



## **Danish waterborne sector plays a key role enabling the transition towards a resilient, competitive, and sustainable waterborne sector**

Waterborne Technology Platform met with representatives of the Danish waterborne sector to discuss RD&I building blocks ensuring future success

Brussels, 08 October 2024

Denmark's geographic location has played an important role in the country's development into one of the world's leading maritime nations. Surrounded by sea, Denmark has more than 400 islands and a total coastline of over 7,000 kilometres. Maritime transport has been a vital source of income in Denmark and is continually growing hand-in-hand with increasing international trade. Today almost 10% of global trade is transported by ships under Danish control.

The Danish maritime technology sector consists of shipyards, suppliers and designers of ships, maritime equipment, products and services, i.e. companies providing development, manufacture and service to the maritime technology sector. The Danish maritime industry holds a strong position on the global market, especially due to highly technological and specialized products and solutions. The world's fleet consists of more than 100,000 ships, and a major part of these ships have Danish equipment onboard. The maritime industry is a business which is present in every corner of Denmark, being part of the history of all Danes.

The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) and the Danish representatives of the waterborne transport sector met at Hempel's offices in Kongens Lyngby on 08 October 2024. The discussions are of particular importance for the implementation of the [Long-term strategy](#) of the Waterborne Technology Platform, which is centred around Technology Leadership. Some of the main conclusions of the meeting included, among others, that cooperation is key to achieve the objectives of a resilient, competitive and sustainable waterborne sector. Bringing together the experience and expertise from different European countries and aligning the research needs is thereby of utmost importance. Furthermore, there is an urgent need to step up a common approach towards digitalization, as well as capacity and capability building.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: *"Our meeting with the representatives of the Danish waterborne sector provided insights into the opportunities and challenges of this important maritime nation. Whilst the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport is a key priority for all, a coordinated approach towards digitalisation was emphasized as well. Furthermore, to be able to timely retrofit and/or replace the current worldwide fleet (both inland waterway transport and maritime transport), there is likely to be a need for RD&I as regards capacity and capability building. Even with the current maritime technology capacity available worldwide, we could not timely retrofit and/or replace the existing fleet and comply with environmental targets. Hence, Europe needs further support in providing the building blocks to ensure sustainable competitiveness of the sector".*



Jenny Braat, CEO, Danish Maritime, and member of the Board of Directors of the Waterborne TP added: *“It has been a great pleasure to welcome The Waterborne Technology Platform here in Denmark. The Danish maritime industry is moving in an increasingly high-tech and digital direction. We're seeing a global market that, on one hand, is developing rapidly but, on the other, is marked by many different interests—not all of which support our shared goal: achieving climate-neutral global shipping within a generation. We're focused on finding new solutions, both for newly built ships and for upgrading the existing fleet, but we're also keen on ensuring a level playing field with global regulations and consistent, effective enforcement. Strengthening Europe's position together is a huge advantage, and from Denmark's side, we're happy to contribute.”*

**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

**Danish Maritime** is the industry association for the Danish maritime industry and the meeting place for Danish manufacturers and suppliers of maritime design, equipment, service, and ships. We represent just about 170 maritime enterprises within various segments of the maritime industry. One of the most important tasks of the association is to contribute to the continuous success and global competitiveness of the Danish maritime industry by promoting favourable conditions for the Danish maritime industry.

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