



Waterborne Technology Platform presents nine Technology Roadmaps and strengthens sector commitment to European technology leadership

Brussels, 30 September 2026

The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) has officially presented its nine [Waterborne Technology Roadmaps](#) during the Waterborne Leadership Event, held on 29 September 2026 in Brussels as part of the Connecting Europe Days.

Co-organised by the European Commission and Waterborne TP, the high-level event brought together public and private stakeholders from across the European waterborne sector. A key moment of the event was the **signing of the Roadmaps by 19 C-level representatives from across the sector**, followed by **the formal handover of the Technology Roadmaps to the European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Apostolos Tzitzikostas**.

The signatures demonstrate a **collective commitment from the European waterborne sector to turning shared RD&I priorities into concrete action** and accelerating the transition from research and innovation to upscaling and deployment.

Waterborne TP is an industry-oriented European Technology Platform established to ensure a continuous dialogue between the European waterborne sector and the EU Institutions and Member States. Waterborne TP brings together all stakeholders from across the value chain, including shipowners, shipbuilders, equipment manufacturers, ports, energy, infrastructure and service providers, classification societies, universities, and research institutes, ensuring that research development and innovation priorities (RD&I) reflect both industrial needs and policy objectives. The Waterborne TP coordinates the private side of the [Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership](#) and covers activities in the area of vessel technologies and operations, port ecosystems as well as the blue economy.

The nine Waterborne Technology Roadmaps provide a shared framework for research, development and innovation, upscaling and deployment across key segments of the European waterborne sector:

- Maritime Technology Sector
- Port Ecosystems
- Inland Waterway Transport
- Short Sea Shipping
- Ferries
- Cruise Ships
- Ocean-Going Shipping
- Offshore Vessels
- Blue Economy

The Technology Roadmaps respond to the need to strengthen **Europe's technological leadership** and competitiveness while supporting a resilient and sustainable waterborne sector. They also contribute to the objectives of the recently published [EU Industrial Maritime Strategy](#) and [EU Ports Strategy](#).

A strong European waterborne sector is essential to Europe's competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy. **Stimulating the deployment of European technologies strengthens Europe's position in global markets, while resilient supply chains and a well-connected and innovative trans-European network provide the foundations for a competitive European value chain.**



Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General of Waterborne TP, added: The Technology Roadmaps reflect a collective exercise conducted by the broader sector. In the process of gathering input, we have been working with our members, and launched a dedicated series of open consultations, which resulted in 520 contributions. Thereby, the documents reflect the sectors vision in the transition towards a resilient, competitive and sustainable future, with concrete targets for 2035, 2040 and 2050. Pooling public and private resources will be critical to achieve the objectives laid down in the roadmaps, and for this reason the sector is grateful to see a proposal for a European Partnership on Sustainable and Competitive European Waterborne Transport in the next MFF. This Partnership will be critical to be able to implement the roadmaps and remain a global technology leader.

WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between the European waterborne sector and the EU Institutions and Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP represent about 19 EU Member States and four European Countries associated to Horizon Europe.

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 6