



EBI Newsletter

March 2024

Contents

EU News	2
EU consultation of industry and boaters on mutual recognition of private boater licenses	2
EU Dialogue on End-of-Life Recreational Craft.....	3
European Environment Agency assessment of climate risks in Europe	3
Two-year anniversary for the Transition Pathway for Tourism.....	4
EBI in Action	4
EBI and ICOMIA seal a new strategic partnership that underscores close cooperation	4
EBI at the centre of European Ocean Days.....	5
EU Parliament SEARica Intergroup: Next Step, A Blue Deal.....	5
EBI supports World Boating Day.....	6
EBI and The SeaCleaners Release 'Guide on Responsible Boating' to Combat Plastic Pollution	7
Member News	7
First World Foiling Congress	7
EBI in the News	8
Funding	9
TENDER: Improving marine monitoring and reporting practices in compliance to Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC)	9
Funding: Mission Ocean Call for Expression of Interest.....	9
Funding: Joint Call on Consequences of Changing Marine Lightscapes	10
Funding: €1 Billion for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure	10
Funding: €2.2 Million for Future Fishing Vessel Development	10
Funding: Interreg Euro-MED Thematic Projects Call	11
Funding: Ocean Literacy EU4Ocean Challenge of the Year 2024	11
Project Pipeline: RLCF Alliance Open for Submissions	11
Up2Circ: Open Calls for 32 large scale projects and 60 small scale projects on Circular Economy .	12
EBI Calendar	12

EU News

Call for Action!

EU consultation of industry and boaters on mutual recognition of private boater licenses

The European Commission wants to tackle the issue of private boater licenses recognition, which is currently a patchwork of different rules. A thorough investigation is underway, and data from boaters and industry is being requested.

The primary objective of the EU Commission study is to investigate the advantages and drawbacks of recognising licenses and qualifications for private boaters in the EU. The aim for EBI is to achieve a system where private boater licenses can be easily transferred and used across the EU as is the case with car driving licenses. This will make boating more attractive, grow the industry and allow boaters to move across Europe easier.

We kindly ask for your support in getting your readerships to respond to the survey to get a high number of responses. The **deadline is end-April**. To fill the surveys, follow the links:

- ❖ Industry survey: [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#)
- ❖ General Public survey: [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#)

Feel free to repost from our LinkedIn page:

- ❖ [LinkedIn post.](#)



EU Dialogue on End-of-Life Recreational Craft

On March 18, 2024, EBI organised the "EU Dialogue on End-of-life Recreational Craft" in Brussels, Belgium, in collaboration with the Belgian EU Presidency and the European Commission (EC). The event was attended by notable figures including Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Georges Gilkinet and Delilah Al Khudhairy, Director for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy at the EC, and was opened together with EBI President Robert Marx. The gathering gathered around 75 attendees, featuring 20 policy-makers and representatives from industry like EBI, Finnboat, HISWA-RECRON, NAUTIBEL, BVWW, TransEurope Marinas, Confindustria Nautica and APER.

The day's agenda included informative breakout sessions, addressing pivotal topics such as materials, financing, and European/national collaboration. These sessions highlighted pressing challenges and innovative solutions, stressing the urgency for a unified approach to boat registration, streamlined logistics in vessel collection systems, and the integration of eco-design principles. Panel discussions reinforced the necessity of industry standards, increased investment in research and development, and strengthened collaboration between industry stakeholders and policymakers.

The joint takeaways from the dialogue underscored a collective commitment to implementing work already done such as the European roadmap for circularity in the treatment of end-of-life boats, advocating for industry-wide standards, and fostering closer collaboration between industry and policymakers.

EBI agreed to working with the European Commission as a facilitator to sustain positive momentum to transform it into further action, leading a European network to address the End-of-Life recreational crafts challenge.

Read the full report upon request to the Secretariat. An official report by the Belgian EU Presidency will also be released in the next weeks and shared with members.

