

European Boating Industry and ICOMIA join UN World Tourism Organization

Brussels, 7 June – The European and global associations of the recreational boating industry join the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as affiliate members. Nautical tourism will now be at the core of the biggest international tourism organisation, further increasing opportunities for outreach to governments in promoting the benefits of the sector and sustainably growing going forward.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO¹) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. Based in Spain, it has 159 member states and over 500 affiliate members. UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

At the 118th session of the UNWTO Executive Council in mid-May, European Boating Industry (EBI) and the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) were accepted as affiliate members, becoming important partners of UNWTO. This position will catapult the nautical tourism sector into the spotlight of tourism organisations at global level.

The common aim of both associations is to promote nautical tourism as a major tourism option that offers growth opportunities for communities and regions, sustainable solutions and make the entire tourism industry fit for the future. This membership will support the industry through valuable opportunities for learning, sharing of information, and new partnerships.

The two associations will share the membership, with EBI leading on issues for the European Region and ICOMIA on other global regions. The official membership is held by EBI, but be shared based on the long-term partnership agreement and excellent collaboration between both associations.

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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 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

About the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA)

ICOMIA brings together 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

¹ <https://www.unwto.org/>



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 recreational marine industry whilst keeping on top of policies and guidance to ensure safety, sustainability and compliance. To find out more about ICOMIA visit www.icomia.org.

European Boating Industry

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