



Maltese waterborne sector to contribute to the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport

Representatives of the Maltese waterborne transport sector met with the Waterborne Technology Platform, discussing the needs for research, development and innovation, and next steps towards a competitive, zero-emission waterborne transport

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Malta has a long maritime heritage and nowadays has established itself as a leading maritime jurisdiction. The maritime industry in Malta, today includes many varied economic activities, including a leading Ship Registry, one of the leading transshipment hubs in the Mediterranean, a leading passenger ship terminal and yards that can take the largest ships' afloat. The maritime industry makes up roughly 14% of Malta's GDP. Furthermore, the maritime industry is responsible for 10% of the jobs in Malta. Given that a competitive, zero-emission sector is of strategic importance to Malta, representatives of the country's waterborne transport sector met with a delegation of the Waterborne Technology Platform in a meeting jointly co-ordinated by the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure & Capital Projects and Transport Malta in Valletta.

The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) is the European research and innovation platform for the waterborne industries, providing policy guidance to the European institutions regarding Research, Development and Innovation, as well as the deployment of these innovations. The transition to a competitive zero-emission waterborne transport sector was the key topic of discussion throughout the two-day visit.

The discussions are of particular importance for the Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport, a co-operation between the European Commission and the Waterborne Technology Platform. This Partnership aims to develop and demonstrate zero-emission solutions for all main ship types and services before 2030. The European Commission has committed to investing up to EUR 530 million from Horizon Europe towards the Partnership, and the industry has committed to over EUR 3 billion of investments for the period 2021 – 2030.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: *“Our meeting with the representatives of the Maltese waterborne transport sector have clarified our understanding of their opportunities and challenges regarding the transition to competitive, zero-emission waterborne transport. With the strategic location just off one of the world's busiest shipping lanes between Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, Malta has established itself as a leading maritime centre offering an array of services and facilities to the marine industry. The needs for research, development and innovation and the related challenges highlighted during our discussions here provide clear guidance to Waterborne TP's agenda in securing a truly competitive, zero-emission waterborne transport sector. Following up on the meetings conducted in Greece in December 2022, in Valencia in February 2023, and today in Malta, we will meet with the Finnish waterborne sector in May 2023.”*

Godwin Mifsud, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, said: *“We welcomed the visit of the Waterborne Technology Platform which is a clear recognition that although Malta is the smallest EU Member State, it is proudly one of its largest maritime nations and a key player in EU and international discussions on the future of the maritime industry. This visit comes at a very important time for the industry when the EU has just agreed the world's most ambitious path to maritime decarbonisation to date. Malta is committed to continue to play its leadership role as one of the largest reputable maritime centres - by embracing decarbonisation and digital goals as strategic*



priorities to ensure a green, safe, sustainable and competitive industry. Looking ahead, the government will work with all stakeholders in the national ecosystem so as to develop a holistic sustainability strategy for the industry which will take into consideration not only environmental goals but also the social and economic sustainability of the sector. We are convinced that such a transition should not only be seen as a challenge but as an opportunity to ensure a modern and competitive sector which is a source of growth and jobs.”

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). 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, tel: +32 493 835 626