

## **SEA EUROPE CALLS FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION ON DECARBONISATION OF SHIPPING**

**24 June 2016**

On 21 June 2016, SEA Europe spoke at the symposium “Shipping towards decarbonisation”, held in Antwerp and organised by the Royal Belgian Shipowners’ Association, in cooperation with ECSA and Wärtsilä.

SEA Europe’s Secretary General Christophe Tytgat underlined the positive environmental performance of shipping, but also acknowledged the ongoing pressure upon shipowners from international and European decision-makers to do more.

“It is good to remind people that shipping is one of the most environmental friendly modes of transport in terms of grams CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne-kilometers”, stressed Mr. Tytgat. “Shipping is not only quite efficient in using energy, but it has also made some significant improvements over the past years”, he highlighted.

“At the same time, we cannot ignore that policy-makers and NGOs continue to ask for more efforts from shipping towards further enhancing the industry’s environmental performance. This is a particular challenge for the industry and it is more complex than we may think”, he warned. “I constantly hear people talking about innovative solutions but few people underline what they really mean by this”.

Over the past recent years, the European Maritime Technology sector has helped the shipping industry with developing a number of significant technological and operational measures to enhance the shipping industry’s environmental performance. Examples are modifications to ships’ design, development of onboard software dedicated tools to enhance energy efficiency, EEDI, alternative hull paints, conversion to alternative fuels like LNG, etc.

However, the big challenge is to ensure a real reduction of the shipping industry’s CO<sub>2</sub>, at least by 40% to 50% by 2050 compared to 2005 levels according to the European Commission. “To achieve this goal, there is a lot more work that needs to be done and the European Maritime Technology sector, with the strong know how from European yards and European maritime equipment manufacturers, is ready to have a dialogue with shipowners to identify the needs of the sector, the demands of policy-makers and society, as well as the realistic and pragmatic solutions and innovations that the European Technology sector can realise” underlined Christophe Tytgat. “Research, Development and Innovation will be essential tools in this respect”.

Mr. Tytgat concluded his intervention by inviting shipowners to start a dialogue with the European Maritime Technology sector: “Let’s sit together, think together and work together” he said. “Only in this way, we will have a better understanding of what you want and what we can deliver”.



Background Note:

*SEA Europe brings together CESA and EMEC and represents an industry which generates more than €91 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.*

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

Christophe Tytgat, Secretary General - [ct@seaeurope.eu](mailto:ct@seaeurope.eu) Tel: +32 (0)2.230.32.87