



Maritime Industries Forum

MIF Plenary Meeting 2010

Gijon, Spain

Wednesday, 19th May 2010

14h30 – 18h30

Europe's Maritime Industry Future by 2020

A strategy for Blue Growth!

European maritime industries generate revenues of approx. 950 billion € per annum, representing a global market share of 30% and securing more than 2 million jobs. They are of strategic importance to Europe, and in particular to major coastal regions. By creating new strategies for Blue Growth, European maritime industries will strengthen their position as a major global player.

The Maritime Industries Forum (MIF) actually comprises 24 associations representing different fields of maritime activities: Shipping, Ports, Shipbuilding, Marine Equipment, Offshore Oil and Gas, Ship Repair, Scrapping, Fishing, Aquaculture, Boatbuilding, Research, Classification and Surveying, Dredging, Engineering, Consulting, Tourism, Submarine Telecom, Civil Engineering, Environment, Security, Safety, Towage, Renewable Energies, Surveillance and more. The MIF is representing the great variety of these maritime business sectors.

By organising cross-industry activities, the MIF makes the voice of maritime industries heard in Europe and defines their positions and strategies in working groups targeting issues related to Environment, Transport, Research (*WaterBorne*), Human Resources and Rules-Rights-Regulations.

The current economic context poses challenging questions, whose answers are of importance to European society as a whole. The maritime industries are addressing these questions.

- **Which crisis exit strategy for the maritime industries?**

The health of the global economy affects, directly and indirectly, that of maritime industries. The volume of maritime trade in all types of goods is particularly relevant: maritime industries around the world suffer when the World Economy is in a downturn and maritime trade slows down, creating a negative impact on all related activities. Situation of crisis can obviously affect the European maritime industry, notwithstanding its strong competitive position. An effort is therefore necessary in order to seize all opportunities which may result from the crisis, particularly in relation with the possibility of introducing innovations and

changes at all level of the value chains. This requires a co-ordinated action from the industry and policy makers in the EU and its Member States.

The European maritime industries believe that it is now time to invest in technological excellence, offers of comprehensive services and other appropriate measures, in order to be prepared for the future upturn of the markets and also to address the demand for more environmental friendly products that are necessary to counter climate change. Industry players are already taking up the challenge and getting ready for future evolution of the market.

- **Can industry manage to weather out the financial, economic and environmental challenges? What position can be maintained? What kind of European maritime industries can we expect within the 2020 perspective?**

The European maritime industries can manage the current financial, economic and environmental challenges, but need appropriate regulatory frameworks and a fair competitive ground. The key priorities of the European maritime industries are in line with “Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”, since they focus on knowledge and innovation, a more sustainable economy, high employment and social inclusion. The MIF supports this horizontal approach and calls for strong policy positioning to address the actual structural challenges encountered by the industry today:

- With regard to the financial and economic context, the European maritime industry considers that protectionist policies put in place by Third Countries should be countered and that the EU should push for the creation of a global level playing field. The industry calls for effective support by the EU and its Member States in this field;
- With regard to maintaining and extending the advanced scientific and technological know-how, the sector requires continuous commitment from Member States and Commission to safeguard the European technological excellence and ensure that employment opportunities can be kept through an effective policy aimed at protecting European know how;
- With regard to the Climate and Environment, it should be noted that the industry provides hi-tech marine innovation, green technologies and advanced service solutions to ensure the sustainability of maritime activities. Yet, for these to be effective, it is vital that Member States, Regions and the Commission ensure that rules on safety and environmental protection, may their source be international or European Law, 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 ensuring that piracy and counterfeiting do not undermine the efforts of furthering Europe’s knowledge economy.

In this regard, the European Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) is a related promising approach to enhance the optimal development of all sea-related activities in a sustainable manner and to integrate EU sectoral policies.

