



The European waterborne sector aspires full digitalization

The Waterborne Technology Platform will develop a roadmap to ensure that the potential of the digital transformation of the waterborne sector is fully unlocked.

Brussels, 24 May 2022

During its recent meeting, the General Assembly of the Waterborne Technology Platform kicked-off the next steps in paving the way to fully unlock the potential of the digital transformation of the European waterborne sector.

Digitalisation is a mean to, by using data and new applications, contribute to increased safety, sustainability and competitiveness of the European waterborne sector. Currently, the European waterborne sector is a worldwide frontrunner in developing and implementing digital technologies and solutions. However, the full potential of digitalisation has not been unlocked yet. To help further push for change, the Waterborne Technology Platform will develop a mission and vision regarding the digital transformation of the waterborne sector towards 2030. Based on this mission and vision, the research, development and innovation gaps will be identified, so as to develop a coherent roadmap to reach its objectives timely.

The Waterborne Technology Platform will thereby deliver the technological building blocks to achieve “a carbon-neutral, zero accidents, automated and competitive EU Waterborne Transport Sector”, as foreseen in the Ministerial Declaration regarding the future outlook for the European Waterborne Transport Sector, adopted by the EU Transport Ministers in 2020.

For this purpose, a taskforce has been established, which is chaired by Pierre Perrocheau, Deputy Director for EU and NATO Affairs at NAVAL Group. The taskforce includes representatives from all the sectors represented in the platform and brings together the expertise of all relevant actors of the European waterborne sector. It will submit its proposal to the membership of the Waterborne TP by latest the first quarter of 2023.

“Digitalisation is already contributing in many ways to increased safety, sustainability and competitiveness of the European waterborne sector. From increased use of sensors, to sharing and analysing data for more efficiency, said Mr. Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Waterborne Technology Platform. However, the full potential is much larger. In order to unlock all the benefits increased digitalisation can bring, substantial additional efforts in research, development and innovation will be essential. The Waterborne Technology Platform is an important platform to pave the way to the full deployment of digitalisation, Mr. Lehtovaara concluded”.

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). 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