

5 February 2025

Claiming the Future: Can Book and Claim Support Sustainable Transport?

Setting the context

On 5 February 2025, the ITF organised an expert workshop to feed into a new Corporate Partnership Board (CPB) project “*Claiming the Future: Can Book and Claim Support Sustainable Transport?*”

Over 50 experts from international organisations, non-profits, standard-setting bodies, public sector agencies and industry were present online and onsite to provide insights and participate in the discussions.

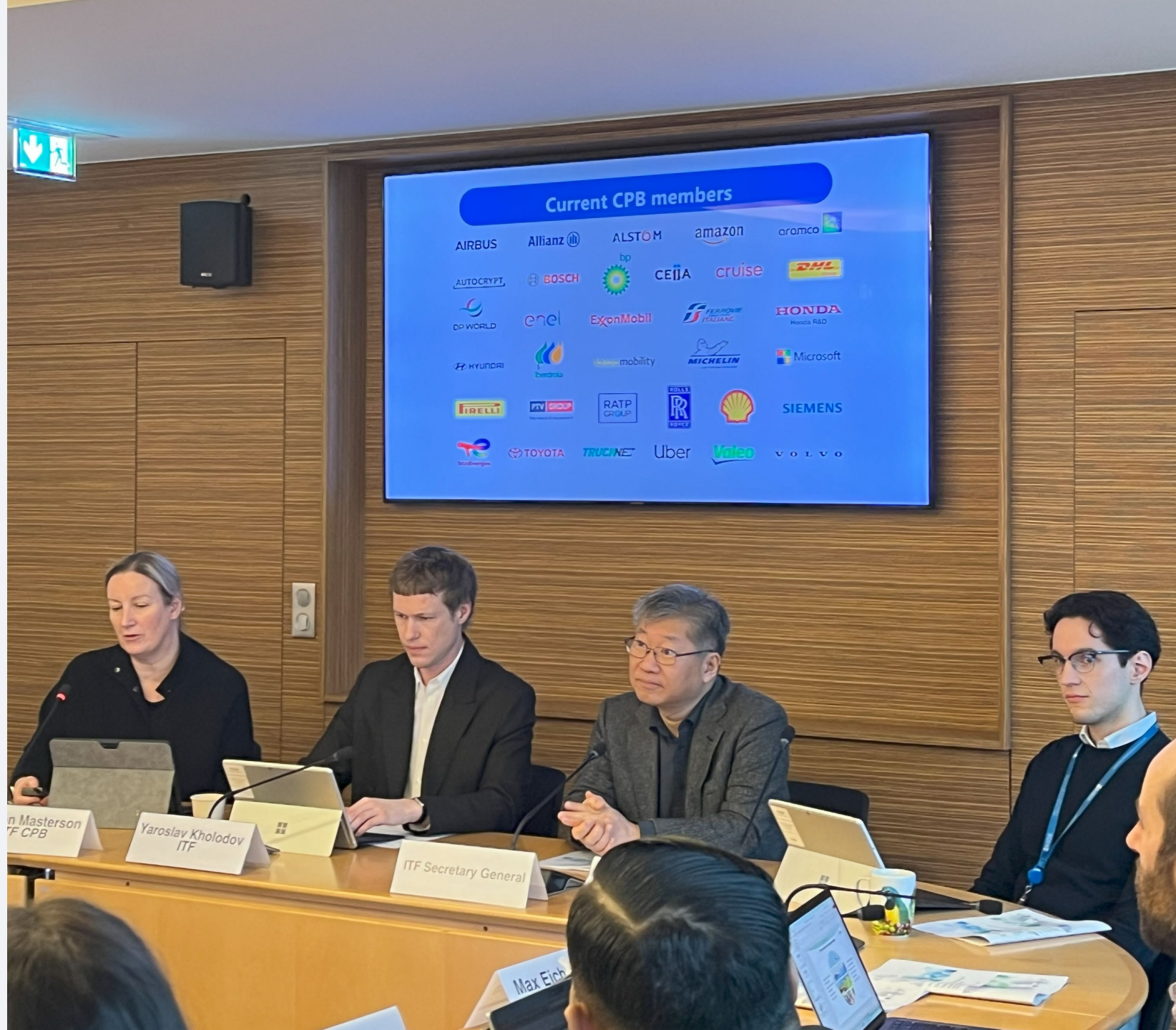
The outcomes of the workshop are summarised here, further desk research and expert consultations will provide additional inputs for an ITF/CPB report to be published towards the end of 2025.