- **Can maritime industries remain world leaders in innovation? Will European industries manage to harness some of the great business opportunities offered by the continent's transition to a greener maritime economy? What are growth opportunities linked to the transition to a greener maritime economy**

European maritime industries and the MIF are taking the position of “maritime pro-activity in challenging times” and can report on progress and co-ordinated work jointly made with the Commission. Results are already visible within the policy sectors of the General Directorates for 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 activities listed below are specific examples of the commitment of the whole maritime industry to address present 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
- Ongoing promotion of short sea shipping in the context of co-modality.
- Maintaining and enhancing the global leading position of European shipping.
- Defined effective solutions turn the environmental burden into business opportunities
- Making available renewable ocean energy technologies contributing to a reduction of emissions
- Presenting coastal protection technologies in order to address rising sea levels
- Designing new ship types for new tasks (arctic voyages, offshore services)
- Leading edge safer and greener maritime products and technologies in European industries.

- **Does the sector receive sufficient support in order to train according to the highest global standard to remain competitive?**

Maritime industries are high-tech and innovative industries, providing challenging jobs with a high international profile. New areas of growth and challenges to develop new products and to provide new services for blue growth will increase the attractiveness of future job profiles. However, maritime industries are in competition with other industries and suffer shortages of maritime professionals in all sectors with all kinds of qualifications. This entails the risk of losing the critical mass of human resources, which is necessary to sustain the competitiveness of the European maritime industries in general. Therefore, maritime industries will be more acting in promoting the attractiveness of maritime job opportunities. A number of activities have been launched and boundary conditions have to be met for the future:

- Industry is undertaking campaigns like “Are you Waterproof?” to attract the best young people into maritime professions. It is expected that Member States will complement these activities by a strong commitment to European jobs in coastal regions and investments in the respective training institutions.
- The “career mapping initiative”, lead by the shipping social partners, is identifying opportunities for mobility between sea- and shore based job profiles.

- Industry calls the European Social Fund (ESF) to include regional schemes to provide efficient input for colleges and universities and supporting them to respond on the needs during qualification processes of maritime staff from 2014 onwards.
- Industry asks the Commissions' task force based on COM/2009/0008 "Strategic goals and recommendations for the EU's maritime policy until 2018" to consider ERDF and ESF programs to attract young people for a maritime career and for sustainable maritime employment in the maritime cluster.

- **Concluding Statement**

All efforts of the European maritime industries show the strong commitment to offer effective solutions for a demanding global market, addressing, at the same time, environmental and social 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 Parliament and the European Commission and all other stakeholders.

Major issues that need to be addressed are: the prosperity of existing markets including the employment future in maritime Europe (in terms of number and skills), new innovation for growth (products and services) and opportunities greening in all aspects of maritime transport, infrastructure and investments in products leading to emerging new markets. Furthermore, industry asks support for training programmes. 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 the different industry stakeholders and developing mutual positions serving the Integrated Maritime Policy.

Adopted by the MIF Plenary Session in Gijón, 19th May 2010

Please find summarising conclusions
of the Plenary Session on www.mif-eu.org for download.

MIF Members: Industry Associations and Trade Unions

CESA	Community of European Shipyards Associations
CLECAT	European Assoc. for Forwarding, Transport, Logistic and Customs Services
EAPO	European Association of Fish Producer Organizations
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 Federation of Transport Workers
EUDA	European Dredging Association
EURACS	European Association for Classification Societies
FEPOR	Federation of European Private Port Operators
IAMI(EU)	International Association of Maritime Institutions of the EU
IIMS(EG)	International Institute of Marine Surveying - 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

MIF Candidate Associations

AIPCE	EU Fish Processors Association
CEMT	Confederation of European Maritime Technology Societies
EAFPA	European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions
EAPO	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations
EATIP	European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform
EBA	European Boatmen Association
ECMAR	European Co-operation in Maritime Research
EUOEA	European Offshore Energy Association
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
IPLOCA	International Pipeline & Offshore Contractors Association
OCEAN	Organization of European Community Ship Suppliers
UEPG	European Aggregates Association