



Waterborne TP and the Spanish waterborne transport sector boost the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport

Representatives of the Spanish waterborne transport sector met the Waterborne Technology Platform to discuss the next steps in the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport

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International shipping is responsible for transporting approximately 90% of world trade and European-based maritime shipping companies control around 36% of the global fleet. In addition, 400 million passengers embark and disembark in European ports every year. The European maritime technology sector is a global leader in high-technology shipbuilding and green shipping technologies. The Spanish waterborne transport sector is representing all these segments of the waterborne transport sector, and for this reason, on 28 February representatives of the Spanish waterborne transport sector met with the Board of the Waterborne technology platform in Valencia in a meeting organised by Fundació Valenciaport with the collaboration of the Port Authority of Valencia.

The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) is the European research and innovation platform for the waterborne industries, providing policy guidance to the European institutions regarding Research, Development and Innovation as well as the deployment of these innovations. The transition to a zero-emission, but at the same time, competitive waterborne transport sector was the key topic of discussion during both days.

The exchanges are of particular importance for the recently launched Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport, a cooperation between the European Commission and the Waterborne Technology Platform. This Partnership aims to develop and demonstrate zero-emission solutions deployable for all main ship types and services before 2030. The European Commission has committed 530 MEUR from Horizon Europe towards the Partnership, and the industry has committed over €3 Billion EUR of investments in the period 2021 – 2030.

In a first reaction, Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: “our exchange here has clarified the opportunities and challenges of the Spanish waterborne transport sector. Spain’s ports are many, connection with the Spanish islands and outer regions rely heavily on waterborne transportation. The needs for research, development and innovation highlighted during our discussions here provide clear guidance to Waterborne TP’s agenda in securing a truly competitive, zero-emission waterborne transport sector. Following-up on the meetings conducted in Greece in December 2022, and the meetings this week in Spain, we will exchange with the Finnish waterborne sector in May 2023.”

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