Greater Seattle Chapter

(Top left) The 2008-2009 Leif Eie Scholarship was awarded to Anders Isaksen from Lake Stevens, WA. The scholarship is intended to promote the education of students in the ideals of the NACC, to encourage and support the enhancement of trade, commerce, and other professional relations between Norway, Washington State, and the Pacific Northwest. In addition, the scholarship is intended to promote the cultural ties between Norway and the United States of America. Congratulations to Anders!

Southwest ~ Houston Chapter

Annual Offshore Technology
Conference Houston 2008

(Top right) Pictured at NACC's May 6 luncheon in connection with OTC are (from left) Consul General Houston, Lasse Seim; Southwest Chapter President, John Welch; State Secretary Liv Monica Stubholt, OED; Keynote Speaker Tore Halvorsen, FMC Technologies. Mr. Halvorsen spoke on "Subsea Processing and the Importance of the North Sea Link for Global Technology Development". 130 guests attended the luncheon; the annual NACC-OTC dinner on Wednesday, May 7, attracted over 600 guests

New York

H.E. Wegger Chr. Strømme, Ambassador of Norway to the USA, joined NACC for dinner at New York's Harvard Club. Amb. Strømme (*center, right*) is pictured with Blaine Collins, DNV, and Gail Downing Karlshoej. He is pictured (*opposite*) with NACC President Larry Rutkowski. Amb. Strømme discussed "Norway and the US in the 21st Century: Closer Ties Through Business Collaboration."



Around the Country

Southeast Miami

NSC & NACC members and guests enjoyed the ambience of a very nice evening at La Palma Bar & Restaurant. For the important business element of the meeting, Erik Andersen informed of the plans for the upcoming NSC & NACC's 25th Anniversary which we hope will draw all our members.

"Miami veterans" and long time members of NSC & NACC Lasse Moe (second from left) and Hjørdis Dahl enjoying a moment with Roy Strand, (left) visiting from Boston, and Jonny Hansen visiting from Norway. And yes; Lasse won a bottle of Linie Aquavit!

Miami's major event this year will be the 25th anniversary on October 25! A committee is busy working to make this anniversary celebration to be held at Grove Isle Hotel and Spa in Coral Gables a real Birthday Party for everyone to enjoy. Ambassador Wegger Chr Strommen will join us.

Letters including information on sponsorship options have been sent out to members. If you would like to sponsor this event and have not received the information, please contact Eli Compton 305 817 5645 / ecompton@med.miami.edu More information and invitations will be sent out

Brooklyn

Representing the Midwest Chicago Chapter and, indeed, the midwest Norwegian-American Community at large, Evy Alsaker met up with Inger Tallaksen for the Annual Seventeenth of May Parade in Bay Ridge. Rainy weather notwithstanding, floats and marchers stepped off as planned for another colorful, musical celebration of Norwegian culture.

Worth noting: Twenty years ago, the late Erik J. Friis wrote a scholarly essay exploring the spirit underlying Norwegians' joyous celebration of Constitution Day. You can read the essay here. (17th of May Parade Committee) [The Spirit of the Seventeenth of May](#)



Oslo rates a place among the world's best in biotech

Genome Technology Magazine has named Oslo as one of the global hot-spots in Biotechnology, along side such heavyweights as Boston and San Francisco.

"It's certainly not the biggest biotech cluster, but the efforts to cement a biotech segment here in Norway are impressive," reads the review of Oslo and Norway. Oslo Cancer Cluster, established in 2006 as

a Norwegian Center of Expertise, also received special mention for its high number of clinical projects in the pipeline.

The report makes no attempt to rank the cities, as they are "simply too different to compare." The regions were judged on "significant effort put into luring the biotech industry or encouraging biomedical research." [Oslo Technopole](#)

Flagship Inc. Signs Joint Marketing Agreement with GAT-Ship AS, Porsgrunn

GAT-Ship AS, based in Porsgrunn, Norway and Flagship Inc, Maryland, USA have announced a partnership in which Flagship has become the agent for GAT-Ship's Port Call System in the US and Canada.

GAT-Ship AS will also develop a link from their system to Flagship's SHIPS*AMS Service allowing their users, worldwide, to submit their manifest data to the US and Canadian Customs directly from the Port Call System.

Lasse V. Syversen, CEO and President of Flagship remarks that GAT-Ship Port Call is a state-of-the-art ship agent system based on the latest technology. It will become a



Maryanne Kirkemoen Slette, CEO and President of GAT-Ship AS, based in Porsgrunn, Norway signs agreement with Lasse V. Syversen, CEO and President of Flagship by Bloksberg Inc

major front end system to the Flagship family of products. The GAT-Ship team comprises a perfect combination of shipping expertise and top technical skills.

