

*Brussels – 03 December 2019*  
**To the members of the press – for immediate release**

## **Paving the way towards zero-emission waterborne transport**

**STEERER, a new project to deliver a clear commitment to reaching zero-emission waterborne transport by latest 2050, launches today**

Waterborne transport enables nearly 90% of international trade, 76% of the external EU trade and 40% of the internal EU trade. European ship-owners control more than 40% of the world's merchant fleet and operate shipping services all over the world and Europe has several waterborne transport stakeholders, such as maritime technology, with a global leadership position. Waterborne transport is a strategic sector for Europe, in terms of mobility, defence and security or to enable a transition towards zero-emission waterborne transport. The greening of waterborne transport is at the core of the research & innovation activities of the Waterborne Technology Platform and is a top priority of the new European Commission, led by President von der Leyen.

Today, in the kick-off meeting of the new **STEERER** project, partners from around Europe came together to begin the work of creating a multi-stakeholders Green Shipping Expert Group that will establish a clear vision for green waterborne transport, so as to contribute to meeting the European Commission's ambitions for a climate neutral society by 2050.

**STEERER** (Structuring Towards Zero Emission Waterborne Transport) will coordinate the establishment and communication of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and an Implementation Plan towards zero-emission waterborne transport, in cooperation with all key stakeholders needed to facilitate the transformation to clean waterborne transport. In the definition of **STEERER**, **as well as cutting green house gas emissions, all harmful environmental emissions, water pollution and noise emissions** have to be eliminated. **STEERER's** mission is to bring the various initiatives and sectors' stakeholders together to join forces for a combined effort with the maximum impact for the climate, people's health and Europe's economy. **STEERER** is coordinated by the Waterborne Technology Platform, counting with participation of a total of seven partners from six EU countries.

In sum, **STEERER** aims to:

- Jointly set emission targets towards 2050 (including targets for 2025 and 2030)
- Develop a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda to be able to reach these targets in time
- Develop an Implementation Plan to reach the targets in due course, while staying competitive and offering a valid business case;
- Developing and implementing a communication campaign, aimed at broader awareness of the waterborne transport sector and its commitment towards zero-emission transport.

**ENDS.**

**Notes:**

About STEERER:

**STEERER** has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 875285.

The consortium will function as a Secretariat, where the broader expertise is involved in the Scientific Committee and the Green Shipping Expert Group to be established by the project.

**STEERER** is funded by the European Commission research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, with an investment of 1,5 million euro over the course of 30 months, starting in December 2019.

*More information about STEERER is available on [www.waterborne.eu](http://www.waterborne.eu).*

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