



Towards healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters

The Waterborne Sector welcomes the agreement on Horizon Europe!

Brussels, 18 April 2019

On 17 April, the European Parliament approved the partial agreement reached with the Council of the EU regarding Horizon Europe, the next European Research and Innovation Funding Programme (2021 – 2027). Horizon Europe has the potential to become the biggest ever research and innovation funding programme. This proposal is part of the EU's proposal for a new EU budget for the period 2021 till 2027, known as the Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes this important agreement reached, which forms the basis for further shaping the content and the budget of the programme. The waterborne sector is properly represented in the current agreement reached, both in the general content, as well as in other parts of the programme. Missions are a key novelty of Horizon Europe; they aim to reconnect EU research with citizens by setting inspirational goals. The mission regarding “Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters” is reflecting the core elements of the Strategic Research Agenda of the waterborne sector as launched in January 2019.

After elections of the new European Parliament, there will still be a long way to go before Horizon Europe is set in stone. The budget, and the terms for non-EU countries that want to participate, will not be finalised until Member States reach a unanimous agreement on the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework. In addition, the Strategic Planning process will start spring 2019, and there is still some work to be done to properly reflect the challenges and opportunities of the waterborne sector.

In a first reaction, the Chairman of the Waterborne Technology Platform, Henk Prins, said:

“The Waterborne Technology Platform fully subscribes to the partial agreement reached concerning Horizon Europe. The programme builds on lessons learned from Horizon Europe, and breaks with traditional thinking when it comes to prioritization of research needs. The cluster “climate, energy and mobility” will pave the way for the transformation of waterborne transport towards a zero-emission mode of transport and the mission on “healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters” are key to achieve the goals of the waterborne sector”

However, the Waterborne Technology Platform calls upon the EU Institutions and the Member States to include waterborne transport in the programming of cross-sectoral missions and partnerships. This would provide the best way towards transforming the waterborne transport sector into a zero-emission mode of transport by latest 2050.”

Background Note: 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)

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