

European Zero Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership adopts investment strategy

The Partnership Board of the Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne transport adopted its investment strategy which will enable Europe to demonstrate deployable zero emission maritime and inland ships by 2030.

Brussels, 13 December 2021

On 09 December, the [Partnership Board](#), governing the [Co-Programmed Partnership](#) on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport in the framework of [Horizon Europe](#), organised its second meeting. During this meeting, the Partnership Board, amongst others, adopted the Additional Activities Plan 2021 / 2022, detailing the investments foreseen by the broader waterborne transport sector to achieve the objectives of the Partnership.

The Partnership aims at leading and accelerating the transformation of waterborne transport (i.e. maritime transport and inland navigation) to eliminate all harmful environmental emissions (including greenhouse gas, air and water pollutants) through innovative technologies and operation. By 2030, the objective is to develop and demonstrate deployable zero-emission solutions which are applicable for all main ship types and services, to enable the achievement of zero-emission waterborne transport by 2050.

During the meeting, the Partnership Board adopted the plan detailing the Additional Activities for the period June 2021 until December 2022. This plan entails an amount of € 955 Million of investments in the following areas: i) additional Research, Development and Innovation, ii) scaling up of technologies, iii) demonstrators of these innovative technologies, iv) the creation of new business opportunities, v) training and skills development, vi) contribution to the development of new standards, vii) regulations and policies, viii) supporting the development of ecosystems and ix) communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement. These Additional Activities are being aligned with the objectives of the Partnership.

In addition, the Partnership Board reflected upon the investments committed by the European Union in the framework of the Partnership, whereby for the work programme 2021/2022 calls for proposals with a total amount of € 160 Million have been launched. Finally, a first discussion has been conducted regarding the orientations of the calls for proposals for 2023/2024.

Ingrid Marie Andersen, Head of Decarbonisation Targets & LCA at Maersk and Co-chair of the Partnership Board said *“The significant investments envisaged by both the European Union as well as the broader waterborne transport sector are far higher than originally foreseen. It clearly shows that the sector is committed to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal, with the targets enshrined in the “Fit for 55” as the first point on the horizon. One of the next important discussions in the context of the Partnership will be how to overcome possible barriers regarding deployment, so as to ensure the entire European waterborne transport sector can be a frontrunner in delivering and deploying solutions to the benefit of future generations”*

Rosalinde van der Vlies, Director Clean Planet, DG RTD of the European Commission said: *“This Partnership is a key instrument in achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal, by developing & demonstrating deployable technological solutions for the decarbonisation & the elimination of other harmful emissions from waterborne transport. In addition, the Partnership will facilitate the uptake of innovative European zero-emission waterborne transport technologies & solutions, supporting European economic growth & employment. The unique cooperation of the European waterborne transport sector, the European Commission and Member States is clearly providing leverage for increased research and innovation activities, making Europe a frontrunner in zero-emission waterborne transport in an international context”.*

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 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, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626