



A European Ocean Fund

The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the European Parliament's suggested new Ocean Fund, which will further support the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport.

Brussels, 29 June 2022

On 22 June 2022, the European Parliament adopted a legislative proposal regarding the inclusion of maritime transport in the EU Emission Trading System (ETS), including the set-up of a dedicated Ocean Fund. The foreseen Ocean Fund is aimed at stimulating innovation, both as regards ships and in ports. In essence, the fund will support research and innovation, technologies, infrastructure and operational measures to improve energy-efficiency and the deployment of sustainable alternative fuels and zero-emission propulsion technologies.

The adopted proposal highlights the need for an integrated approach to ensure a successful transition to zero emission shipping. The proposal is fully in line with the Waterborne TP's mission statements and the [Partnership](#) between the European Commission and the Waterborne TP on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport.

It is not clear if the Ocean Fund will be separately managed or included in the current EU Innovation Fund. But what is clear for the Waterborne TP, is that the waterborne transport sector consists of such a wide range of actors, ship types and operational profiles as well as a variety of tailored technologies, that must be taken into account. The Waterborne TP is pleased to see that the European Parliament did already highlight the essential role of these stakeholders in setting targets, criteria and grant allocation procedures.

This is a moment of historic importance, says Mr. Eero Lehtovaara, Chairman of the Waterborne TP. The European Parliament's new ocean Fund will be a strong boost to achieving our goals in the Waterborne Technology Platform. Our task is to find technological solutions for societal challenges and ensuring their deployment. The new fund will secure that innovations can be researched, piloted and deployed faster and wider than what would otherwise be possible. The Waterborne TP and our members are more than ready to provide tangible input to setting the criteria for the new fund, drawing on our experience from the Innovation Fund, 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