

## **Technical and operational measures for more efficient and cleaner maritime transport**

SEA Europe welcomes the own-initiative report from the European Parliament, paving the way to zero-emission Waterborne Transport

Brussels, 29 April 2021

On 27 April, the European Parliament's Plenary session adopted a resolution on ["technical and operational measures for more efficient and cleaner maritime transport"](#). This resolution underlines the economic and strategic importance of waterborne transport for the EU and acknowledges the waterborne sector as key factor in the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU.

To achieve a climate-neutral transition of the waterborne transport sector by 2050, as aimed at by the European Green Deal, the European Parliament's resolution sets out a number of important steps:

- The need for clean energy incentive schemes, whilst recognizing the importance of transitional technologies, such as LNG and LNG infrastructure, for a gradual transition towards zero-emission alternatives in the waterborne sector.
- The need to implement all available operational and technical measures to achieve energy efficiency, including the introduction of new propulsion methods, such as wind-assist technologies, vessel optimisation and better optimisation within the maritime logistics chain.
- The recognition that the digitalisation and automation of the waterborne sector, ports and ships have significant potential to contribute to a reduction in the sector's emissions, and play a key role in the decarbonisation of the sector, in line with the ambitions of the Green Deal.
- A call on the European Commission to introduce measures, accompanied with the necessary funding, to enable European shipyards to make additional investments into sustainable, social and digitalised shipbuilding and the ship repair industry.
- A call for an EU fleet renewal and retrofit strategy to promote green and digital transition and foster the competitiveness of the European maritime technology sector.
- A call on the European Commission to make projects aimed at decarbonising maritime transport and reducing polluting emissions eligible under the cohesion policy and through the European Structural and Investment Funds, the CEF and the Green Deal and to make funds and incentives available to support the maritime sector in the transition towards a zero-carbon economy.
- A recognition of the importance of the Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport in the framework of Horizon Europe.
- A call on the European Investment Bank to provide both pre-delivery and post-delivery financing for shipbuilders, which would considerably enhance the implementation and the viability of projects.
- A recognition that the shift towards decarbonisation and the impulse of clean energy incentive schemes in the maritime transport sector would entail the need of re-skilling and training of workers.

*"I am pleased to note that with this own initiative report, the European Parliament has not only fully recognised the strategic importance as well as key enabling role of Europe's shipyards and maritime equipment industry in the transition of waterborne transport to a climate neutral and digitalised mode of transport. But the European Parliament has also acknowledged that the maritime technology sector in Europe experiences several challenges, including from the Covid-19 crisis and from unfair global competition, and has*

*made some interesting proposals to the European Commission, the Member States and the European Investment Bank in this respect”, said Christophe Tytgat, SEA Europe’s Secretary General.*

**Background Note:**

*SEA Europe represents close to 100% of the European shipbuilding industry in 16 nations, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of ships and floating structures, commercial as well as naval, including the full supply chain with the various producers of maritime systems, equipment material, and services.*

For further information please visit [www.seaeurope.eu](http://www.seaeurope.eu)

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