

SEA EUROPE WELCOMES THE COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATION ON A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EU

Brussels, 28 May 2021

On 17 May, the European Commission issued a Communication on “*A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU: Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future*”. The Communication lays the basis for the Green Recovery of the European Blue Economy sectors, with an important role for the European maritime technology sector.

The Communication underlines that all blue economy sectors including fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, maritime transport, port activities and shipbuilding will have to reduce their environmental and climate impact. Tackling the climate and biodiversity crises requires healthy seas and a sustainable use of their resources to create alternatives to fossil fuels and traditional food production. This, in accordance with the communication, requires investing in innovative technologies.

The Communication sets out a detailed agenda for the blue economy to achieve the objectives of climate neutrality and zero pollution; switch to a circular economy and reduce pollution; preserve biodiversity and invest in nature; support climate adaptation and coastal resilience; ensure sustainable food production; and improve management of space at sea which are all in line with the missions and visions of the Waterborne Technology Platform.

The Communication recognizes the role of Europe's shipyards and maritime equipment in achieving a sustainable Blue Economy with, amongst others, attention to the importance of research and innovation, the need for big investments to meeting the objectives of the European Green Deal, and the need for Blue skills and jobs.

“Besides recognizing the strategic importance of the maritime technology sector for Europe, SEA Europe welcomes the explicit reference to fleet renewal and retrofitting with low and zero-emission technologies, not only as a means to achieve the European Green Deal ambitions and a sustainable Blue Economy but also as a means to sustain a manufacturing industry that gives Europe a strategic advantage”, said Christophe Tytgat, SEA Europe's Secretary General. *“I also welcome the explicit reference to the creation of skills' partnerships under the Pacts for Skills in the industrial ecosystems relevant for the blue economy, such as shipbuilding”.*

SEA Europe's looks forward to discussing the implementation of the various proposals mentioned in the Communication with the various European Commission, to enable the European Commission to achieve its ambitions for a European Green Deal and a sustainable Blue Economy and to ensure that these ambitions also offer opportunities to Europe's shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers.

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.

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