

EBI General Assembly held on 15th Anniversary in Barcelona

Barcelona, Spain – June 12, 2024 – European Boating Industry (EBI) held its biannual General Assembly on June 11, 2024, in the vibrant city of Barcelona. Hosted by the Spanish member, Asociación Nacional de Empresas Nauticas (ANEN), in collaboration with the Marina Port Vell, the Port of Barcelona and MB92, this significant event set the stage for discussions and strategic partnerships for the future of the boating industry in Europe. Turkey, Croatia, and ADAC joined EBI.



EBI members visiting the America's Cup Experience in Barcelona, Spain.

Members had the opportunity to visit some key nautical sites in the city, including MB92 Superyacht Refit, the America's Cup base and Marina Port Vell. At its 15th anniversary after being founded in 2009, EBI has grown significantly to now encompasses 28 members representing thousands of companies in the recreational boating industry. A major highlight of the assembly was the welcoming of new full and sustaining members. The Turkish Yacht & Boat Industry Association (YATED) and the Nautical

Sector of the Croatian Employer's Association (CEA) joined EBI as full members. Additionally, the General German Automobile Club (ADAC) joined EBI as sustaining member. This underscores EBI's growing reach, solidifying its role as a key representative of the boating industry across Europe.

"Barcelona provided the perfect backdrop for this year's General Assembly, showing the importance of our industry in supporting the city's rich maritime heritage and a dynamic environment for the boating industry," said **EBI President, Robert Marx**. "We are thrilled to welcome our new members from Turkey, Croatia, and the ADAC, whose inclusion will strengthen our collective voice and enhance our ability to advocate for the industry's interests at the European level."

Murat Bekiroglu, President of YATED states: "I am enchanted and very proud of our incorporation in the European Boating Industry (EBI) whose strategy prioritises sustainability, changes in consumer needs and demands, and digitalisation, which are the principal and primary aspects of our organisation, YATED, as well as the keen ambition towards achieving the highest standards in our industry. Turkey, having an exceptionally energetic and fast-growing marine industry, and matchless nautical tourism potential, has undoubtedly too much to add to and get from the EBI. I see immense opportunities which will arise from our collaboration with the EBI."

European Boating Industry



Romano Piculjan, President of CEA commented : *We want to achieve the most favorable legislative framework for our members and Croatian nautical industry in general. Better visibility and promotion of boating industry, ecology and environmental protection has become one of the most important topics for our association. Joining EBI is important for us, not only because we share the same goals, but also because of better and easier global activities for our members and connections with European Boating Industry.*

Karlheinz Jungbeck, Tourism President of ADAC, added: *“ We are looking forward to a successful sponsoring membership of the ADAC in the EBI. This will enable our two associations to work together even more effectively at European level and advance important issues such as the establishment of the circular economy in the boating industry or the universal mutual recognition of recreational boating licences in EU countries and beyond.”*

The General Assembly gathered members to discuss crucial topics including a post-EU election recap, its engagement plan with new EU institutions, and updates on EU Affairs. These topics fostered meaningful dialogue and collaboration to promote the boating sector's growth and sustainability.

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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

European Boating Industry

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