



Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes a revamped long-term budget for the European Union

Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the resolution of the European Parliament regarding the long-term budget of the EU, emphasizing the importance of research, development, innovation and its deployment

Brussels, 12 May 2025

On 07 May 2025, the European Parliament adopted a resolution called "[A revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world](#)". The resolution reflects the position of the European Parliament regarding the budget for the period 2028 – 2035 of the European Union. The position is very timely, as the European Commission is currently developing a proposal for the next budget of the EU. In this light, it is key to build upon the strengths of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and its predecessors, to ensure the next MFF will be designed to further boost competitiveness. Fostering innovation from its inception phase to deployment across the relevant value chain will be key to ensure the competitiveness of the European Union.

According to the resolution, funding for research and innovation, including support for basic research, should be significantly increased compared to the current MFF. Furthermore, the funding should be focused on the Union's strategic priorities and continue to be determined by the principle of excellence. And finally, according to the European Parliament, there should be sufficient resources across the MFF and at national level to fund all high-quality projects throughout the innovation cycle and to achieve the 3 % GDP target for research and development spending by 2030. The European Parliament urges the European Commission to ensure a standalone Framework Programme 10, as successor of the current Horizon Europe programme.

The European Parliament also call for the deployment of innovations, and the next MFF, building on the current Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), should include significantly increased, directly managed funding for energy, transport and digital infrastructure. This renewed CEF should give priority to cross-border connections and national links with European added value, considering that such infrastructure is an absolute precondition for a successful deepening of the single market and for increasing the Union's resilience in a changing geopolitical order. Finally, the European Parliament calls upon the European Commission to draw lessons learnt from the current Innovation Fund to be able to shape the proposed Competitiveness Fund.

Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne TP, said: *"The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the resolution of the European Parliament. The transition towards a resilient, competitive and sustainable waterborne sector requires joint investments in research, development, innovation and its deployment. In the current MFF, the co-programmed partnership on zero-emission waterborne transport, co-funded via Horizon Europe, has been able bringing to bring a highly fragmented sector with diverging strategic ambitions to the table. The Partnership has added value by aligning agendas, resources, and efforts among sectors and businesses, including SMEs that dominate in the field. Furthermore, the Connecting Europe Facility and the Innovation Fund have been instrumental to co-finance deployment of innovations. These funding instruments, including their current window of activities, will be fundamental to enhance the competitiveness of the European waterborne sector, and thereby of the EU."*



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