



Policy session

Wind propulsion technologies: the next EU industrial success story ?

17th March 2026

8:00 - 9:30

Brussels, EU Parliament



Wind4Shipping



AGENDA

- **8:00:** Registration and breakfast
- **8:02:** Welcoming words from MEP Christophe Clergeau
- **8:07 - 8:17:** Keynote interventions
 - Apostolos Tzitzikostas, European commissioner for sustainable transport and tourism
 - Catherine Chabaud, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, and International Negotiations on Climate and Nature, responsible for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

- **8:17 - 8h47:** Panel 1 & discussion with MEPs in the audience

Structuring an EU integrated value chain: Facilitating the creation of a large-scale market for a successful industrialisation

- Adrien Benoist, Strategy and development, Chantiers de l'Atlantique,
- Lise Detrimont, General representative, Wind Ship
- MEP Jeannette Baljeu
- Dario Bazargan, European Commission, Policy officer (DG GROW)

- **8:47 - 8:52:** Success story: testimonial from ArianeGroup

- **8:52 - 9:22:** Panel 2 & discussion with MEPs in the audience

Setting-up an enabling legislative and financial framework to support wind propulsion projects

- Frank Nieuwenhuis, CEO, Econowind
 - MEP Peter Liese
 - Ruben Davis, senior policy officer, Cleantech for Europe
 - Fotini Ioannidou, European Commission, Head of the Maritime Safety Unit and Deputy Director Waterborne Transport (DG MOVE)
- **9:25 - 9:30:** Closing remarks from Fryslan elected representative & Kerstin Jorna, European Commission, Director General (DG GROW)



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Background - The maritime sector is at a pivotal moment in its decarbonisation journey. The European Green Deal and the recently adopted FuelEU Maritime Regulation set ambitious targets for reducing emissions from shipping, while industry is developing a wide range of innovative solutions. Among these, wind propulsion technologies are gaining traction as a scalable, competitive, and sustainable pathway to reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The [Wind Ship Association](#) and the [INTERREG project Wind for Shipping](#) join forces with the SEARICA Intergroup to organize a policy discussion whose objective is to raise awareness about the great potential of the wind propulsion industry to answer to the double objective reindustrializing while decarbonizing. From industry testimonials to open discussion about supportive policy instruments, the session will engage various stakeholders from EU institutions, industry and civil society to create a policy-centered discussion around the needs of the sector and its potential to place the EU ahead of global competition in the race for maritime cleantech.

Wind-propulsion technologies are ready to deliver. The global fleet of large commercial vessels equipped with wind propulsion systems has reached 100 vessels, with around 130 more vessels on order, both for retrofits and newbuilds. The European Union is at the core of the emergence of the wind propulsion industry with ready-to-scale technologies and disruptive innovations at different TRL stages. The [entire value chain](#) is present across our territories, from mast factories to shipowners. Europe holds a strong place to remain ahead of increasing international competition and lead the deployment of a competitive and sustainable industry that answers the double objective of creating jobs while emitting less CO₂.

However, some barriers still exist to exploit the full potential of wind propulsion. One of the main barriers is fuel price even though FuelEU Maritime and the inclusion of maritime transportation in the EU ETS send positive signals. Other barriers include capital intensity, route-specific performance, compliance, and some safety and maneuverability challenges. But each of these has known mitigation pathways. Let us convene on 17 March 2026 at the European Parliament to explore how we can collectively propel the European wind industry into its next chapter.