



A European Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport

European Partnership on zero-emission waterborne transport

Brussels, 10 July 2020

A partnership with key players from the European waterborne transport sector, working together within the Waterborne Technology Platform¹, developed a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda to transform waterborne transport into a zero-emission mode of transport. The Research and Innovation Partnership will implement RD&I over a period of seven years and demonstrate the feasibility of zero-emission waterborne transport for all main services and ship types by 2030.

The candidate Horizon Europe² Partnership “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport proposal was [published](#) by the European Commission on 27 May 2020 and represented an important first achievement. As a next step, a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), to deliver on the ambition on zero-emission waterborne transport, has been developed and all interested stakeholders are now encouraged to contribute to the open consultation³ on this SRIA launched today.

The partnership is strongly aligned with the EU’s Green Deal strategy⁴ and will contribute to maintaining and reinforcing Europe’s global leadership in innovative, green waterborne transport solutions. **The Partnership’s central objective is to provide and demonstrate zero-emission solutions for all main ship types and services before 2030, which will enable zero-emission waterborne transport before 2050.**

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda lays down the research and innovation strategy, the implementation pathways for different segments of the waterborne transport sector, and the activities foreseen to be able to achieve the Partnerships objectives. The draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda has been published [online today](#) for four week public consultation and we would welcome wide and constructive contributions

In a first reaction, the Chairman of the Waterborne Technology Platform, Henk Prins, said “*The Partnership will be essential to realise zero-emission waterborne transport to the benefit of future generations. The Partnership will deliver solutions for the transport of cargo as well as of passengers, at sea and oceans as well as on inland waterways. It will focus on both solutions for newbuilt vessels as well as on solutions for retrofitting existing fleets. Furthermore, the Partnership will develop solutions to facilitate a modal shift of cargo from road to waterborne transport. Europe has all assets to play a leading role in the transition towards zero-emission waterborne transport, by joining efforts and ensuring a coordination approach. The SRIA we have launched for a public consultation today, is based on the objectives defined in the Partnership Proposal. The Waterborne Technology Platform is eager to start this Partnership on 1 January 2021 as the road to zero-emission waterborne transport remains long and challenging. We hope for a positive formal decision, which will be depending on the outcomes of the MFF negotiations*”

¹ www.waterborne.eu

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en

³ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRIOpenConsultation>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en



WATERBORNE TP 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 17 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 can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Executive-director Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626