

## **EBI and ICOMIA seal a new strategic partnership that underscores close cooperation**

*Brussels, 12 March 2024 – European Boating Industry (EBI) and the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) are pleased to announce the signing of a new strategic partnership agreement aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing the interests of the European and global recreational boating industry.*



Darren Vaux (President of ICOMIA) and Robert Marx (President of EBI)

The three-year strategic partnership agreement is based on the shared commitment of both associations to promote sustainability, innovation, and growth within the recreational boating industry. EBI, representing the European boating and nautical tourism industry, and ICOMIA, representing global marine industry associations, recognise the importance of cooperation in achieving their common goals.

The associations will collaborate closely on advocacy with EBI taking the lead in representing the industry in EU and wider European bodies while ICOMIA will take the lead at the IMO and global level. The associations will share knowledge to create maximum value for their members. This includes regular updates by EBI on EU and by ICOMIA global regulatory developments, as well as collaboration on technical standards and advocacy activities.

Commenting on the partnership, Robert Marx, President of EBI, stated, *"We are excited to renew, once again this partnership with our partners ICOMIA, and place it on an even higher level. This represents a significant step forward in our efforts to strengthen the entire recreational boating industry. By working together, we can more effectively address common challenges and seize opportunities for growth and sustainability."*

As Darren Vaux, President of ICOMIA highlights, *"We are delighted to be renewing and refreshing this strategic partnership between ICOMIA and EBI. As the global voice of the recreational industry it is of vital importance that we collaborate closely with our European partners. Our members look to ICOMIA to inform and influence on all matters of regulatory developments in order to create the optimal conditions for growth. This partnership enables our mutual goals of supporting our respective members globally. The spirit of collaboration between our organisations has never been stronger."*

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### **About European Boating Industry (EBI)**

EBI represents the recreational boating industry in Europe. It encompasses all related sectors, such as boatbuilding, equipment manufacturing, marinas and service providers. The industry is a significant contributor to the European economy, representing 32,000 companies, predominantly SMEs that

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employ over 280,000 people directly. The mission of EBI is to advance and represent a sustainable boating and nautical tourism industry #MadeInEurope. More information on EBI's website: [www.europeanboatingindustry.eu](http://www.europeanboatingindustry.eu)

### **About International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA)**

ICOMIA brings together a wide range of national marine industry associations into one global organisation and represents them at an international level, presenting a strong and united voice when dealing with issues challenging the industry. ICOMIA has been an active advocate for the international marine industry since 1966, working with authorities, regulatory bodies and related organisations to facilitate and encourage the growth of the worldwide recreational marine industry whilst keeping on top of policies and guidance to ensure the promotion, protection and growth of the industry.

### **European Boating Industry**

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