

Future-proofing boat manufacturing in Europe: 11th EBI Breakfast Meeting to gather leading CEOs at boot Düsseldorf

Brussels, 19 December 2025 – European Boating Industry (EBI), in partnership with boot Düsseldorf, announces the **11th International Breakfast Meeting**, taking place on **Tuesday 20 January 2026 in room 14-15, Hall 1** of boot Düsseldorf. The event brings together leading CEOs from across the boating sector to discuss how to strengthen series production and ensuring that European manufacturers remain competitive in a changing global environment. The programme includes a keynote by **Constantin Buschmann**, CEO of Brabus, offering a perspective from the premium automotive and mobility sector. It will also feature the launch of the **EBI Economic Index 2026**, providing industry leaders with updated market intelligence, data and trends relevant to strategic planning.



10th IBM. © Messe Düsseldorf / ctillmann

The 11th International Breakfast Meeting, titled **“Future-proofing boat manufacturing in Europe”**, will be opened by **Petros Michelidakis**, Director of boot Düsseldorf, and **Robert Marx**, President of EBI and boot Düsseldorf. EBI will launch its Economic Index 2026, bringing the latest market intelligence, economic trends and policy insights directly from Brussels to the industry.

The programme will feature a keynote by **Constantin Buschmann**, CEO of Brabus, bringing a high-level perspective from the premium automotive and mobility sector.

A strong lineup of industry leaders will follow, bringing perspectives from some of Europe’s most recognised boatbuilders. **Erna Rusi**, CEO of Saxdor Yachts, **Fabio Planamente**, Board Member of Cantiere del Pardo and EBI Special Representative for the Large Yacht Sector, and **Norbert Leifeld**, CEO of Bavaria Yachts, will share their views on how to reinforce the manufacturing strength that Europe holds and position European yards for long-term success. Their contributions will provide insight into the opportunities and challenges shaping the industry.

Registration is now open. Seating is limited, find the full details and secure your place [here](#).

European Boating Industry

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Breakfast and networking will begin at **08:00** in room 15, Hall 1 (South Entrance), followed by the conference from **09:00 to 10:30**, and a networking coffee until **12:00**.

About boot Düsseldorf

With more than 200,000 visitors from over 100 countries and 1,500 exhibitors on 220,000 square meters in Halls 1 to 17, boot Düsseldorf from 17 to 25 January 2026 is the world's largest yacht and water sports fair. Both sailors and motor boaters will find a wide variety of boats, dinghies, superboats or luxury yachts. The popular water sports of diving, surfing, kite surfing, stand up paddling, skimboarding or canoeing are available at boot in all facets and with the appropriate equipment. Attractive stage programs with the stars of the scene, the latest trends and a high-caliber mix of workshops and hands-on activities, both for leisure sports enthusiasts and experts, make the fair unique worldwide. But marine conservation and innovative, sustainable technologies are also in focus at boot 2026. In cooperation with the European Boating Industry (EBI), the blue innovation dock will offer a unique dialogue format with political, economic, technological and media expertise in Hall 10. In addition, two lighthouses for ocean protection will again be on board: The prestigious "ocean tribute" award with partners Prince Albert II. Foundation and German Ocean Foundation as well as the "love your ocean" campaign with its stand in Hall 11.

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

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