

**ENSURING GLOBAL LEVEL PLAYING FIELD IS VITAL FOR
THE EUROPEAN MARITIME TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY**

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SEA Europe – the European Shipyards' and Maritime Equipment Association – welcomes the European Commission's Reflection Paper entitled "[Harnessing Globalisation](#)", which was published on 10 May, and looks forward to supporting the implementation of the paper's policy recommendations.

The reflection paper, which follows European Commission's President Juncker's "*White Paper on the Future of the EU*," adopted on 1 March, opens up a debate on how the EU can best harness globalisation and respond to its opportunities and challenges.

Several recommendations are put forward in the document. Amongst these, the paper emphasises the need to restore a level playing field globally, to act decisively against countries or companies that engage in unfair practices, and to establish fair rules for the protection of international investments. On the domestic front, the European Commission underlines that policies should be adopted to help business continuously to innovate, to ensure access to finance for innovative companies, and to provide investment-friendly regulatory frameworks.

Commenting on the Reflection Paper, SEA Europe Secretary General Christophe Tytgat said: *Being by nature a globally-oriented sector, the European maritime technology industry thrives best when markets are open globally and when individual markets treat domestic and foreign suppliers at equal footing. Ensuing a global level playing field is vital for our sector, which generates an annual, turnover of € 91 billion and creates employment for more than 900,000 Europeans. In the face of growing hostility towards globalisation, a rise in protectionism and a European sector that is clearly targeted by its global competitors, the European Commission's Reflection Paper sends a very clear message. Urgent action must be now delivered to ensure that the European industry can harness the benefits of globalisation and prosper to the benefit of the EU's economy and society. EU policies should maintain a clear and proactive profile in order to make sure that the priorities of the European Union are taken seriously by its counterparts.*

It is encouraging to note that the Commission's paper explicitly recognises the challenges faced by our industry, which is indeed confronted with unfair trade and other distortive practices and overcapacity, added Mr. Tytgat.

SEA Europe stands ready to play its part and looks forward to continuing its active cooperation with the European Commission, the EU Member States, the European Parliament and all relevant stakeholders to implement the ambitious policy priorities set out in the Reflection Paper, Mr. Tytgat concluded.

Background Note:

SEA Europe 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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