

Joint Press Release: A future European maritime technology industrial policy

European Maritime Technology sector: Social Partners demand dedicated EU action to save sector and jobs

(27 May 2021)

Two years after the publication of industriAll Europe and SEA Europe's Joint Manifesto: [Maritime Technology: A Strategic Sector for Europe](#) (2018), the European Social Partners renew their call for strong commitment from EU policy makers to defend European industry and protect European jobs.

On 25 May, employers and workers' representatives for the European maritime technology sector met online to adopt a strong joint statement on the need for a future European maritime technology industrial policy which is urgently required to support the survival, resilience and competitiveness of European shipyards and maritime technology providers.

The [Joint Statement](#) which follows the European Commission's recent communication "[Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery](#) " insists on the need for sectoral specific measures to support the Maritime Technology sector, which is not fully covered by current "horizontal" measures (e.g. Trade Defense Instruments). Concretely, the Joint Statement includes five core demands for EU policy makers:

1. **A sectoral approach to safeguard the sector and save jobs;**
2. **Action to stimulate domestic demand;**
3. **Cooperation and support to safeguard jobs and protect skills;**
4. **The adoption of policy measures to ensure fair competition;**
5. **Action to protect European strategic assets.**

Judith Kirton-Darling, Deputy General Secretary for industriAll Europe, said:

*"COVID-19 has put extra pressure on the European maritime technology sector which was already struggling under fierce global competition due to unfair State aid. New orders in Europe have collapsed and workers are uncertain as to whether they will have a job in the future. The sector provides more than **1 million jobs in Europe** and we cannot lose these high-quality jobs which are crucial for many communities and regions across Europe.*

"While some countries have actively supported their domestic maritime technology sector, including India, China and South Korea, European shipyards and their supply chains continues to suffer with no sector specific support on the horizon. European workers call on the EU to come forward with measures to tackle unfair trade and invests in shipyards and their workforces."

Christophe Tytgat, Secretary General of SEA Europe, said:

"Europe's maritime technology industry develops the most advanced vessels and technologies in the market. However, the pressure from unfair competition, and the impact of COVID-19 in some of Europe's most prominent niche markets, are putting the sector at serious risk.

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“With this Joint Statement, industry and workers want to send a strong message to policy makers reminding them that Maritime Technology is a strategic sector at the core of Europe’s maritime autonomy and resilience. If we don’t ensure today an adequate framework to keep a strong and competitive maritime technology sector in Europe, the continent with the largest coastal area and domestic market in the globe will become dependent of third countries to develop our ships, offshore structures and maritime technologies, and we will lose an industry providing 1 million jobs with a huge potential to increase its market share and job creation in the coming years thanks to the green and digital transition.”

Please find a copy of the social partner’s joint statement (25/05/2021) [HERE](#).

Please find a copy of the social partner’s joint manifesto (2018) [HERE](#).

IndustriAll European Trade Union represents the voice of 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe. We aim to protect and advance the rights of the workers. Our federation has 181 trade union affiliates in 38 European countries. Our objective is to be a powerful player in the European political arena vis-à-vis European companies, European industries, employers’ associations and European institutions.

SEA Europe represents close to 100% of the European shipbuilding industry in 16 nations, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of ships and floating structures, commercial as well as naval, including the full supply chain with the various producers of maritime systems, equipment material, and services.