

## Boating industry comes together to develop landmark Environmental Footprint Standard

*Brussels, 17th April 2024 – Under the umbrella of EBI, key market players are jointly tackling the sustainability challenge and bringing the industry ahead of the curve. A group of 16 leading recreational boat manufacturers and 8 industry associations is coming together to develop the first-ever environmental footprint methodology for recreational boats under 24 meters. It will be backed up by a database and assessment tool to allow small and large manufacturers to access the green transition.*



*The representatives of manufacturers, national associations, Quantis and industry stakeholders took part at the kick-off meeting held in Amsterdam on 16 April 2024.*

Tackling climate change and reducing environmental impact as a whole is a major challenge and the boating industry is committed to addressing emissions across the entire life cycle. This is however only possible with a common approach that the entire industry is signed up to.

A group of 16 leading European boat manufacturers and 8 marine industry associations is coming together to develop an industry standard methodology to measuring the environmental footprint of boats under 24 meters. The threshold of 24 meters has been chosen to align with EU regulations. It will be based on a coherent Life Cycle Assessment approach following the stringent EU Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules.

The project will be conducted in two phases, first focusing on developing a science-based and transparent environmental footprint methodology to harmonise calculation rules. In the second phase, the focus will be on implementing this with a comprehensive materials database and user-friendly calculation tool. This then allows manufacturers to conduct eco-design and comprehensively reduce environmental impact, as well as communicate the environmental footprint to consumers, stakeholders and regulators. It will go beyond carbon emissions and include other critical environmental indicators.

This common effort will also allow industry to comply with the latest EU environmental legislation and be ahead of the regulatory curve. The project has already been presented to the EU Commission and received its strong support.

The project is led by European Boating Industry (EBI) and is industry-financed. The renowned environmental sustainability consultancy Quantis has been chosen as technical partner. ICOMIA, the

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International Council of Marine Industry Associations, is a strategic partner of the project to ensure global alignment. It builds on the comprehensive and independent ‘Pathways to Propulsion Decarbonisation for the Recreational Marine Industry’ study published in November 2023<sup>1</sup>.

**Robert Marx, President of EBI** commented *“This is a unique and highly welcome cooperation. For the first time, competing manufacturers are committed to jointly addressing the sustainability challenge. Its outcomes will allow companies of all sizes to access the green transition without greenwashing, reduce environmental impact and proactively shape the regulatory approach in Europe and globally. We need a proactive and pragmatic approach to sustainability and this project will develop the tools that industry needs.”*

EBI invites all interested manufacturers, suppliers and stakeholders to partner with the project to reach a common pathway for the industry’s sustainability challenge.

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Notes to editors: The following manufacturers are involved in the project: Amel Yachts, Amer Yachts, Azimut|Benetti Group, Bavaria Yachts, Beneteau Group, Cantiere del Pardo, Catana Group, Ferretti Group, Fountaine Pajot, Grand Large Yachting, Greenline, Inha Works, Sanlorenzo, Sasga, Sunreef, and Sunseeker.

Groups of small manufacturers have been formed in Italy, France, Finland and The Netherlands to contribute jointly through their associations. Associations involved in the project are BVWW, FIN, HISWA-RECRON, Finnboat, Confindustria Nautica, Polboat, ANEN, and British Marine.

A liaison board has been set up to represent the interest of suppliers, including composites, internal combustion and electric engine manufacturers in addition to users/consumers. The methodology will be independently reviewed by a third-party panel of experts representing industry, non-governmental organisations and environmental Life Cycle Analysis experts.

### **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 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)

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<sup>1</sup> Details of the study, including a Synopsis Report can be found at [www.propellingourfuture.com](http://www.propellingourfuture.com) which is a global educational campaign aimed at further reducing recreational marine carbon emissions and protecting the marine environment for generations to come.

**European Boating Industry**

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