

Germany to chair the group of EU Member States and Associated Countries advising and supporting the Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership

Matthias Marx, from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, has been elected as its Chair at the meeting of the States Representative Group on 30 March 2023.

Brussels, 30 March 2023

The States Representatives Group (SRG), consisting of representatives of EU Member States and Associated Countries, has appointed Matthias Marx as its first Chair. The SRG advises and actively supports the achievement of the objectives of the co-programmed European Partnership, guaranteeing complementarity with national research, development and innovation policies, priorities and programmes. The activities of the SRG will have a significant impact on developing and demonstrating zero-emission solutions for all main ship types and services by 2030, ensuring zero-emission waterborne transport by 2050.

Ingrid Marie Andersen, Head of Energy Transition Sustainability at A.P. Moller-Maersk and Co-chair of the Partnership Board said: *“The involvement and support of EU Member States and Associated countries will be crucial to achieve the objective of net zero-emission waterborne transport as soon as possible. This does not only concern the support for research, development and innovation activities, but certainly as well support for the deployment of new technologies and concepts. EU Member States and Associated Countries have given their strong support for this European Partnership from the outset, and I am looking forward to cooperating with the Chair, and the members of the SRG”*

Matthias Marx, Programme Coordinator of the Maritime Research Programme, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action said: *“This unique European Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne transport is a key instrument in achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal. As achieving these objectives as soon as possible is in the interest of all of us, Germany considers it important to dedicate time and resources to jointly reach them. In addition, with Horizon Europe nearing its mid-term evaluation, a closer cooperation with colleagues from other EU Member States and Associated Countries involved in this Partnership, will help all of us in taking the right steps for planning the activities for the final years of this European Research and Innovation Programme”*.

Rosalinde van der Vlies, Director - Clean Planet at Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), European Commission said: *“The EU has the clear mandate to become climate neutral by 2050. To achieve this, we need to push the boundaries of technology forward, towards a new green technological revolution. The recent political agreement on the FuelEU Maritime regulation has set a clear path to decarbonise the sector and the Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership will be key to develop and demonstrate the cost-efficient technologies that will make happen. Within the Partnership, the Commission joins efforts with the industry but also the Member States will have an important role to play. Therefore, to support R&I at national level, in Work Program 2024 the Partnership proposed a Coordination and Support Action to coordinate R&I amongst all interested Member States, towards the objectives of the Partnership so as to increase synergies and impact. Together, we will make zero-emission shipping possible”*.

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 both members and associated members from 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