The crew has broad experience in organization and leadership, information technology, quality assurance, logistics, international Shipping, Ship Agency procedures for tramp-, tank- and cruise- vessels.

[GAT-Ship](#) [Flagship](#)

Senior Management Changes in Wilh. Wilhelmsen Group

Tor Øiseth, President of Wilhelmsen Ships Equipment, has been appointed President of Wilhelmsen Marine Engineering, succeeding Lars Marcusson. Peter Stockley, Managing Director of Wilhelmsen Marine Systems, has been appointed President of Wilhelmsen Ships Equipment, succeeding Tor Øiseth.

Wilhelmsen Marine Engineering is the result of Wilhelmsen Maritime Services' recent acquisition of the Callenberg Group.

Bulging order books

"Tor Øiseth and Peter Stockley have solid experience and track records in this part of the industry and have been working closely together for years. Their combined experience gives us a very good opportunity to create synergies between the two business areas. The market is booming, capacity is stretched and order books are increasing by the day," says Dag Schjerven, President and CEO of Wilhelmsen Maritime Services.

Lars Marcusson has headed the Callenberg Group for the last 12 years and has delivered solid results. He wishes to step down as President and continue as a member of the Wilhelmsen Marine Engineering management team, focusing on business development.

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Wilh. Wilhelmsen ASA will present the results for second quarter 2008 to analysts, investors and media on Friday 1 August 2008 at 08.00 (CET) at the premises of the company, Strandveien 20, 1366 Lysaker. A live web cast will start at approx. 08.00 (CET). The presentation will end with a Q&A session and it will be possible to ask questions via webcast. The presentation material will simultaneously be made available on [WW Internet](#).

Schat-Harding Strengthens Miami Area Service Support

Leading lifeboat and davit manufacturer Schat-Harding has strengthened its support for cruise ship operators in the Miami area by opening a service base in Fort Lauderdale.

The new offices, service base and workshops will be within the facilities of Worldwide Marine Services, the global ship technical support group, and Schat-Harding will train and authorise Worldwide Marine technicians to support its own service engineers.

The base will provide quick reaction service and repair support to cruise ship operators and also to ships of any type calling at ports across the Miami region, especially those of owners with Fleet Service Agreements with the Schat-Harding group.

David Bradley, Executive Vice-president of Schat-Harding's service division says, "Many major owners now have five year Fleet Service Agreements with us, and we are keen to ensure that manufacturer-trained and authorised service personnel and spare parts are available to them when they need them, where they need them.

Schat-Harding's Service Division now has Americas service bases in Virginia, Florida and Louisiana in the USA and also in Canada, Mexico and Panama. Globally it has over 300 personnel including 165 trained and authorised service engineers working out of 17 Schat-Harding owned service stations, supported by 15 certified service partners operating in over 30 countries.

[Marine Norway](#)

*To explore opportunities in the vibrant Norwegian American Business Community,
Look to the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce*

www.naccusa.org

AmCham ~ American Chamber of Commerce in Norway



AmCham Directors attending recent annual meeting. From left: André Demarest, Jan Grønbaach, Radek Caís, Gunnar Rødal (Chairman), Michael Klem, Edward Canuel, Ambassador Benson K. Whitney, Mark MacLeod, Tim Keane. Susan McDonald Bekkmo, Lars Petter Ørving, Øystein Rød and Rolf Røding. [Complete list of directors](#)

The recent Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Norway was distinguished by informative and expertly delivered presentations:

- ◆ Dr. Jan-Olaf Willums, CEO, Think Global AS spoke on “Transatlantic Partnerships - a way to meet the climate challenge of sustainable mobility.”
- ◆ Mr. Jens Ultveit-Moe, Founder & CEO, Umoe AS, addressed issues

currently affecting business for AmCham members

- ◆ US Ambassador Benson K. Whitney summarized the evening's presentations and emphasized the lasting and deep-rooted ties between Norway and the United States.

You will find the presentations interesting and useful, and you can view them by clicking on WEB TV at the [AmCham website](#).

Free Video Calls to Iraq

TANDBERG Teams up with the Freedom Calls Foundation to connect troops and families

In honor of July 4th and the sacrifices made by the men and women of the U.S. military, [TANDBERG](#) and the Freedom Calls Foundation offered their video conferencing networks to military families nationwide.

