

Network of Stakeholders on end-of-life recreational boats and composites (11.10.24, Brussels & online)

Event Overview:

On October 11, 2024, the inaugural meeting of the Network of Stakeholders on End-of-Life Recreational Boats and Composites took place in Brussels and online. The event was co-moderated by Alena Petrikovicova – de Chevilly from DG MARE and Philip Easthill from the European Boating Industry (EBI).

Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit of Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge, and Investment at DG MARE, opened the event by emphasizing the importance of a circular economy and stakeholders' collaboration across sectors like boating, composites, cement, and wind industries. It is the first session under the new approach to the topic forming a Network on end-of-life recreational boats and composites, building on the work of the Stakeholder's group on end-of-life recreational boats established in 2018. The scope is wider than the previous group, also tackling the wider composite use sectors and industries.

Mrs. Strachinescu further noted that the new Circular Economy Act, as announced in the political guidelines for the new European Commission, and which will build on the legacy of the 2020 Circular economy action plan, aims to add value to waste materials, urging industries to work together. This will be an essential part to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and transition towards circular economy.

Additionally, she highlighted the need to link this new collaborative initiative to the upcoming Ocean Pact and mentioned that future events like the European Ocean Days would provide opportunities for further discussions and alignment.

Alena Petrikovicova – de Chevilly emphasized that the "Single Market for Waste", as announced in the mission letter of the Commissioner-designate for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, should be recognized as a new priority by policymakers and stakeholders. With the upcoming establishment of a new Commission, fresh priorities and targets will be set to accelerate the green transition, focusing on enhancing waste management and recycling frameworks across Europe and creating a market demand for secondary raw materials.

Brainstorming of objectives for the group (themes mentioned)

- Creation of cross-composite sectoral supply chains to enable recycling of composites, incorporating also production waste as a stable supply
- Cross-border cooperation and transport of waste

- Identification of appropriate recycling technologies and their scale-up (market-ready technologies)
- Enabling on-site dismantling (e.g. licencing)
- Potential for expansion of EPR schemes and potential EU legislation to align for such schemes to be established
- Harmonised approach to boat registration (e.g. same data collected, same categories)
- Data collection at EU level to provide justification for action
- Link to RCD in terms of new boats production and manufacturing, potential requirements on design for recycling and circularity
- Legislative best practices and mapping to support national developments
- Legislative changes at EU level, such as Waste Framework Directive and recognition of cement co-processing as recycling

Presentations

- **Circular Economy for End-of-Life Boats:**

EBI “Roadmap on the implementation of circular economy for end-of-life recreational boats” was introduced by Philip Easthill, focusing on financing, dismantling, transport, recycling, research, and innovation for end-of-life boats.

- **Collaborations with the Cement Industry:**

Thomas Wegman's presentation, from EuCIA, focused on the use of cement co-processing to recycle end-of-life glass-reinforced composites, reducing both material waste and CO2 emissions. Cement co-processing replaces traditional raw materials and fossil fuels, offering a sustainable alternative. A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) confirmed that this method saves approximately 830 kg of CO2 per ton compared to incineration. He also emphasized the need for regulatory recognition and the establishment of dedicated waste codes for composite materials to improve waste collection and recycling efforts.

- **Circular Maritime Technologies:**

Frank Geerdink, CEO of Circular Maritime Technologies (CMT), presented the company's innovative approach to shipbreaking, offering a cleaner and safer alternative to traditional methods. CMT uses advanced technology to dismantle ships in a controlled, automated process, significantly reducing environmental impact. The process includes cutting ships into manageable sections for recycling, offering a profitable, circular solution that aligns with global efforts for

sustainable ship recycling. CMT's approach also holds potential for recreational boats, expanding the reach of its recycling capabilities.

- **Insights from Finland:**

Henna Rinne from the Finnish Ministry of Environment presented how Finland has a high boat ownership rate, and a recent survey revealed gaps in waste management for smaller boats, particularly in coastal areas. The Ministry proposed several policy recommendations:

- Improved Communication: Provide better information about waste management.
- Cost-Free Collection: Make municipalities responsible for boat collection.
- Clear Transportation Responsibility: Define who is responsible for transporting boats to waste management facilities.
- Incentives: Introduce government-supported scrapping fees to encourage proper disposal.

Finnish stakeholders highlighted their progress with end-of-life boat collection and co-processing with cement mills but stressed the need for larger volumes of supply.

- **Insights from Belgium:**

The Belgian Roadmap on End-of-Life Recreational Boats and Composites was presented by Luc Wittebolle. The roadmap highlights Belgium's efforts to manage the end-of-life phase of recreational boats and composites through sustainable practices.

Key issues include the lack of recycling capacity, high transportation costs, and insufficient incentives for sustainable practices. The roadmap proposes addressing these through better governance, registration, circular economy incentives, and collaboration across sectors, particularly with industries facing similar challenges, such as wind turbines.

Action Points:

- Stakeholder Consultations: Further stakeholder consultations are planned to align with the Ocean Pact, including discussions during the European Ocean Days.
- Agreement on objectives and workplan

- Next meeting in spring 2025
- Contributions from members of the Network can be shared by email
- Expansion of group to other logical partners
- Sharing of minutes, slides and materials with participants