

Supporting measures for the waterborne transport sector key for achieving EU 2040 climate target

The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the crucial role of research, innovation and the deployment of innovations as well as a number of other key measures for the waterborne transport sector to achieve the EU 2040 climate target

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On 06 February, the European Commission published its proposal for a [2040 climate target](#), paving the way to make the EU climate neutral by 2050. The proposal is based on the principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability, with a set of supporting measures for a number of key sectors to achieve the climate targets.

The impact assessment guiding the proposal indicates the essential role of research, development, innovation and the deployment of innovations. According to the European Commission, intensified R&I activities are needed, across all transport modes and in line with societal needs and preferences, for the EU to reach its policy goals towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and to meet the zero-pollution ambition. According to the European Commission, research and innovation are required to further advance net zero-emission solutions on new fuels, engines and ship designs in the waterborne transport sector.

The proposal also indicates, that additional support to the decarbonisation of the waterborne transport sector will be provided by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme funded Innovation Fund, where the Commission has stated that €20 million allowances (i.e., about €1.6 billion with a price of €80 per allowance) should be used to reduce climate impacts from maritime up to 2030. The Innovation Fund pays special attention to addressing the maritime sector's full climate impact, including black carbon emissions. Furthermore, the European Commission highlights the commitment to prioritizing the access of waterborne transport to low- and zero-emissions fuels, essential to speed up the deployment of innovations.

Lastly, it was announced that a clean transition dialogue with key industrial sectors in the mobility sector will be set up, however no specific dialogue for the waterborne transport sector was indicated yet.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: *"The essential role of increased research, development and innovation to achieve the 2040 climate targets in an economically and socially sustainable way are much supported by the Waterborne TP. In addition, we are pleased to hear that the allocation of a dedicated waterborne transport budget within the EU Innovation Fund has been maintained, following political decisions in an earlier stage. Lastly, the commitment to prioritizing the access of shipping to low- and zero-emission fuels is key. However, a clean transition dialogue with the waterborne transport sector will be key to jointly analyse how we can achieve the targets set. We need to take into account the growing need for waterborne transport, as well as the fuels available worldwide and the capacity of the waterborne transport manufacturing industry to timely retrofit and newbuilt the European fleet."*



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 21 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