

MIF Contribution to the Hearing with the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ms. Maria Damanaki on 28th April 2010

European maritime industries combine a market share of 30% in global markets totalling to about 950 billion € per annum and securing more than 2 million jobs. They are of strategic importance to Europe, and in particular to major coastal regions building on a rich heritage of know-how and innovative skills.

The Maritime Industries Forum (MIF) actually comprises 24 associations representing different fields of maritime activities: Shipping, Ports, Shipbuilding (including marine equipment manufacturers and shipyards), Offshore Oil and Gas, Ship Repair, Scrapping, Fishing, Aquaculture, Boatbuilding, Research, Classification, Dredging, Engineering, Consulting, Tourism, Submarine Telecom, Civil Engineering, Environment, Security, Safety, Renewable Energies, Surveillance etc.

By organising cross-industrial activities the MIF is formulating the voice of maritime industries in Europe in many respects and is actually running working groups of Environment, Human Resources, Research (*WaterBorne Technology Platform*), Rules-Rights-Regulations and Transport.

In the light of actual challenging times maritime industries have to work on a number of vital questions which answers' will be of importance for Europe as a whole: Does the changing seascape for the maritime industries endanger the strong position of this centuries-old European industry? Can industry manage to weather out the financial, economic, social and environmental challenges? What position can be maintained? Will European industries manage to harness some of the business opportunities offered by the continent's transition to a greener maritime economy? Is the sector able to attract a new generation of workers and to offer at the same time quality jobs with rewarding career opportunities and constant update of competences? Can maritime industries remain world leaders in innovation?

The European Integrated Maritime Policy is a new approach to enhance the optimal development of all sea-related activities in a sustainable manner and to integrate EU sectoral policies. The MIF supports this horizontal approach to develop our seas and coasts with sectors like fisheries, transport, environment, energy, industry or research policy. Furthermore, the key priorities of the industry are fully compatible with the Europe 2020 strategy. This is said by being fully aware of the responsibility and opportunities that are created by identifying the maritime sector as a key source of the smart, sustainable both socially and environmentally, and inclusive growth in Europe though President Barroso.

As specific stakeholders and as the European Maritime Industries Forum (MIF) contribute to the discussion, we ask the European Integrated Maritime Policy for strong policy positioning to address the actual structural challenges encountered by the industry today:

- With regard to the financial and economic challenges these days the European maritime industry seeks to avoid protectionism by working on a global level playing field and asks for effective support in this respect from Member States and the European Commission;
- With regard to maintaining and extending the advanced scientific and technological know-how, the sector requires continuing commitment from Member States and Commission to safeguard the European technological excellence and ensure that employment opportunities can be kept;
- With regard to the Climate and Environment the industry provides hi-tech marine innovation, green technologies and advanced service solutions to meet the new challenges,

but asks the Member States, Regions and the Commission to ensure that global rules on safety and environment as well as European legislation are properly applied;

- With regard to intellectual property rights the maritime community believes that it is the shared task of the industry and of the EU to encourage and support the development of new technologies and maintain global technological leadership. This can also be achieved by raising awareness of investments made, and recognising the need, to ensure that piracy and counterfeiting do not undermine the efforts of furthering Europe's knowledge economy.

The maritime industry itself is responding to the challenges of today with technological excellence, comprehensive services, by taking appropriate steps to be prepared for the future upturn of the markets and also to address the demand for more environmental friendly products facing climate change challenges.

In this context the MIF is taking the position of “maritime pro-activity in challenging times” and can report on progress made and co-ordinated work jointly with Commission Services. Results are already visible within the policy sectors of Research (FP7 – increased cooperation between the marine and maritime sectors, co-operation of transport modes), Enterprise (Leadership2015, initiatives for IPR and SMEs), Transport (Maritime Transport Strategy 2009-2018, safety and maritime transport regulations and harmonisation of rules) and Employment.

The contributions and activities as listed below show more specifically examples of the commitment of the maritime industry as a whole to address the actual challenges and to continue to be an innovating force within Europe.

