

Joint Press Release: industriAll Europe and SEA Europe

Shipbuilding social partners call for urgent action to safeguard European industry and its workers!

(08 November 2019)

One year on following industriAll Europe and SEA Europe's Joint Manifesto: [Maritime Technology: A Strategic Sector for Europe \(2018\)](#), the European Social Partners call for strong commitment from EU policy makers to defend European industry and protect European jobs.

On 8 November, European social partners for the maritime technology sector, industriAll Europe and SEA Europe, met in Brussels for their annual plenary meeting. Reflecting on the year since the launch of their joint manifesto: [Maritime Technology: A Strategic Sector for Europe](#), the social partners have again united in their calls for European policy makers to fulfill the demands set out in the document.

The joint manifesto demands for the maritime technology sector to be recognised as a **strategic sector** for Europe and calls for a **dedicated European sectoral strategy**. The social partners are disappointed that these requests have not been actioned and are joining forces to call on the new European Parliament and the new European Commission to use this mandate to **invest in Europe's industry and its workers**.

Luis Colunga, Deputy General Secretary for *industriAll Europe* said:

*"The maritime technology sector provides more than **1 million jobs in Europe**. These are high-quality jobs and are crucial for many communities and regions across Europe. We cannot lose these jobs due to unfair trading practices in other countries!"*

"Workers demand that the European Institutions listen and stand up for European workers. We need a new strategy for the sector which tackles unfair trade and invests in shipyards and their workforces. There is no time to lose!"

Christophe Tytgat, Secretary General of *SEA Europe* said:

"In Europe there are around 300 shipyards and 22.000 maritime equipment and technology suppliers which are leading maritime innovation. The industry is committed to deliver zero emission ships and barges for inland navigation and short sea shipping by 2030 and ensure that by 2050 any ship will be zero emission. If Europe wants to stay ahead of innovation, achieve its Blue Growth targets and the decarbonization of shipping it must put the framework conditions once for all so that maritime technology companies can compete in equal conditions in a fully unbalanced global market."

“The risk of losing Europe’s knowhow, capabilities and leadership in advanced maritime technologies is high, particularly in the light of the ongoing unfair competition from Asia and China’s Made in China 2025 policy. Losing this knowhow and 1 million jobs is unaffordable for Europe! That’s why we are strongly calling upon the EU institutions to adopt a comprehensive sectoral EU policy to support the sector”.

ENDS.

Notes to the editor

Please find a copy of the social partner’s joint manifesto [HERE](#).

IndustriAll European Trade Union represents the voice of 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe. We aim to protect and advance the rights of the workers. Our federation has 181 trade union affiliates in 38 European countries. Our objective is to be a powerful player in the European political arena vis-à-vis European companies, European industries, employers’ associations and European institutions.

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.