European Environment Agency assessment of climate risks in Europe

The European Environment Agency (EEA) published its [assessment of climate risks in Europe](#), which looks at how climate change will impact Europe. Europe is the fastest-warming continent in the world. Extreme heat is becoming more frequent while precipitation patterns are changing. Downpours and other extremes are increasing in severity, and recent years have seen catastrophic floods in various regions. At the same time, southern Europe can expect considerable declines in overall rainfall and more severe drought.

Among the areas of assessment is infrastructure and tourism: More frequent and extreme weather events increase the risks to Europe's environment, including energy, water and transport. While

coastal flood risks have been managed relatively well in Europe, rising sea levels and changes in storm patterns can cause devastating impacts on people, infrastructure and economic activities. In southern Europe, heat and droughts cause substantial risks.

Two-year anniversary for the Transition Pathway for Tourism

Recently, EBI took part in a stakeholder event in Brussels, marking the two-year milestone of the [Transition Pathway for Tourism](#) initiative. The Transition Pathways for European industrial ecosystems outline the necessary steps for a swift green and digital transition of EU industry, emphasising cooperation among industry stakeholders, public authorities, and social partners. EBI is actively involved in the tourism and recently launched [Transition Pathway for Mobility](#), demonstrating its commitment to sustainable practices within these sectors.

The event, attended by various stakeholders from the tourism industry, featured discussions on past achievements, current challenges, and future developments in the tourism ecosystem. Notable speakers, including Maive Rute, Deputy Director General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, who provided insights into the progress made and the way forward for sustainable tourism practices that can be further looked into in the [Progress Report published this year](#).

One of the highlights of the event was the unveiling of the Stakeholder Support Platform, a one-stop hub created by the European Commission to facilitate interactions between stakeholders and the Commission. This platform aims to serve as a centralised space for stakeholders to update their pledges, share best practices, and engage in meaningful exchanges with other industry players, and will be launched in August 2024.

EBI's involvement in the Transition Pathway for Tourism underscores its dedication to promoting sustainability and responsible practices within the boating and maritime tourism sectors. By actively engaging with initiatives like the Stakeholder Support Platform, EBI continues to advocate for policies that uphold environmental protection and foster the growth of a sustainable tourism ecosystem.

EBI in Action

EBI and ICOMIA seal a new strategic partnership that underscores close cooperation

EBI and the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) have recently solidified their collaboration through a new three-year strategic partnership agreement. Rooted in a shared commitment to promoting sustainability, innovation, and growth within the recreational boating sector, this partnership signifies a significant step forward for both associations.

EBI, representing Europe's boating and nautical tourism industry, will lead advocacy efforts within EU and wider European bodies, while ICOMIA will take the helm at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and on a global level. By sharing knowledge and resources, the associations aim to create maximum value for their members, fostering a stronger, more cohesive industry landscape.

You can find the full press release [here](#).

EBI at the centre of European Ocean Days

The first edition of the European Ocean Days 2024, held in Brussels from 4th to 8th March, marked a week of crucial discussions and actions regarding Europe's maritime future. Organised by the European Commission, they included a diverse array of discussions, workshops, and forums aimed at addressing critical issues facing the oceans and waters. EBI played a significant role in the event, with the EBI Secretary General participating in two panel discussions and EBI having a stand, reaffirming our commitment to driving positive change in the marine sector.

The event allowed the mobilisation of stakeholders for solutions for marine and freshwater ecosystem restoration, coastal resilience, pollution elimination, and achieving a climate-neutral and circular blue economy. Discussions on future priorities for Europe's Seas included economic, technological, and social transformations up to 2050. During the Blue Invest Day new businesses and start-ups gathered, focusing on investment and innovation in the Blue Economy, market uptake for ocean technologies, smart investment decisions, and scaling financing for sustainability. The event also featured the BlueInvest Awards and the launch of the new edition of the BlueInvest Investor Report. The final day centred around Ocean Literacy, highlighting its importance in enhancing public knowledge about the ocean, supporting sustainable blue businesses, and celebrating women's contributions to ocean science, art, and education.

