



European Council stresses the importance of technology leadership to ensure a resilient, competitive, and sustainable waterborne transport future

Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the Strategic Agenda 2024 – 2029 as adopted by the European Council on 28 June, emphasising the essential role of research, development and innovation for the waterborne transport sector

Brussels, 05 June 2024

On 28 June, the European Council adopted the [strategic agenda 2024 – 2029](#), which details the direction and goals of the European Union for the coming years. This is specifically important, since the European Council invites the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission to put the agenda into action during the next five years. Furthermore, the next EU Budget (Multiannual Financial Framework of the Union) will have to reflect these priorities, ensuring that the EU budget is fit for the future and that European responses are given to European challenges.

The strategic agenda highlights that harnessing the potential of the green and digital transitions will be key to create markets, industries and high-quality jobs of the future. A more supportive environment for scaling up Europe's manufacturing capacity for net-zero technologies and products will be provided, and investments in cross-border infrastructure for transport is foreseen. Furthermore, the development of a more circular and resource-efficient economy, driving forward the industrial development of clean technologies, embracing clean and smart mobility with adequate network infrastructure are amongst the cornerstones of the agenda.

Finally, the untapped potential of data, promotion of data interoperability, and encouraging investment in game-changing digital technologies in Europe and advancing their application throughout the economy are essential building blocks of the future of the EU as well. Promoting innovation and research, is crucial in this endeavour.

The report is specifically relevant for the implementation of the [Long-term strategy](#) of the Waterborne Technology Platform, which is centred around technology leadership in waterborne. In this definition, all segments of the European waterborne transport sector (ranging from shipyards, maritime equipment manufacturers, shipowners, research institutes and academia to public stakeholders) play a key role, and the functioning of the entire sector will be key to ensure that the EU's waterborne transport sector remains a global leader and delivers quality jobs.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: *“We warmly welcome the strategic agenda 2024 – 2029, which clearly indicates the strategic importance of the waterborne transport sector as a fundamental sector in the mobility ecosystem. Research, development, innovation and the deployment of innovations will remain key for the coming five years. However, to ensure we reach the ambitious targets, the European Council should ensure a Multiannual Financial Framework which supports the achievement of these objectives. Only with a solid budget for FP10, and deployment mechanisms, we will be able to achieve the objectives included in the strategic agenda of the EU.”*



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