- Consolidated positioning of shipping as the most energy efficient mode of transport
- Increased efficiency of logistic chains including intermodal optimisation
- Effective solutions turn the environmental burden into business opportunities
- Renewable ocean energy technologies contributing to a reduction of emissions
- Coastal protection technologies in order to address rising sea levels
- New ship types for new tasks (arctic voyages, offshore services)
- Leading edge safer and greener maritime products and technologies in European industries:
 - Provision of greener combustion and propulsion technology
 - Reduced fuel consumption: less fossil fuel, better fossil fuel and fossil fuel replacement
 - Approaches to “all electric ships” including shore links
 - Enhanced efficiency of vessels, automation, integration and power management.
 - Anti marine pollution technologies, e.g. ballast water cleaning, paint systems
 - New technologies to protect safety of life at sea, rescue means, fire safety.

All efforts demonstrate the continuous commitment of the maritime industries to offer effective solutions for a demanding global market and at the same time address environmental and societal responsibilities. A number of challenges still lay ahead, which maritime industries as a solution-providing stakeholder in the maritime world will continue to tackle together with maritime regions, Member States, the European Commission and all other stakeholders.



Major tasks which need to be addressed are concerning market prosperity of existing markets, employment future in maritime Europe in terms of number and skills, appropriate port infrastructure and hinterland connections, promotion of short sea shipping in the context of co-modality, new innovation for growth (products and services) and opportunities for greening in all aspects of maritime transport, infrastructure and products leading to emerging new markets. The industry is ready to take up the challenges and to unlock economic potentials for blue growth. The Maritime Industries Forum contributes to these tasks by integrating efforts through concerted work of various industry stakeholders on dedicated tasks, by triggering specific actions and developing mutual positions serving the Integrated Maritime Policy.

The upcoming MIF Plenary Meeting on 19th May 2010 in Gijon/Spain which is organised in the conjunction with of the European Maritime Day will provide an opportunity to directly tackle challenges and debate to sensitive questions, provide an opportunity to debate and will finally map out a common strategic vision for the sustained future of Europe's maritime industries.

*Bremen/Brussels
6th April 2010*



MIF Members: Industry Associations and Trade Unions

AEOP	European Association of Fish Producer Organizations
CESA	Community of European Shipyards Associations
CLECAT	European Assoc. for Forwarding, Transport, Logistic and Customs Services
EBI	European Boating Industry
EBU	European Barge Union
ECASBA	European Community Association of Ship Brokers & Agents
ECSA	European Community Shipowners' Association
EFIP	European Federation of Inland Ports
EHMC	European Harbour Masters Committee
EMEC	European Marine Equipment Council
EMF	European Metalworkers Federation
EMPA	European Maritime Pilots Association
ESC	European Shippers Council
ESPO	European Sea Ports Organization
ETA	European Tugowners Association
ETF	European Transport Workers' Federation
EUDA	European Dredging Association
EURACS	European Association for Classification Societies
FEPOR	Federation of European Private Port Operators
IAMI(EU)	International Association of Maritime Institutes of the EU
IIMS(EG)	International Institute of Marine Surveyors - European Group
INE	Inland Navigation Europe
OGP-EU	Oil & Gas Production Forum

MIF Members: European Commission

DG ENTR	Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry
DG MOVE	Directorate General for Mobility and Transport
DG RTD	Directorate General for Research
DG MARE	Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DG ENV	Directorate General for Environment

MIF Observers

Eurochambers	The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry
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MIF Candidate Associations

CEMT	Confederation of European Maritime Technology Societies
EAFPA	European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions
EBA	European Boatmen Association
ECMAR	European Co-operation in Maritime Research
EUROPIA	European Petroleum Industry Association
EWEA	European Wind Energy Association
FEAP	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
FEMAS	Federation of European Maritime Associations of Surveyors and Consultants
OCEAN	Organization of European Community Ship Suppliers
UEPG	European Aggregates Association