Some key messages left by this week include the urgency for action and long-term vision which will give more space to sustainable and innovative solutions. Great attention was given to ocean literacy, since enhancing public understanding and awareness about the ocean is essential for sustainable development. Particularly in the realm of marine sustainability and the blue economy, the EU is keen on ensuring that its actions and contributions are widely recognized and acknowledged. These efforts are geared towards fostering a better future for not only Europe but also at a global level.

EU Parliament SEArca Intergroup: Next Step, A Blue Deal

EBI participated in the recent [SEArca Intergroup](#) final Conference for the current mandate. SEArca is the European Parliament's Intergroup focusing on issues related to the oceans and inland waters, as well as the blue economy.

The European Green Deal is a comprehensive strategy designed to guide the EU towards climate neutrality by 2050. Through a series of policy initiatives spanning climate, environment, energy, transport, industry, agriculture, and finance, the Green Deal aims to foster a fair and prosperous society with a modern and competitive economy. While the Green Deal addresses various aspects of sustainability, a potential "Blue Deal" could offer a cohesive framework specifically tailored to maritime-related challenges, encompassing the entirety of the Blue Economy. A Blue Deal could gather comprehensive measures aimed at preserving marine ecosystems, tackling pollution, and promoting sustainable tourism practices along Europe's coastlines and waterways.

Hosted by MEP Tonino Picula, Chair of the SEArca Intergroup, the event convened policymakers, industry representatives, and stakeholders to reflect on past achievements and chart the course for future EU maritime policies after the EU elections next June.

Discussions during the conference highlighted the critical role of seas, rivers, islands, and coastal areas in addressing environmental, climate, and energy challenges. Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy Director-General of DG MARE, emphasised the need for continued collaboration and policy initiatives to advance the Blue Economy agenda. Delilah Al Khudhairi, Director for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy at DG MARE, underlined the importance of stakeholder engagement and a holistic approach to sustainable ocean management.

Roundtable discussions delved into various aspects of the Blue Economy, from multi-use of the seas to strategic agendas for a future EU Blue Deal. Gaëlle Haut, from the Surfrider Foundation, an NGO, presented their [Ocean Manifesto](#) for the European Elections.

With the parliamentary term coming to an end, the conference served as a platform to reflect on past achievements and set the stage for the next generation of EU maritime policies. There is a collective desire among MEPs, the European Commission, and stakeholders for the renewal of this intergroup in the next legislative period.

EBI supports World Boating Day

World Boating Day, set for May 25th and 26th, is an international day dedicated to providing global access to the world of leisure boating, with a focus on the people behind the scenes and the lifestyle that yachting provides. It is organised by the Superyacht Life Foundation with the support of several stakeholders, such as EBI and ICOMIA.

It is meant to be a global initiative to encourage industry-wide involvement, prompting companies to organise local events and promote them under one umbrella.

If any EBI members has an event planned within these dates, World Boating Day provides a great opportunity to register it on its platform for further promotion. Registration is now open and free for all leisure boating companies.

Visit www.worldboatingday.com to register and learn more.

EBI and The SeaCleaners Release 'Guide on Responsible Boating' to Combat Plastic Pollution

EBI and [The SeaCleaners](#) have jointly released "The Guide on Responsible Boating" on [World Water Day](#), March 22nd. This guide, a collaborative effort between the two organisations, serves as a comprehensive call to action for boaters worldwide to combat plastic pollution in oceans and waterways. It provides practical recommendations for boaters to minimize their environmental impact while enjoying their passion for water. The partnership between EBI and The SeaCleaners underscores the shared commitment to promoting responsible boating practices and protecting marine ecosystems. Through this initiative, both organisations aim to empower boaters to take proactive steps in preserving the oceans for future generations.

Read the guide in both English and French [here](#).

