

## **Towards Future-proof Inland Waterway Transport in Europe**

SEA Europe welcomes initiatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament on future-proof Inland Waterway Transport

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SEA Europe welcomes the adoption of the NAIADES III Action Plan entitled “*Boosting future-proof European inland waterway transport*”, which e.g. focusses on the shift of freight transport to inland waterways and on the sector’s irreversible path to zero-emission. The objectives of this action plan are in line with SEA Europe’s position aiming at stimulating or promoting zero-emission and digital waterborne transport. In this respect, SEA Europe also welcomes the recognition in the Action Plan of the importance of the Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport as well as the inclusion of waterborne transport applications in the EU Innovation Fund.

SEA Europe, furthermore, welcomes the adoption in the European Parliament’s Transport (TRAN) Committee of the report entitled “*Towards Future-proof Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) in Europe*”. This report proposes a basket of measures to help inland waterway transport in its transition towards zero-emission, digital and automated waterborne transport. It also contains relevant references to the role of or for shipyards, such as the modular construction of ships to provide flexibility, predictability and cost savings. To cover the significant investments in zero-emission and digital inland waterway transport, the report also proposes the set-up of a dedicated Inland Waterway Transport Fund. Finally, the report recognises the importance of the Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport.

*“Like shipping, Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) is an important transport mode for Europe in many aspects, facing many challenges but potentially offering many opportunities. The IWT market thereby offers opportunities for European shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers as well”, says Christophe Tytgat, SEA Europe’s Secretary General. “By transforming this sector into a zero-emission, digitalized and automated mode of transport, the sector’s potential as an alternative to road transport will be boosted, thereby contributing to the European Green Deal and EU Digital Agenda. In addition, technologies developed for the IWT market can serve as a steppingstone for maritime applications. I am particularly pleased that both reports acknowledge the role of and for shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers in this respect”, Mr. Tytgat concluded.*

### **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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