

To
EVP Séjourné,
Transport Commissioner Tzitzikostas

CC:
DG GROW Director General K. Jorna
DG GROW Deputy Director General V. Moutarlier
DG MOVE Director General M. Kopczynska
DG MOVE Waterborne Transport Director F. Ioannidou

Date: 20 February 2026

Subject: SEA Europe Endorses the Marine Equipment Directive and Advocates for a Less Cumbersome and Transparent System of Mutual Recognition of Classification Certificates

Dear EVP Séjourné,
Dear Commissioner Tzitzikostas,

SEA Europe – the Shipyards and Maritime Equipment Association of Europe – calls for an impactful European Industrial Maritime Strategy that boosts the global competitiveness, resilience, innovation and sustainability of Europe's shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers (known as "*maritime manufacturing industry*").

Making administrative processes simpler is crucial for improving the global competitiveness of European shipyards and maritime equipment makers. SEA Europe fully supports the Maritime Equipment Directive and advocates for an easier, more transparent approach to mutual recognition of classification certificates. This aligns with Article 10(1) of Regulation (EC) No 391/2009, which establishes common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organizations, dated 23 April 2009.

SEA Europe remains fully committed to upholding the highest maritime safety standards, including those related to the Maritime Equipment Directive and mutual recognition of classification certificates.

Assertions from classification societies, suggesting that mutual recognition could compromise maritime safety, must be substantiated in line with Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 391/2009 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations. However, to date, such evidence has not yet been provided.

Lastly, SEA Europe hears concerns about mutual recognition arrangements potentially creating security risks amid current geopolitical tensions. If such risks exist, the European Commission may need to reconsider the current system of EU Recognised Organisations.

I remain at your disposal for any further discussion and would welcome the opportunity to contribute constructively to this important policy development.

Yours sincerely,
Christophe Tytgat
Secretary General