Member News

First World Foiling Congress

Our most recent sustaining member, The Foiling Organization, announces the inaugural World Foiling Congress set to take place in Genoa on 18th April . This event, supported by the city of Genoa and by Confindustria Nautica, will convene industry stakeholders, boat builders, naval architects, and more to delve into rising challenges within the foiling industry. Discussions will cover insurance, certifications, market trends, and sustainability, offering valuable insights and networking opportunities. With a great lineup of speakers including industry pioneers and experts and EBI Members, the congress promises to be a pivotal moment for the growing global foiling community.

Free invitations from The Foiling Organization are given to EBI members, [click here](#).

For registration and further information, click [here](#).

EBI in the News



[EBI, ICOMIA seal new strategic partnership](#)

[Landmark conference on end-of-life boats](#)

[Suddenly, a glimmer of hope to rid Europe of its end-of-life boats](#)



[EU dialogue on end-of-life recreational craft, 18th March 2024 – a joint event by DG MARE, BE Presidency and EBI](#)



[EBI and ICOMIA seal a new strategic partnership that underscores close cooperation](#)

[Boating industry supports policy-makers in goal of decarbonisation of Lake Constance](#)



[EBI and ICOMIA seal three-year partnership](#)



[EBI and ICOMIA Form Partnership](#)

[Conference Addresses End-of-Life Concerns](#)



[Towards a circular economy in boating](#)



[Conference in Brussels Marks Progress in Addressing End-of-Life Boats](#)

European Boating Industry

8

nautica
press

[EBI e The SeaCleaners publicam Guia sobre Navegação Responsável](#)

le marin
bootmag

[Participe na consulta da Comissão Europeia sobre o reconhecimento das qualificações náuticas em toda a União Europeia](#)

ALL AT SEA

[La Fédération des industries nautiques renouvelle Jean-Paul Chapeleau à son poste de président](#)

[‘End of Life’ Pleziervaartuigen...](#)

[A Guide to Responsible Boating](#)

Funding

TENDER: Improving marine monitoring and reporting practices in compliance to Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC)

- **Funding Source:** Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)
- **Application Deadline:** 03 May 2024
- More information can be found [here](#).

Funding: Mission Ocean Call for Expression of Interest

[Mission Ocean](#) invites applications from communities of actors aligned with the mission's goals.

- **Objective:** The call aims to gather projects focused on protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems, preventing pollution of oceans and seas, and advancing the sustainable blue economy towards carbon-neutrality and circularity.
- **Support Offered:** Selected projects will receive technical assistance and feasibility studies to support their initiatives.
- **Application Deadline:** Until 24 May 2024
- **More Information:** to access the Call for Expression of Interest, visit the [Service Portal](#).

Funding: Joint Call on Consequences of Changing Marine Lightscapes

- **Funding Source:** JPI Oceans
- **Overview:**
 - **Funding:** €3,700,000
 - **Duration:** Mar 2024 - Jun 2028
 - **Type of Action:** Joint Call, Infrastructure Sharing

The Joint Call on Consequences of Changing Marine Lightscapes aims to address critical gaps in understanding the drivers and ecological impacts of changing marine lightscapes due to Coastal Darkening and Artificial Light at Night.

Projects should focus on topics such as biodiversity, biogeography, biogeochemistry, photobiology, ecophysiology, ecosystem functioning, food web architecture, and ecosystem services. The call is open to eligible research partners and/or industry partners from participating countries, with associate partners from non-funding countries also allowed.

- **Application Deadline:** 30 May 2024.
- **More information**, including eligibility criteria and submission details, please refer to the call text available [here](#).

