

PRESS RELEASE

“Competitive Position and Future Opportunities of the European Marine Supplies Industry”

European Commission, Member States and Maritime Technology Industry Highlight the Importance of the Sector for Growth and Jobs in Europe

Brussels 9 April 2014

The European Commission, Member States and representatives of the European maritime technology industry (incl. Rolls Royce, Wärtsilä, Hatzenboeck, DCNS and Fincantieri) held a workshop on the competitive position and future opportunities of the European maritime supplies industry as outlined in a recently published Balance study commissioned by DG Enterprise¹.

The report highlights that Europe (incl. Norway and Turkey) is a world leader in the manufacturing of maritime technology with a **43% market share²** and **total production value of over 61.8bn€**. This segment of the maritime industry accounts for up to **500.000 (direct and indirect) jobs** in more than 29.000 enterprises.

The report also demonstrates that the European maritime technology industry has and continues to undergo an evolution, with the manufacturing emphasis today being placed on highly specialised and integrated technologies and focus on global value chains. Up to 60% of the manufactured products are exported to third countries.

The sector will continue to see growth as there are a number of drivers such as environmental developments, European emphasis on exploiting blue growth developments and ensuring energy security (offshore, renewables, etc.).

However, as any market leaders can testify, positions at the top can always be challenged by third countries and this is no different for the maritime technology industry. Local content requirements in certain geographical regions, regulatory uncertainty (delays to implementation of rules) and overcapacity in the global shipbuilding market can threaten the position of the European industry.

Whilst the report acknowledges that there are certain actions the industry can do to ensure that it can tackle these foreign challenges such as forming closer synergies

¹ **STUDY:** Competitive Position and Future Opportunities of the European Marine Supplies Industry - http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/maritime/documents/index_en.htm

² It is important to note that the 43% market share is related to what is being produced in Europe and does not cover manufacturing by European companies outside Europe.

between market players, export promotion and emphasis on RDI to stay ahead of the competition – the industry calls upon the new European Commission and European Parliament to oversee a successful implementation of LeaderSHIP 2020 and ensure that the following pillars of growth can be further developed:

- Access to high quality labour and skills (Projects to identify new skills and promote skills transfer)
- Fair market access and level playing field (Addressing local content requirements and guaranteeing regulatory certainty when it comes to environmental legislation.)
- Increasing access to finance – to ensure the development and implementation of technologies
- EU coordination on RDI for the maritime technology industry (Promotion of Public Private Partnership – Vessels for the future)

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Background Note

SEA Europe brings together CESA and EMEC and represents an Industry which generates more than €80 billion turnover annually and offers employment in high profile jobs for more than 500 000 Europeans. The association represents close to 100% of the European shipbuilding industry in 18 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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