Through private, 30-minute video conferencing calls, family and friends of military personnel deployed in Iraq communicated face-to-face with troops located at one of five military installations in Iraq.

“TANDBERG is pleased, with our video communications tools, to bring a little piece of home to our soldiers overseas,” said Rick Snyder, President of TANDBERG, Americas.

[Marketwire](#)

Kongsberg Contract with US Army



KONGSBERG has booked an order valued at MNOK 585 from the US Army. The order is part of the 8 billion NOK Common Remotely Operated Weapon Stations (CROWS) framework agreement signed in 2007.

CROWS is a joint acquisition program for weapon stations for the US Army's vehicle programs. A common solution will result in substantial efficiency gains in protection, training, support and further development. [Kongsberg](#)

DNV Retains Number One Position

For the second year running, DNV was evaluated as top of the class in terms of port state control inspection results according to figures to be released by the Paris MoU port state regime in July.

“This is really recognition of our shipowners, because it is the shipowners' vessels that are not detained, not DNV's vessels,” said Per Wiggo Richardsen, communication manager for DNV Maritime.



“But we are, of course, proud of the results that DNV surveyors and DNV systems achieve. Quality all through the value chain is the main target for DNV. Based on that we are pleased to see ourselves ranked as the number one classification society,” added Mr Richardsen.

The Paris MoU covers all European ports and ranks performance on a similar basis to the way in which it rates flag states. Its data is based on port state control findings over the past three years and is regarded as a neutral and reliable indication of vessel (and class society) performance. The number of inspected ships has been increasing steadily over the years with more than 13,000 ships inspected annually.

“The ratings are not solely a matter of prestige for classification societies and flags concerned, as they are taken into account when the Paris MoU decides which ships it will target for port state control inspection. This can be an obvious inconvenience to vessel operators,” commented Mr Richardsen.

[Marine Norway](#)

Norway to Chair European Forest Policy

Climate, energy and water will be the focus areas of Europe's key forest co-operation and collaboration process, which Norway is going to chair for the next four years. Norway's Forestry Minister, Lars Peder Brekk, has taken over as Europe's new "forest guardian".

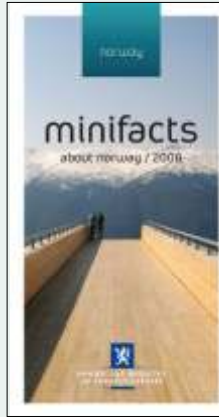
[Press release from the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe \(MCPFE\)](#)

A new Secretariat office has been established in Norway. The meeting of the member states held recently in Oslo settled the work program. High-priority topics are the elaboration of principles for sustainable production of bio-energy and biofuel from forests, to enhance the role of forests in mitigating climate change, and in securing water supplies and protecting against drought and flood

New Consulate General in Guanzhou

Minister of the Environment and International Development Erik Solheim has opened the new Norwegian consulate general in Guangzhou, and met the political leadership of southern China to discuss opportunities for closer cooperation with Norway. The new consulate general is to provide guidance for Norwegian interests in southern China, a region of great economic, political and cultural importance." regjeringen.no

International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity May 2008 NOK Million	
Official reserves assets	288 403
Foreign exchange reserves	285 360
Foreign currency reserves	236 404
Other reserve assets	48 956
IMF reserves position	1 067
Special drawing rights	1 976
23 Jun 08 Statistics Norway/	



Minifacts about Norway 2008

This excellent summary of facts and figures about Norway, updated for 2008, is now available online at Statistics

Norway. Following the links below will take you directly to chapters of interest to you.

1. [Government and elected representatives](#)
2. [Geography, climate and environment](#)
3. [Demographics, health and crime](#)
4. [Living conditions and consumption](#)
5. [Work and pay](#)
6. [Care services and social welfare](#)
7. [Education](#)
8. [Media and culture](#)
9. [Tourism and transportation](#)
10. [Industries](#)
11. [Energy](#)
12. [Economy](#)
13. [Norway abroad](#)
14. [Development cooperation](#)
15. [Foreign trade](#)
16. [Official flag days and public holidays in Norway](#)

DFDS Bergen~Tyne Ferry Service Scuppered

Rising fuel prices, increased air travel for passengers, and containerized cargo for trade have led to the demise of the DFDS sea link between England and Norway, according to a top northern businessman.

The news was met with surprise and disappointment at both ends of the route ... long popular with both Norwegian and English students and holiday-makers.

