



HEADING TOWARDS A NEW CHAPTER IN THE EU-CHINA RELATIONSHIP

SEA Europe calls upon the EU28 Leaders to fully endorse the new Communication on China

Brussels, 20 March 2019

SEA Europe, the European Shipyards and Maritime Equipment Manufacturers' Association, calls upon the EU to take a stronger stance on reciprocity and level playing field in the EU-China trade relations at the 21-22 March European Council meeting.

SEA Europe welcomes the recent [European Commission Communication "EU-China – A Strategic Outlook"](#), which recognizes that China's proactive and state-driven industrial policies, such as "Made in China 2025", are targeting Europe's global leadership in strategic sectors, such as high-tech shipbuilding and maritime equipment manufacturing.

The Communication also acknowledges that *"the balance of opportunities and challenges presented by China has shifted"*. And that in order to maintain its long-term prosperity, *"the EU itself needs to adapt to changing economic realities and strengthen its own domestic policies and industrial base"*.

In line with this Communication, SEA Europe calls upon the European Council to fully endorse the urgent need to adapt the existing EU rulebook and industrial policies to the challenge of unfair price and state support-based competition.

"We are pleased to note that the European Commission has eventually recognised that China is not only a country of business opportunities but – as stated in the Communication, is also an economic competitor and systemic rival in the pursuit of technological leadership posing threats to Europe. Such threats are particularly relevant for the European maritime technology sector, which is directly targeted by "Made in China 2025", said SEA Europe Secretary General Christophe Tytgat.

"We now call upon the EU to take the next step, i.e. adopt a new dedicated sectoral strategy for the European maritime technology industry, which will allow the sector to tackle its challenges, threats as well as opportunities", concluded Mr. Tytgat.

About SEA Europe:

SEA Europe, the European Shipyards and Maritime Equipment Association, is the voice of the European maritime technology industry. SEA Europe promotes and supports European business enterprises which are involved in the building, construction, maintenance and repair of all types of ships and other relevant maritime structures, including the complete supply chain of systems, equipment and services. The EU 28 maritime technology industry is currently the leading global region in terms of aggregated production value of shipbuilding and ship

systems production (EUR 112.5 Billion) and an important generator of employment (900.000 direct and indirect jobs).

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