Funding: €1 Billion for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure

- **Funding Source:** Connecting Europe Facility – Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF)
- **Key Areas:** Ports: Funding for electricity, hydrogen, ammonia, and methanol bunkering facilities.
- **Objective:** The second phase of AFIF (2024-2025) aims to support accessible electric recharging points and hydrogen refuelling stations across the EU's main transport corridors and hubs, aligning with the objectives of new Regulation for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (AFIR) and ReFuelEU aviation and FuelEU maritime initiatives.
- **Application Deadline:** Proposals can be submitted before any of the three cut-off dates: 24 September 2024, 11 June 2025, and 17 December 2025.
- **More Information:** Detailed information about the funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Funding: €2.2 Million for Future Fishing Vessel Development

- **Funding Source:** European Commission
- **Overview:** The EC has initiated a call for proposals to develop a demonstrator marine fishing vessel equipped with alternative propulsion technologies and innovative energy solutions. This project aims to significantly enhance the energy performance of current fishing vessels, reducing greenhouse emissions, and bolstering the sector's economic resilience.
- **Key Objectives:** Demonstrate the feasibility of chosen technologies and showcase results to stakeholders, including fishers, investors, coastal communities, and young people.

- **Application Deadline:** Until 11 June 2024, projects will be selected by the end of the third quarter of 2024.
- **More Information:** Detailed information about the funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Funding: Interreg Euro-MED Thematic Projects Call

- **Funding Source:** Interreg Euro-MED Programme
- **Objective:** This call seeks to finance thematic projects aligned one of the following missions:
 - Innovative Sustainable Economy
 - Natural Heritage
 - Green Living Areas
 - Sustainable Tourism
- Types of Projects:
 - **Thematic Projects:** Divided into study, test, transfer, and strategic territorial projects.
 - **Governance Projects:** Comprising thematic community projects and institutional dialogue projects.
- **Application Deadline:** 12th June 2024.
- **More Information:** Detailed terms of reference, cooperation programme, and programme manual available on the [website](#).

Funding: Ocean Literacy EU4Ocean Challenge of the Year 2024

- **Funding Source:** EU4Ocean Coalition
- **Objective:** Submit a ocean literacy project proposal contributing to the Challenge of the Year 2024: "Be a Blue Citizen: Ocean, Citizenship, and Democracy". The EU4Ocean coalition annually selects a Challenge of the Year to promote Ocean Literacy in the EU. The 2024 Challenge aims to connect ocean responsibility with citizens' roles in the democratic process for ocean health and sustainability.
- **Financial Support:** Up to €40,000 is available, with an expectation of funding 3 projects annually.
- **Application Deadline:** 12th June 2024.
- **More information:** Apply [here](#).

Project Pipeline: RLCF Alliance Open for Submissions

- **Overview:** The Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Industrial Alliance ([RLCF Alliance](#)), from the European Commission [DG MOVE](#), dedicated to advancing renewable and low-carbon fuels in aviation and waterborne sectors, has launched a call for projects for its Alliance Project Pipeline. This aims to facilitate matchmaking between project promoters and partners along the value chain, as well as connect them with finance providers.
- Projects sought across various stages: from early-stage seeking partnerships to near-completed projects.

- Activities may include feedstock sourcing, production, distribution, and technology development.
- EU-based and international projects.
- Additional criteria for non-EU projects to demonstrate a significant link to EU value chains.

Projects can be submitted by members of the Alliance. Find out more on how to become a member (Free and accessible) and access the pipeline [here](#).

Up2Circ: Open Calls for 32 large scale projects and 60 small scale projects on Circular Economy

- Description: Support of SMEs, action plan development, circularity training.
- Funding up to €50.000 per project.
- Find more information here: <https://up2circ.eu/>

EBI Calendar

18 April [World Foiling Congress](#). Genoa, Italy

25-26 May [World Boating Day](#)

10-11 June **EBI General Assembly**. Barcelona, Spain

Please send your confirmation to eur@europeanboatingindustry.eu **by April 26.**

Find all the information in the Infopack sent March 26.

If you would like to promote your events, news or activities in the EBI newsletter, please reach out to the EBI Office (office@europeanboatingindustry.eu)

For more information on ongoing EBI activities, please follow EBI on social media:

 **EBI_Boating**

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12