

EU Industrial Maritime Strategy: The Competitiveness Compass is pointing to the right direction

On 29 January, the European Commission presented the Competitiveness Compass as the first major initiative of its new mandate. The Competitiveness Compass provides a strategic and clear framework to steer the European Commission's upcoming work on competitiveness, decarbonisation, and innovation.

The Shipyards' & Maritime Equipment Association of Europe (SEA Europe), representing European shipyards and maritime manufacturers, welcomes the Competitiveness Compass and its strong ambition for the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industries. In particular, SEA Europe welcomes the clear confirmation that the long-awaited Industrial Maritime Strategy is planned for delivery in 2025, alongside the European Port Strategy and the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan.

The Industrial Maritime Strategy is key to enhance the competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience of Europe's maritime manufacturing sector. Shipyards and maritime equipment industry are strategic for Europe: They build, retrofit, equip, or maintain the vessels and platforms that carry goods, energy, raw materials, and passengers, connect maritime regions, and support the exploration and exploitation of a wide range of maritime and underwater activities, in particular offshore energy and communication cables. The maritime manufacturing industry also produces naval capabilities that are paramount for preserving Europe's strategic autonomy, defending its maritime borders, and securing its maritime and underwater infrastructure.

Alberto Maestrini, Chairman of SEA Europe, emphasized the industry's commitment to Europe's industrial and environmental goals:

"The European maritime manufacturing industry fully supports the European Commission's objectives of turning the green agenda into a driver for industrial competitiveness in Europe. We are ready to collaborate with policymakers and other European maritime stakeholders to make this vision a reality through the upcoming EU Clean Industrial Deal and Industrial Maritime Strategy. Given today's geopolitical tensions and growing emphasis on national interests, it is imperative that Europe maritime cluster unites its strengths as Team Europe. We are pleased to see the recognition of our industry's strategic importance. Now is the time to translate this recognition into concrete actions."

SEA Europe looks forward to engaging with stakeholders to ensure that the forthcoming strategies deliver lasting benefits for Europe's industrial and environmental ambitions.

Background Note:

SEA Europe represents close to 100% of the European shipbuilding industry in 16 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. As an NGO observer at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), CESA represents the shipbuilding industry and its supply chain from EU Member States, Norway, and Turkey.

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