According to the Northeast Chamber of Commerce (UK), the service, to end as of September 2008, is simply a victim of changed times.

[BBC Video 1](#) [BBC Video 2](#)

OSG and Sealand Form Suezmax International Commercial Pool

Overseas Shipholding Group, Inc. has formed Suezmax International, a commercial pool of initially four Suezmax tankers, with Sealand Shipping Management B.V., a privately held shipping company based in Amsterdam.

On completion of their current charters, the *Overseas Newcastle*, *Overseas London*, *Elisewin* and *Genmar Hope* will begin trading in the pool. In addition, seven newbuild Suezmax tankers are expected to join the pool. Four 156,000 dwt sister ships under construction at Jiangsu Rongsheng Heavy Industries Group in Nantong, China are expected to deliver commencing in 2009, two chartered-in by OSG and two by Sealand.

Sealand has also ordered three 165,000 dwt sister ships at Hyundai Heavy Industries, South Korea, that are expected to deliver in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2011.

Suezmax International will be managed by Elodie Magere from OSG New York. The chartering manager for Europe will be Andrea Vaccari, working from Sealand's office in Amsterdam [OSG](#)

Facts 2008 Norwegian Petroleum Sector

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate and the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy launch

"Facts 2008 - The Norwegian Petroleum Sector."

The remarkably comprehensive publication provides an overview of all relevant information regarding the Norwegian continental shelf.

[Download the full version document \(pdf\)](#)

[Read Facts 2008 on screen](#)

[Order publication in print](#)





**Transatlantic Science Week 2008:
'Health - Energy - Global Impact'
October 19-23, 2008
Ottawa and Washington, D.C.**



Invitation

The Royal Norwegian Embassies in Ottawa and Washington, DC are pleased to invite you to Science Week 2008 – an event in collaboration with US and Canadian institutions, The Research Council of Norway, Innovation Norway and the Carnegie Institution for Science.

The Transatlantic Science Week is a meeting place for cooperation in research, innovation and higher education. Research frontiers are international, and collaborative networks are essential in finding solutions to global challenges.

This 7th Science Week takes us to Ottawa and Washington DC, with top speakers, young contributors and a Kavli prize lecture. You may participate in all or some of the events!

The themes are:

- ◆ Health - from research frontiers to innovation and global health

- ◆ Energy - for a sustainable future
- ◆ The Arctic - climate, resources and environment – the IPY legacy
- ◆ Global Impact - through transatlantic and multilateral cooperation

Program details, Speaker updates, Venue and Hotel info - and Registration: www.norway.org/restech/scienceweek

Contact and questions to:

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Carnegie Institution for Science: Sharon Bassin, sbassin@ciw.edu

Norway to Participate in New Oil Summit



Newly appointed Norwegian Minister of Oil and Energy Terje Riis-Johansen

Norway has agreed to cooperate with Great Britain in an effort to arrange a new summit with the aim of bringing down oil prices, after the Jeddah meeting failed.

At the June meeting in Saudi Arabia, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called for a “new deal” on global energy supplies to benefit both consumers and producers, BBC reports. He also called for “enhanced co-operation” between governments to reduce the global economy’s dependence on oil. “I urge all oil producers to rigorously break down old barriers standing in the way of new strategic initiatives,” he said.

Norwegian State Secretary Liv Monica Stubholt says the high prices on oil and food may lead to a humanitarian catastrophe in poorer nations. (NRK/BBC) Norway Post

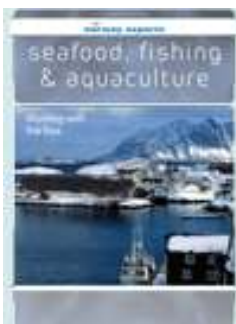
OMV Acquires 30 percent Interest in Norway Offshore Exploration License

Austrian oil and gas company OMV AG said it has acquired a 30 percent interest in an offshore exploration licence from Canada’s Talisman and Danish company Dong.

The PL 301 CS licence is located in the North Sea around 300 km southwest of Stavanger and is OMV’s sixth offshore licence in the Scandinavian country, according to OMV.

Talisman as operator and Dong retain a 42 percent and 28 percent interest respectively. Forbes

Norwegian Seafood - More than just Omega-3



Every day, Norway exports the equivalent of 27 million meals of fish worldwide, whether rosy pink farmed Atlantic salmon, plump white fillets of

cod, silvery-sided whole herring, or any of the other farmed and wild-caught species that flourish in the icy waters off the Norwegian coast.

