



## **European waterborne transport sector committed to develop and deploy innovative solutions for the benefit of future generations**

High level representatives from both public and private waterborne transport stakeholders underlined their commitment regarding research and innovation during SMM Hamburg

Brussels, 06 September 2022

The Waterborne Technology Platform will be represented at the stand of the European Commission at SMM Hamburg this week. At the stand, the Clean Planet directorate of the Research and Innovation Directorate-General promotes European research and presents how research and innovation contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal in reaching climate-neutrality in the maritime sector. Today, the stand was opened by high-level representatives of both public and private stakeholders of the European waterborne transport sector.

Following the opening of the stand, an informal high-level meeting between representatives from the waterborne transport sector and the European Commission services took place. The participants discussed the significant investments currently being made and put towards research and development by both the public and private side, the importance of a joint strategy to develop and deploy innovative solutions to reach objectives in time, as well as the importance of research and development for the competitiveness of the European waterborne transport sector.

The exchanges during the high-level meeting are of importance for the recently launched Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport, a cooperation between the European Commission and the Waterborne Technology Platform. This Partnership aims to develop and demonstrate zero-emission solutions deployable for all main ship types and services before 2030. Towards the Partnership, the European Commission has committed 530 MEUR from Horizon Europe, and the industry has committed over €3 BNEUR of investments in the period 2021 – 2030.

Rosalinde van der Vlies, Director Clean Planet, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission said: *“With the objectives laid down in the European Green Deal, and specifically the objective to cut emissions by 55% by 2030, we have significantly increased the investments in research, development and innovation in the framework of Horizon Europe to accelerate the transition towards a zero-emission waterborne transport sector. The European Union has a unique waterborne transport sector, which is committed to develop and demonstrate disruptive solutions to eliminate CO2 emissions, and water pollution. A coordinated and joined up approach on research, innovation and deployment is needed to maintain and reinforce Europe’s global leadership in innovative, and green transport solutions”.*

Magda Kopczynska, Director Waterborne Transport, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission, said: *“We very much welcome the work already undertaken by the Waterborne TP and Zero Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership. An active European industry will be pivotal in achieving the European Commission’s Green Deal objectives. We are confident that our recent legislative proposals, including for FuelEU Maritime and an Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation, will create the right framework conditions for an innovative EU waterborne transport sector. While our focus is currently on tackling climate change and protecting the environment, we should never forget that we must also address important maritime safety issues, and we therefore welcome innovative projects on ship safety, digitalisation and autonomy. Last but not least, the EU industry should play a key role in global shipping’s transition to a zero-carbon future. This must be clearly*



*reflected in the revised strategy for the decarbonisation of shipping that members of the International Maritime Organisation will discuss this autumn”.*

*Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, concluded: “we highly appreciate the efforts of the European Commission, and specifically the Clean Planet Directorate of DG RTD, for their first participation here at SMM. Their participation is crucial in order to raise awareness about the EU policy objectives and the funding tools available to support the sector in achieving zero-emission waterborne transport. At the same moment in time, the importance of research and innovation to achieve zero-emission waterborne transport is presented and discussed at the stand during SMM. The fruitful meeting with high level representatives of the European waterborne transport sector today highlighted the EU’s commitment towards developing and deploying innovative solutions, and the significant amount of investments made by both the industry and the European Commission. For us, this is a reconfirmation of the importance of the activities of the Waterborne Technology Platform and its members, including the Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport”.*

**WATERBORNE TP** has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States ([www.waterborne.eu](http://www.waterborne.eu)). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 19 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport” partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General Waterborne TP, [jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu](mailto:jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu), tel: +32 493 835 626