

France to chair States Representatives Group for the Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership

On 23 June 2025, EU Member States and Associated Countries have appointed Anne Coroller, from the Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and Fisheries as the Chair of the States Representatives Group.

Brussels, 25 June 2025

The SRG, consisting of representatives of EU Member States and Associated Countries, has appointed Anne Coroller, from the French Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and Fisheries, as its Chair, succeeding Matthias Marx, from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action. The SRG advises and actively supports the achievement of the objectives of the Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership, guaranteeing complementarity with national research, development and innovation policies, priorities and programmes.

The waterborne sector is dynamic, featuring a diverse array of public and private stakeholders. These stakeholders range from classification societies, shipbuilders, and shipowners (both maritime and inland navigation) to equipment manufacturers, ports, infrastructure and service providers (e.g. dredging), as well as universities and research institutes. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) form the largest part of the EU waterborne sector and play a crucial role in the sector and the European economy. The various stakeholder groups offer a wide range of services, trades and products. For example, the global fleet can be categorized by different ship types and services, classified according to power requirements and autonomy. Further distinctions must be made between liner and tramp shipping and their business models, as well as between retrofitting existing vessels and building new ones. Taking these characteristics into account is essential to develop and deploy innovations, including zero-emission solutions, for all segments of the sector.

The [Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership](#), a cooperation between European Commission Services and the Waterborne Technology Platform, develops and demonstrates zero-emission solutions for all main ship types and services by 2030, ensuring zero-emission waterborne transport by 2050. Stakeholder involvement is key to align on research, development and innovation priorities, as well as their deployment. Currently, the Waterborne Technology Platform is representing 128 members from 19 EU Member States and 4 countries Associated to Horizon Europe. To ensure alignment with Member States and Associated Countries, to avoid duplication of efforts and increase impact, a SRG was established in the context of the Partnership in 2021.

Anne Coroller, Project Manager - Innovation and Decarbonization of the Maritime Sector, French Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and Fisheries said: *“The Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership is key to help European industries to innovate, in order to tackle the highly challenging but urgent decarbonization of the waterborne transport. For this purpose, collaborations between industries are necessary, and coordination with Member States is essential. In France, we are convinced of the vital role that Research & Innovation will play in decarbonizing the maritime sector, and we are doing our utmost to support it at national and European level. Therefore, I am very pleased to undertake the Chair position of the States Representative Group. For this mission, I will have the valuable and complementary support of two co-chairs representing distinct departments within my Ministry: Alan Symoneaux (DGAMPA) and Pierre-Alexandre Royoux (CGDD).”*



Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne TP, added: *“The involvement and support of EU Member States and Associated Countries is key to achieve the objective of zero-emission waterborne transport as soon as possible. This does not only concern research, development and innovation activities, but also supports the deployment of technologies and concepts. EU Member States and Associated Countries have given their strong support for this European Partnership from the outset, and we are looking forward to the cooperation with the Chair and the continued constructive dialogue with the members of the SRG. Furthermore, discussions in the context of the SRG are aimed to enhancing cooperation with regions, and efforts to actively pursue this cooperation will be key in the coming two years to establish a Team Europe in the transition to a resilient, competitive and sustainable future.”*

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