



European
Commission

Maritime Year *in Action*



Mobility and
Transport

Europe is one of the leading maritime centres in the world, and maritime transport is of crucial importance to our economy and mobility. By designating 2017 as the “Maritime Year”, the Commission has put maritime issues at the top of its agenda. This was to raise awareness of the importance of shipping in Europe, to foster dialogue and cooperation between all players in the maritime sector, and review and modernise the EU’s framework for maritime transport.

While progress was made on a number of important legislative files and initiatives, we also set a process in motion; the efforts made over the past twelve months will certainly continue delivering significant results in the course of 2018.

Passengers travelling
by sea in the EU: **400 m**

Part of EU’s external trade
shipped by sea: **3/4**

329 Major seaports
in the EU

World fleet controlled
by EU companies: **32%**





Modernising the EU framework

EU action in maritime transport constantly needs to be analysed and updated to ensure that it is fit for purpose. During the year we focused on:

Improving safety both on-board and onshore:

- An update of rules to simplify and improve passenger **ship safety** legislation.
- We made an evaluation on the liability of sea passenger carriers. Progress was also made on the evaluation of the Flag State, Port State Control and Accident Investigation legislation.
- A study on Seafarers **Training**, Certification and Watchkeeping was completed, serving as a foundation for a revision to improve mobility of seafarers in the EU.
- In parallel, we continue to fully support a constructive social dialogue for future job profiles, closing skills gaps, creating life-long careers.
- New rules were adopted on the design, construction and performance requirements as well as testing standards for marine equipment. A proposal for electronic tagging of marine equipment was also prepared.

Making use of digitalisation:

- A proposal on a **European Maritime Single Window environment** will be presented in 2018, to simplify administrative formalities.
- Substantial progress was made on the **eManifest** project, facilitating electronic reporting in connection with the Single Window.
- We have completed an evaluation on the effectiveness of legislation on Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information Systems.
- Digitalisation will facilitate enforcement and monitoring for safety, environmental and security purposes, including for cyber-security.

Reducing the impact on the environment:

- A new proposal on **Port Reception Facilities** will be published in January 2018 to better collect and treat waste from ships.
- The possibility of promoting greener vessels through differentiated port charges was also studied.

Increasing competitiveness of ports:

- The **Port Services Regulation** was adopted to set clear rules on transparency of public funding and access to port services. The extension of the General Block Exemption Regulation now provides greater flexibility on public investment in ports.

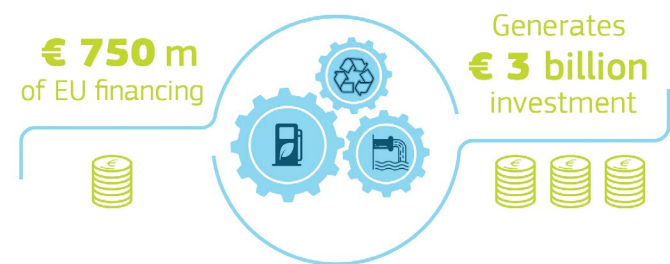
Investing in innovative shipping solutions

While it is for industry to make decisions on trade and investments, the EU is providing a framework to support the sector and ensure it remains competitive. EU funds are available for the uptake of innovative shipping solutions, responding to the challenges of decarbonisation and digitalisation.

Regular calls have been targeted to the maritime sector within the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) or Horizon 2020. In 2017, new maritime projects worth €196m were approved for **financing** via CEF. Moreover, maritime research and innovation is supported by €124m in 2018-2019 via the Horizon 2020 programme.

The Maritime Year also coincided with the conclusion of the first transactions in the Green Shipping Guarantee Programme, where the EIB provides financial guarantees through EU funds for financing sustainable marine technologies.

Green Shipping Guarantee Programme for sustainable technologies:



International developments

Coordination is important to ensure that Europeans promote a strong position on a global stage – both bilaterally and through the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Within our balanced and progressive trade policy, securing commitments on maritime transport remains important. The main international developments have been:

- Improving **global standards** for the stability of passenger ships when damaged (SOLAS Rules) at the IMO. The new rules are based on EU funded research and negotiations coordinated by the Commission.
- Adoption of the IMO data collection scheme on **CO₂ emissions**. The Commission is currently checking the possibility of aligning the EU data collection scheme for ship CO₂ emissions. We are also encouraging IMO discussions to prepare an ambitious initial strategy for the reduction of CO₂ emissions by April 2018.
- Bilateral maritime transport **dialogues** with third countries, in particular China, the United States and Norway.

Progressing on operational solutions

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) provides technical, operational and scientific assistance to the Commission and Member States. The Agency has concluded its pilot project with Frontex and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on European cooperation on coastguard functions. The three agencies are now teaming up to provide enhanced services to national authorities in areas such as information exchange, provision of surveillance services, capacity-building and operational cooperation. EMSA maritime picture is particularly relevant for the migration and maritime security agenda.



Intensifying the dialogue with maritime stakeholders

In light of the maritime year, the Commission focused better engaging with all maritime stakeholders and maintaining a constant dialogue on maritime issues. The main milestones have been:

- The organisation of several high level events such as the **European Shipping Week** or the High Level Ministerial & Stakeholders Conference on Maritime Affairs in Valletta, in cooperation with the Maltese Presidency and the EU shipping industry.
- The adoption of the **Valletta Declaration** on the priorities for the EU Maritime Transport Policy until 2020.
- More cooperation between all maritime players through the Commission expert groups, the **European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF)** and the **European Ports Forum**, which was established this year.



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