

Press Release

SEA Europe AGM in Vilnius

The European Ships and Maritime Equipment Association (SEA Europe) held its Annual General Meeting in Vilnius from 27-29 June hosted by the Association of Lithuanian Shipbuilders and Ship-repairers.

National shipbuilding and maritime equipment associations from Europe and leading companies, representing almost 100% of the European shipbuilding value chain, reviewed their European and international policy strategy for the coming year against challenging but cautiously optimistic economic conditions.

Matters discussed amongst others included challenges associated with long term financing of new ships, implementation of new environmental legislation and research development and innovation. Providing a background to the discussions was the endorsement of the European strategic framework, **LeaderSHIP 2020**, by the Competitiveness Council on the 29th of May 2013.

“With the firm commitment of the Member States and the European Commission for this initiative a real momentum has been created to support the sector politically in these challenging times”, the SEA Europe Chairman Mr Lars Gørvell-Dahll said. “There are a number of important policy issues which can be stimulated by *LeaderSHIP* and should give the industry and SEA Europe orientation in the coming years in order to enhance the European maritime technology industry’s competitiveness”.

On the postponement of the entry into force of Tier III NOx standards from 2016-2014 and more broadly the **undue uncertainty of implementation of environmental maritime regulations** Mr Lars Gørvell-Dahll said “this is bad for our business, the industry players who have become ‘first movers’ are being penalised by the proposal and it undermines the legislative process for which trust and certainty are key ingredients. It sets back the ambitions of the sector to develop the most environmentally friendly ships and technologies for ‘greener’ operation and benefit of the environment”.

In the face of the challenging market conditions discussion took place on **long-term financing of large scale projects** which characterises the European maritime technology industry. The chairman summarised that “predictability and access to finance is vital for the industry to fund long-term investments and this relies on the ability of the financial system to operate effectively and responsibly. SEA Europe will support initiatives by the European Commission to address bottlenecks of long term financing in order to improve the liquidity and functioning of the markets.”

SEA Europe will also prioritise its **focus on research development and innovation**. The association will continue to coordinate the development of a Public Private Partnership under Horizon 2020 on behalf of the Waterborne Technology Platform looking at the eco-efficiency and safety of vessels.

Mr Gørvell-Dahll further emphasised that Innovation Aid under the current Shipbuilding Framework for State Aid is essential for supporting innovation. “SEA Europe will aim to ensure that after the expiry of the shipbuilding framework at the end of 2012, that the definitions for innovation aid will remain intact under the horizontal Research, Development and Innovation Framework for State Aid”.

The SEA Europe AGM also endorsed the decision that **Mr Govert Hamers (IHC, Netherlands) will succeed Mr Lars Gørvell-Dahll (Kongsberg, Norway) as Chairman of SEA Europe** from October 2013. Mr Gørvell-Dahll will step down midway through his tenure in order to be the Managing Director of the maritime arm of the Federation of Norwegian Industries.

Vilnius, 28 June 2013



Background Note:

SEA Europe brings together CESA and EMEC and represents an industry which generates more than €72 billion turnover annually and offers employment in high profile jobs for more than 500 000 Europeans. The association represents close to 100% of the European shipbuilding industry in 18 nations, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of ships and floating structures, commercial as well as naval including the full supply chain with the various producers of maritime systems, equipment material, and services.

For further information also see: www.SEAEUROPE.eu (*under construction*) or contact:

T: +32 2 230 2791

secretariat@seaeurope.eu