

RAMSSES PRESENTS AT HORIZON 2020 WATERBORNE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

On June 8th, 2017 - the World Ocean Day - the European Commission organised a conference on **HORIZON 2020 Waterborne Research – Competitive, Safe and Sustainable** in Brussels. The event presented work and results of 15 waterborne projects mainly funded in the first half of HORIZON 2020 (2014-2016) under the Transport (“Mobility for Growth”) priority.



1: Plenary Session. From right: Alan Haigh (INEA), Peter Crawley (Moderator, Surface Transport Unit, DG R&I) Clara de la Torre (DG R&I), Sandro Santamato (DG M&T), Christophe Tytgart (SEA Europe)

The event was attended by close to 100 representatives of European Commission services, the European Parliament, member states and the maritime community. In her opening speech, **Clara de la Torre**, Director ‘Transport’ of DG Research & Innovation, highlighted the importance of waterborne transport for Europe and the importance of a competitive industry as a job engine and driver for innovation. The responsibility of Europe to make waterborne transport more efficient, safer and more environmentally friendly was also underlined by **Sandro Santamato**, Head of Maritime Transport and Logistics, DG Mo-

bility and Transport, who referred to upcoming new rules and legislation as well as to environmental threats that increased transport demand poses to the oceans. **Alan Haigh** – Head of Department H2020 at INEA, the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency – gave an overview of the projects funded so far in waterborne transport and emphasised also possibilities for post-project funding by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The Plenary Session was concluded by **Christophe Tytgart**, Secretary General of SEA Europe. He confirmed that the European maritime sector is committed to take up the challenges described by previous speakers and highlighted achievements and successful projects which have contributed significantly to competitiveness and innovation in the sector. He gratefully acknowledged the support of the EU research and innovation programs to achieve this success, but also called for further support to level playing field in a strong global competition.

In three technical sessions reflecting the main targets of the Transport research program, waterborne projects presented their work, outstanding results and the impact achieved. The presentations are available for download under:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/h2020-waterborne-research-conference-8-june-2017-presentations-now-available>



2: Session on Competitiveness: Frank Roland presenting the RAMSSES project

On behalf of the RAMSSES consortium, **Frank Roland** presented the objectives, structure and expected outcomes of our project. RAMSSES is one of two projects responding to call MG-2.2-2016 on Innovative Materials, but a couple of additional projects present at the conference include material-related research and raised interest in a closer cooperation or information exchange with us (e.g. FIBRESHIP, GASVESSEL, E-FERRY). It was therefore important to highlight the extensive Integration and Communication Layer in RAMSSES, which will facilitate both a systematic technology transfer

from other sectors into maritime and extensive communication of results and cooperation within the European maritime sector. These efforts were highly appreciated both in the discussion after the presentation and in bilateral talks RAMSSES partners had in the conference breaks.

Overall, the presentation of RAMSSES was received with great interest and we look forward to present first results during the next conference which will be organised either by the European Commission Services or the WATERBORNE platform. In addition, RAMSSES will organise public events jointly with the E-LASS network attached to every General Assembly.

The conference gave a first complete overview of waterborne projects in H2020 and partners who did not have the opportunity to attend this conference are encouraged to go to the conference website and check the presentations.