With every mouthful, people who eat Norwegian seafood not only enjoy the pleasures of fresh, tasty food, but gain from the enormous health benefits that come from consuming fish and seafood.

Fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids have long been known to help promote a healthy cardiovascular system, but recent research now shows that the health benefits of routine fish consumption go far beyond omega-3.

People who regularly eat fish may have less joint pain from arthritis, may be less susceptible to diabetes, have stronger bones that help prevent osteoporosis and might even benefit from some protective effects against Alzheimer’s disease.

Norwegian Seafood - More than just Omega-3 [Read more in Nortrade](#)

For a wonderful selection of recipes: [Seafood from Norway](#)

[Read Norway Exports “Seafood, Fishing & Aquaculture”.](#)

North American Debut Of Stressless® Jazz



The new Stressless® Jazz reclining chair has made its North American debut. The Stressless® Jazz features simple lines, clean surfaces, an elegant base, and a visible stainless steel frame, the first steel-framed Stressless® chair in over a decade.

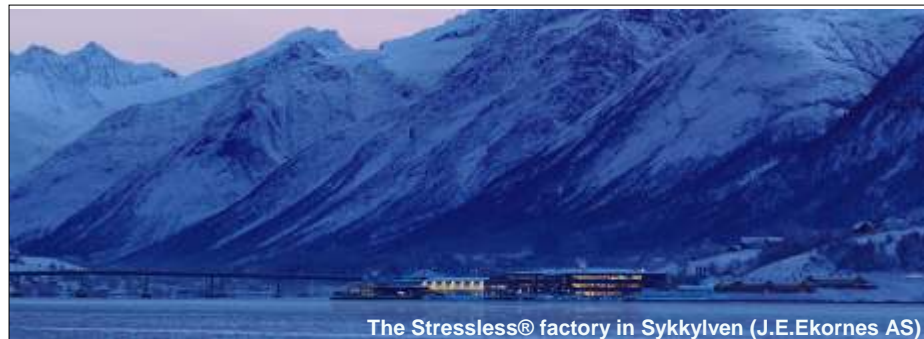
“Jazz has done very, very well in our international markets and although we expected its reception in the North American market to be as strong, or stronger, we were pleasantly surprised by the early response,” says Peter Bjerregaard, President of Ekornes Inc.

“The Stressless® Jazz will be right at home with today’s modern interiors,” says Bjerregaard, “the sleek, unique design says ‘retro’ to some and ‘futuristic’ to others, but everyone agrees on the comfort of

Jazz, the comfort for which Stressless® is known around the world.”

As with all Stressless® recliners, Jazz will be available in two sizes. Ekornes was the first furniture company to offer various sizes in its products and believes that size is vital to comfort. In speaking about chair size, Bjerregaard says, “It is easy to understand that a 6’2” person and a 5’2” person are going to sit quite differently in the same chair. Proper fit is crucial to comfort and being able to offer various sizes is something that our consumers rave about.”

Consumers also have the opportunity to customize the Stressless® Jazz to fit their décor, choosing from four leather grains and 50 leather colors. [Ekornes](#)



The Stressless® factory in Sykkylven (J.E.Ekornes AS)

Norwegian Shipowners’ Association Signs Agreement on Training Seafarers in Vietnam

The President of the Norwegian Shipowners’ Association, Elisabeth Grieg, and the President of the Vietnam Maritime University, Dr Dang Van Uy, today sign an agreement on the recruitment and training of Vietnamese sea cadets for the Norwegian fleet. The signing took place at a major Norwegian-Vietnamese trade conference in Oslo held in conjunction with the Vietnamese State visit to Norway.

In recent years, the Norwegian Shipowners’ Association has worked vigorously to establish partnerships with maritime training institutions in Vietnam.

Today’s agreement with the Vietnam Maritime University therefore marks a breakthrough in securing further access to qualified seafarers from the region for service onboard Norwegian vessels. Sixty-two cadets have so far been recruited and further recruitment initiatives are being planned.

Major Norwegian shipowners keen on Vietnamese recruitment

Norwegian shipowners who are already involved in the recruitment project are Teekay, Norgas, Barber Ship Management, OSM Group and Kr. G. Jebsen.

Elisabeth Grieg is pleased about the agreement now being signed with the Vietnamese training centre: “At a time of ever increasing need for qualified maritime officers, it is important for us to focus on both national and international training and recruitment measures to secure personnel for our own fleet. Vietnam is a country with long maritime traditions, making it a very interesting source of recruitment”, says Grieg. [Norwegian Shipowners’ Association](#)