

## PRESS RELEASE

### SHIPBUILDING REGIONS SEND A STRONG POLITICAL SIGNAL

A Joint Declaration by 33 Regional Governments on the Future of the European Shipbuilding Industry was handed over today to Prof. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of the European Council, the European Commission and the President of the Committee of the Regions. Jointly, the 33 Regions consider the future of the European shipbuilding industry as a top priority for their economic development in the coming decades and share deep concerns related to the impact of the global shipbuilding crisis.

The social partners of the sector highly appreciated this initiative. Reinhard Lüken, Secretary General of the Community of European Shipyards' Associations (CESA) said: "The joint support from all major shipbuilding regions across the EU underlines the urgency of the issue and the importance of finding joint solutions to the shared worries. The Regions are calling for European leadership. We sincerely hope that the EU institutions take this call up fast. We need decisions!" Ruud van den Bergh, Chairman of the Shipbuilding Social Dialogue Group with the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) said: "More than 60 million people are standing behind the position expressed in this Joint Declaration of their Regional Governments. Ten thousands of jobs have already been lost due to the crisis. This is an attractive high-tech industry. We do not want to pay the price for unfair competition from Asia or the mistakes of the banks and speculators. We trust in Europe!"

The positive response of the EU Institutions during the hand-over is encouraging and CESA and EMF thank in particular President Buzek for his clear support.

The social partners in the sector have a long tradition of pulling jointly for shared policy goals. After the successful years since the introduction of the LeaderSHIP 2015 policy, the current global crisis could cause irreparable damage to Europe's outstanding shipbuilding capabilities. The proposed action programme, which resulted from the LeaderSHIP High Level Meeting in September 2009 chaired by Günther Verheugen, then Commission Vice-President in charge of Industry, is considered the right way ahead, if implemented without further delay. The industry needs first of all new orders to limit the employment impact to the minimum. To this end, particularly the concept of an eco-bonus for the replacement of out-dated, unsafe and polluting tonnage in European waters could be effective to bridge the temporary demand gap. Complementing temporary employment measures would help to avoid a social crisis and maintain a skilled workforce.

Various forms of well established as well as new ocean businesses for Europe's innovative shipyards with their dense supply and service network are offering attractive growth potential, provided a level playing field is safeguarded and access to project financing is in place.

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Annex: Joint Declaration by 33 Regional Governments on the Future of the European Shipbuilding Industry

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Background

CESA, the Community of European Shipyards' Associations, represents directly more than 99% of the EU shipbuilding production with more than 300 shipyards producing, converting and maintaining merchant and naval ships and other floating objects. European shipyards supply more than 100,000 direct jobs for a highly skilled labour force, generating an annual turnover of 30 – 40 billion €. CESA comprises 16 National Associations from the EU, Norway and Croatia.

The EMF is the representative body defending the interests of workers in the European metal industry. The EMF has a mandate for the external representation and coordination of the metalworkers' unions and a mandate to engage in bargaining at European level.