Project background

To mitigate transport carbon footprint and address pressure from customers and stakeholders, corporations are increasingly exploring sustainable practices. One such practice is Book and Claim, which is a versatile 'chain of custody' model that tracks and controls materials, products, and their attributes as they move through the supply chain. Book and Claim systems separate environmental attributes from the energy source, enabling companies to access environmental attributes without using the physical molecule. This ensures transport powered by clean energy remains logistically flexible and helps bridge the price gap between clean and conventional transport solutions. Concerns regarding the Book and Claim systems have been raised amidst cases of double counting and lack of transparency.

The primary objectives of this research proposal are to understand the conceptual foundation of Book and Claim, to examine key stakeholders and case-specific studies, to understand the challenges and benefits of Book and Claim, to explore the broader policy and regulatory frameworks and to identify a set of policy considerations and strategic insights.



Workshop objectives

This workshop aimed to facilitate the exchange of expert knowledge, industry insights, and practical case studies on the application of Book and Claim systems in the transport sector.

The discussions included a comprehensive understanding of the conceptual framework and key components of a Book and Claim system, with a focus on its implementation across the aviation, maritime, and road transport sectors. The workshop also explored how Book and Claim mechanisms can be integrated with existing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounting and reporting standards.

Dedicated Q&A sessions allowed attendants to freely exchange ideas and served as a platform for industry representatives to better understand Book and Claim systems and solutions.



Workshop summary

The heavy-duty freight sector faces significant challenges in decarbonisation due to a lack of scalable zero-emission solutions. The opening session introduced the Book and Claim system, which enables companies to purchase the environmental benefits of sustainable fuels without physical usage. Speakers emphasised Book and Claim as a key tool for scaling low-carbon fuels while lowering logistical constraints. Robust certification and accounting frameworks ensure the system's credibility and transparency. Clear guidance from standard-setting bodies remains essential.

The following session addressed aviation's reliance on SAF due to the lack of zero-emission alternatives. Presentations covered regulatory adoption, stakeholder perspectives, and SAF credit demand. While ICAO's CORSIA framework allows SAF claims

through market-based mechanisms, the EU's RefuelEU Aviation policy does not recognise Book and Claim, creating regulatory bottlenecks. Stakeholders stressed the need for interoperable SAF registries and clear guidance on integrating Book and Claim credits into emissions disclosures.

A deep dive into maritime transport followed, where Book and Claim could help overcome logistical barriers to alternative fuel adoption. However, regulatory uncertainty and traceability challenges persist. While FuelEU Maritime requires strict emission reductions, it does not recognise Book and Claim, leaving ship operators uncertain about its alignment with carbon pricing and regulatory mandates. Stakeholders highlighted the need for centralised, auditable registries to track transactions, prevent double counting, and align with emissions accounting.



Workshop summary

The workshop also included a session to examine cross-sector applications of Book and Claim and competing sectoral demands. Unlike aviation and maritime, road transport has electrification options, though heavy-duty vehicles still rely on liquid fuels. According to sector experts, Book and Claim can be implemented to support low-emission fuel production and road transport electrification, reducing pressure on scarce resources. Case studies from other sectors, such as energy, underscored the benefits and challenges of mature certificate markets, highlighting the need for cross-sector alignment in reporting standards.

Lastly, participants explored Book and Claim's role in voluntary and compliance-based GHG accounting. The primary challenge remains the lack of clear compatibility with already

established voluntary reporting frameworks and policy guidance. Stakeholders emphasised the need for collaboration between regulators, standard-setting bodies, certification entities, and industry to determine how to integrate Book and Claim into existing and emerging frameworks effectively.



Workshop insights

Book and Claim's credibility and acceptance depend on clear governance, transparency and regulatory recognition

Interoperability across different registries is necessary to prevent fragmentation in carbon accounting systems

Book and Claim ecosystems should align with internationally recognised principles and standards (upcoming ISO 13659)

Policy makers should consider competing sectorial demands for scarce resources when discussing Book and Claim implementation in transport

Greater clarity is needed on how companies should include Book and Claim into their sustainability voluntary reporting

Close collaboration between standard-setting bodies, policy makers and Book and Claim stakeholders is required to overcome regulatory uncertainty

What's next?

The workshop insights will help shape the final ITF/CPB report, “*Claiming the Future: Can Book and Claim Support Sustainable Transport*”.

Additional consultations with expert focal groups will be organised throughout the year to develop specific segments of the final report.

Workshop participants will be consulted to provide comments on the final draft of the report.

The report is set to be published in Q4 2025. Sign up for publication alerts to stay updated on its release and related webinar by clicking [here](#).

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