

21 November 2005

New European Maritime Policy Conference: A Success!

Brussels, 17 November 2005

The Mare Forum Conference organised with the Dutch Maritime Network and the ENMC which was held in Brussels on 17 November 2005, marked the start of a whole new way of European policy making. EU Commission president Barroso and Commissioner Borg, supported by a high-level Maritime Policy Task Force, had invited the entire maritime and marine industry to put forward their views on a New European Maritime Policy. The maritime industry's trade organisations were taken by surprise by this reversal of roles when the Communication was launched by the Commissioners in March this year. Some thirty organisations put forward their views and these were discussed among the almost 300 participants. The objective of the Commission is to review existing policies, look for common ground and inconsistencies, and propose measures to fully benefit from the world class European maritime sectors and clusters, in a responsible and sustainable way.

The Conference generated a lot of ideas which will undoubtedly be reflected in the Green Paper which the Commission will publish in the spring of next year. Thereafter a whole range of consultative procedures will take place, amongst and within member states, maritime regions, maritime sectors, and maritime clusters.

The European maritime sectors and countries have been made responsible for their own maritime future. This approach is new in European policy making and it could well become the example for other policy domains.

Commissioner Borg applauded in his speech (page 4) the creation of the European Network of Maritime Clusters.

The speeches from Commissioners Barroso, Borg and Piebalgs, and from UK minister Ladyman, Norwegian state secretary Yrvin, German state secretary Nagel, and Greek secretary general Tzoannos will be published in the Proceedings of the conference, together with the 30 policy papers. These Proceedings will be made by the Dutch Maritime Network and Mare Forum and will be sent to the participants early next year. *Please inform the ENMC secretariat how many copies you wish to receive for your national distribution.*

The papers can viewed on the website of Mare Forum: www.mareforum.com

Some photographs of the event are attached to the Newsletter.

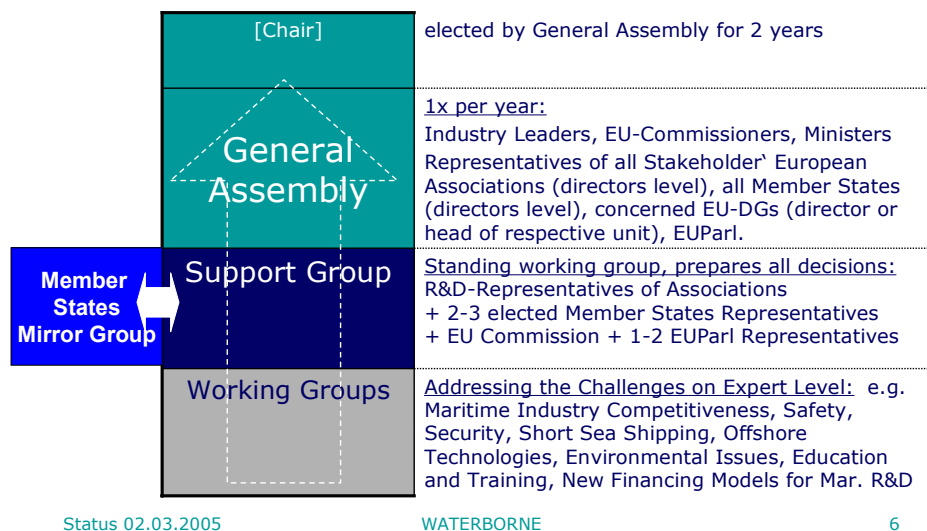
Waterborne Technology Platform

The European Commission has stimulated the creation of the Waterborne Technology Platform, which was founded on 25 January 2005 during the Maritime Industries Forum meeting in Bremen. The terms of reference of this Platform are summarized in the figure.

WATERBORNE™

Terms of Reference:

Reliable „Bottom up“-Structure for Definition of R&D Policy



The Waterborne TP consists of the Support Group, the Mirror Group and the General Assembly. The first task has been to draw up a *Vision 2020* document for the European maritime cluster, and the second task is to formulate a *Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)* which will become the basis for the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013). The Vision 2020 document will be finalized during the plenary meeting of the Waterborne TP on 24 November in Brussels and mailed to the members of the ENMC consequently. The SRA should be ready before the end of the year, and has to be approved during a General Assembly meeting in February. The date and place of this meeting have not yet been fixed. Niko Wijnolst chairs the Mirror Group of 25 EU Members States and 5 associated European countries. We shall keep you informed of its developments.

ENMC Presentation Marintec China 2005

The chairman of the Dutch Maritime Network and the European Network of Maritime Clusters is invited to give a keynote address at the forthcoming Marintec China 2005 Conference on 6 December 2005 in Shanghai. In this presentation, which is attached to this Newsletter, use is made of the various presentations of the 2nd Roundtable in Paris on 4 November 2005. Slides from Renato Sicurezza on shipbuilding, from the cluster presentations of Mark Brownrigg, Francis Vallat, Mikko Niini, Bogdan Sedler, and Volker Mund/Thomas Knaus have been used to illustrate the growing cooperation among European national maritime sectors and clusters.

Reminder Cluster Definitions Study

In the many countries engaged in forms of maritime cluster approach various definitions of maritime clusters are being used, each reflecting national or regional circumstances and opinions. Whilst this is very well for local situations it prevents figures to be used on an aggregate level, and hence impairs the cluster discussion on a European platform. Agreed definitions - e.g. which sectors are maritime and in how far related economic activities are maritime - have been extensively debated with a view to arrive at a mutual agreed position. The network of cluster organisations will initiate an study of sector and cluster definitions and will propose a European standard to be used in future economic impact studies. On this basis the European Community will be advised to fund a statistical survey as to the importance and sectorial interrelationships of the European Maritime Cluster. It is expected that the economic value of the European maritime cluster is far greater than currently assumed. Similarly, some agreed definition, or rather common criteria, will have to be adopted for a national organisation to informally qualify as representing its national cluster of maritime activities. Commissioner Borg has emphasised in his speech at the New European Maritime Policy Conference the need for a sound and up-to-date quantitative basis of the European Maritime Cluster.

The Dutch Maritime Network will coordinate with the consultant Policy Research Corp. the work to come to a unified set of definitions on which basis an update can be made of the economic structure and characteristics (turnover, employment, value added) of the clusters in the 25 member states.

So please send us your studies, publications, reports and proposals, in order to quick start the work.

Any Other Business

Rikke Lind from the Norwegian maritime cluster was, due to a health problem, unable to attend the 2nd Roundtable in Paris, but confirmed in Brussels last week that she joins the European Network of Maritime Clusters. She also invited the ENMC to help organize the next Maritime Industries Forum which is scheduled to take place 5-6 October 2006 in Oslo.

The Dutch Maritime Network will shortly go to Oslo to discuss with the Norwegian maritime cluster the cooperation between Norway and the ENMC. An important theme for the MIF meeting will be the Green Paper of the EU Commission on the New European Maritime Policy.

The Dutch government has submitted a contribution to the European Maritime Policy Task Force last week. This paper will be subject to an extensive discussion within the Dutch maritime cluster. We shall report on its findings in the next Newsletter.

The Transport Council of the Dutch government has published on the 17th of November a study on a holistic maritime policy for the North Sea, titled *Invest in the North Sea*. This report contains many relevant themes for the debate on a new EU maritime policy, and therefore we shall mail you a copy of the report (in English).

If you have contributions for the Newsletter, please mail these to:

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Rotterdam, 21 November 2005

Impressions from the New European Maritime Policy Conference, 17 November 2005



