

## EU advisory body calls for new EU maritime industrial strategy with a focus on recreational boating

Brussels, 9 January 2023 - The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), an official consultative body of the European Union, calls for an industrial strategy for the maritime technology sector, including a number of issues of particular interest to the recreational boating sector. It once again confirms the recreational boating industry at the heart of EU decision-making.

The EESC is a consultative body made up of **representatives of workers' and employers' organisations and other interest groups** that serves as a bridge between the EU's decision-making institutions and its citizens. It delivers opinions on EU matters to the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

During its plenary session on 14 November 2022, the EESC adopted an **opinion calling for an industrial strategy for the maritime technology sector**, including some points of **particular relevance to recreational boating**<sup>1</sup>. It recognises Europe's strong position in recreational boat building.

The Strategy highlights 4 main areas of work: Improving market access and fair market conditions; Employment and skills; Access to finance; and Research & development and innovation.

The EESC advocates the creation of a "**Maritime Expert Group**" and a "**European Industrial Alliance for the Maritime Technology Sector**" to improve and regain the global competitiveness of the European maritime technology sector. Targeted at the recreational boating industry, the EESC calls for a fleet renewal scheme and retrofitting of existing boats to stimulate demand for green technology, and EU financing to enable dismantling and recycling of end-of-life vessels, as well as Research, Development & Innovation financing for the sector to develop green and smart technologies.

European Boating Industry attended the meeting where the Opinion was discussed and subsequently tabled a number of amendments, focusing on the recreational boating industry remaining **fundamentally #MadeInEurope** and in need of support. **Jean Pierre Goudant, President of EBI** said :

*"We are very pleased to see that the opinion recently approved by the European Economic and Social Committee has taken up many of the suggestions made by EBI. As directly mentioned by the EESC, the time to act to support a sector of reference within the maritime industry, such as recreational boating, is now. EBI fully supports these objectives to come to fruition and thus maintain and strengthen the position of the European recreational boating industry."*

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### About European Boating Industry

European Boating Industry (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,

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<sup>1</sup> The full opinion is available on the European Economic and Social Committee's website [here](#).



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).

**European Boating Industry**

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