

PRESS RELEASE

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SEA EUROPE APPLAUDS EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIAL MARITIME STRATEGY

SEA Europe, the leading association representing the European maritime technology industry, including shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers, warmly welcomes today's announcement by the European Commission of *"a new industrial maritime strategy to enhance the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of Europe's maritime manufacturing sector"*.

This announcement is significant as it recognizes the crucial role of Europe's maritime technology industry in delivering sustainable and digitalized assets for shipping, the blue economy (including strategic sectors such as offshore renewable energy), and naval defense. This industry is a cornerstone of Europe's strategic autonomy and economic resilience.

SEA Europe emphasizes the importance of each aspect of the Commission's announcement:

- **A new strategy:** The European Union must not merely repurpose existing, ineffective tools but should design an innovative approach with new policy solutions, as outlined in SEA Europe's Manifesto (see below).
- **An industrial strategy:** This strategy should place the shipbuilding supply chain at the heart of the maritime economy.
- **A strategy focussed on manufacturing:** It should prioritize Europe's manufacturing sector to defend and promote Europe's industrial interests and capacity amid intense competition from Asia for technology leadership and control over critical supply chains.

SEA Europe notes that while this announcement was made in the mission letter of the Commissioner-designate for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, it should encompass a broader scope, addressing maritime manufacturing, shipbuilding capacity, and technological leadership as fundamental elements of the entire maritime sector. Therefore, SEA Europe calls for strong collaboration among Commissioners responsible for transport, industry, technology, trade, competition, and research.

As the representative voice of European shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers, SEA Europe is committed to collaborating with policymakers, industry stakeholders, and other relevant parties to shape and implement this future industrial maritime strategy, aiming to enhance the competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience of Europe's maritime sector.

NB: SEA Europe's policy recommendations for a European Maritime Industrial Strategy are [here](#).

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. As an NGO observer at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), CESA represents the shipbuilding industry and its supply chain from EU Member States, Norway, and Turkey.

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