



## European Waterborne Technology Platform expands its membership

The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes Estonia, the Republic of Ireland and Lithuania, underlining the importance of the activities of the Platform.

Brussels, 28 October 2021

On 20 October, the Waterborne Technology Platform welcomed [The State Enterprise Lithuanian Inland Waterways Authority](#) as one of its new members. Thereby, the membership of the Waterborne Technology Platform is currently representing 19 EU Member States, as well as four other countries. In earlier weeks, members from Estonia and the Republic of Ireland joined the Platform. In addition, the Platform extended its membership in terms of representatives from the Inland Waterway Transport sector, with the [Expertise and Innovation Centre Barging](#) as one of the most recent members joining the Platform.

The membership of the platform is representing the broader European waterborne sector. The majority of the European maritime technology sector (shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers), the large multinational deep sea container shipping companies, the inland waterway transport sector, and the broader waterborne specific research community are just a few amongst the total group of members.

The Platform is specialised in developing Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas in the area of Ports & Logistics, Blue Growth and Ships & Shipping. These agendas are centred around the key role of the broader sector to develop, and successfully deploy, innovative technologies to address societal challenges. In addition, the Platform is coordinating the [Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport](#) in the framework of [Horizon Europe](#).

The Chairman of the Waterborne Technology Platform, Eero Lehtovaara, says: *“The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the expansion of the membership both in terms of geographical coverage as well as in terms of an increased number of representatives of both inland navigation as well as maritime shipping, so as to ensure that the broader European waterborne sector is able to contribute to the development of the roadmaps for our future. In addition, it clearly shows the importance of cooperation to be able to develop and deploy solutions for societal challenges. Finally, it shows the commitment of the European waterborne sector to jointly develop the roadmaps to be able to comply timely with new rules and regulations being implemented, both at European as well as at international level. Thereby, the European waterborne sector can clearly be seen as a worldwide frontrunner in terms of Research, Development and Innovation”.*

### Background:

**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, Executive-director Waterborne TP, [jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu](mailto:jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu), tel: +32 493 835 626