



European Maritime Transport Environmental Report underlines crucial role of research and innovation

Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the recognition in facilitating the maritime transport sector's shift towards environmental sustainability

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The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Environmental Agency (EEA) have recently published the second edition of the [European Maritime Transport Environmental Report](#). According to the report, EU maritime transport is making progress towards environmental sustainability but will need to increase its efforts over the coming years to meet the goals aimed at decarbonisation, pollution reduction, biodiversity protection, circularity and climate adaptation. The report underlines the crucial role of research and innovation in facilitating the maritime transport sector's shift towards environmental sustainability.

The report also highlights examples from the [Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport](#), including in the area of electrification and the development and integration of state-of-the-art power conversion technologies, both on newbuilds and retrofits. The research and innovation activities in the framework of this Partnership focus on the use of sustainable alternative fuels; electrification; energy-efficiency; design and retrofitting; digital green and ports.

According to the report, joint action and increased innovation are needed to support the transition to a zero-emission mode of transport. In the definition of the report, this concerns all form of emissions, including, greenhouse gas emission, pollution to air and pollution to water, which are fully aligned with the strategic objectives of the Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport. In addition, the report underlines the relatively high number of stakeholders which need to collectively work together to support and facilitate the transition. These include shipyards and equipment manufacturers, shipowners, ports, classification societies, infrastructure and service providers, and the academic and research communities, public and private stakeholders.

Finally, the need to be able to deploy innovations in a timely and competitive manner, is and will remain critical. This includes the need to ensure sufficient quantities of sustainable energy sources available worldwide, at an affordable price. The report includes references to co-financing innovation deployment possibilities via the EU Innovation Fund.

Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne Technology Platform, said: "The EMTER report underlines the crucial role of research, development, innovation and the deployment of innovations to be able to meet policy objectives in a competitive manner. The waterborne sector is dynamic, featuring a diverse array of public and private stakeholders. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) form the largest part of the EU waterborne sector and play a key role in the sector and the European economy. The various stakeholder groups offer a wide range of services, trades and products. Considering all characteristics, there is no on-size fits all solution. Only together can the highly interdependent ecosystem of the waterborne sector achieve a resilient, competitive and sustainable future. In this respect, the Waterborne Technology Platform is currently refining a joint and coordinated research, development and innovation strategy, as well the deployment of these innovations, with mid- and long-term timelines."



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 18 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