



European Network  
of Maritime Clusters

# **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## 3 years later (2022-2024)

Dear readers,

This third year of mandate has marked a new milestone for the **European Network of Maritime Clusters (ENMC)**, with the elections taking place in December 2024, concluding the current presidency and preparing the network for the next phase.

We are deeply saddened by the change in our Vice-Presidency with Italy, following the passing of **General Claudio Graziano**. Our thoughts are with his family and colleagues. His decades of service left a lasting mark on the Italian maritime sector and contributed meaningfully to our shared European maritime vision.

You'll find more details on the year's initiatives and achievements in this Annual Report. I also invite you to visit our LinkedIn post summarizing the election results and the updated status of each Board and member representative ([here](#)).

In 2024, the ENMC carefully followed the European elections, and congrats all new Commissioners and representatives that will contribute to bring further the **European Blue Economy**. This year, we also attended several events, such as *Oeiras BlueTech Ocean Summit* organized by our Fórum Oceano in Lisbon (Portugal), the *European Cluster Conference* in Brussels (Belgium), or even *Les Assises, Economie de la Mer* in Bordeaux (France). This year also marked the 30th anniversary of **Federazione del Mare**, which we were delighted to visit on this occasion.

As this term comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the people and organizations who contributed to making this mandate a success. I am confident that the **ENMC** will continue to grow and play a strategic role for Europe's maritime industry and blue economy in the coming years.

Warm regards,

**Fabrice Maire**

***Chairman of the European Network of Maritime Clusters***

***Chairman of the Cluster Maritime Luxembourgeois***



# ABOUT THE ENMC

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## THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MARITIME CLUSTERS

The **European Network of Maritime Clusters (ENMC)** is a non-profit organization established on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, in Luxembourg, after years of collaboration between the maritime Clusters part of the network. The network emerged in 2005 as a platform for exchanging information and networking between the maritime Cluster organizations of European member states.

Since its foundation, the ENMC's main principle has been establishing an efficient framework for maritime sectorial cooperation, focused on vocalizing the unambiguous maritime interest to European policymakers towards a European maritime level playing field: a **single European Maritime Cluster**.

### **Missions and main activities:**

- > Sharing information and best practices among its members.
- > Promoting and defending the interests of its members principally active in the maritime sector.
- > Promoting networking among its members.
- > Representing the interests of its members vis-à-vis third parties.
- > Informing EU decisions makers about the strengths and opportunities of the maritime clusters.
- > Organizing and participating in meetings and events to reach our objectives.
- > Sharing policy documents and funding opportunities.
- > Organizing maritime stakeholders' meetings in Brussels (Belgique).

The ENMC counts **12 national Cluster members**. They represent **Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and Ukraine**. The association is self-sufficient and counts on its members' membership fees, which are national or regional maritime clusters (or similar entities) that can represent a country's maritime interests.

### **Day-to-Day Management:**

The ENMC management team comprises **Fabrice Maire** (Chairman) and **Axelle Salvage** (Coordinator). The ENMC has a **Presidium** consisting of four Vice-Presidents: **Nathalie Mercier-Perrin** (Cluster Maritime Français), **Claudio Graziano** (Federazione del Mare), **Javier Garat Pérez** (Cluster Marítimo Español), and **Verena Ohms** (Nederland Maritiem Land).



# GOVERNANCE

*The Presidium was elected in January 2022 for a three years term.*



**Fabrice Maire**

Chairman of the Cluster Maritime Luxembourgeois  
and Chairman of the ENMC



**Nathalie Mercier-Perrin**

Chairman of the Cluster Maritime Français  
and Vice-President of the ENMC



**Claudio Graziano\***

Vice-President of Federazione del Mare  
and Vice-President of the ENMC



**Javier Garat Pérez**

Chairman of the Cluster Marítimo Español  
and Vice-President of the ENMC



**Verena Ohms**

Board Secretary of Nederland Maritiem Land  
and Vice-President of the ENMC



**Axelle Salvage**

Cluster Manager of the Cluster Maritime  
Luxembourgeois and Coordinator  
of the ENMC

*\*Biagio Mazzotta took over the Vice-President role at the end of the year.*

# OUR MEMBERS



Baltic Sea and Space Cluster — Poland



Federazione del Mare — Italy



Blauwe Cluster — Belgium



Fórum Oceano — Portugal



Cluster Maritime Français — France



Dedicated to promote the interests  
of the Maltese maritime sector

Malta Maritime Forum — Malta



Cluster Maritime Luxembourgais — Luxembourg



**MARINE CLUSTER BULGARIA**

Marine Cluster Bulgaria — Bulgaria



Cluster Marítimo Español — Spain



Nederland Maritiem Land — Netherlands



Ukrainian  
Maritime Cluster

Ukrainian Maritime Cluster — Ukraine

# ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Athens, Greece (June 3-4, 2024)**

The **ENMC** held its *2024 Annual General Assembly* in Athens, Greece, on June 3–4, hosted by **Strategis – Maritime ICT Cluster**. Over two days, members discussed the **ENMC** roadmap, reviewed past and upcoming activities, shared updates on the Blue Economy in their respective countries, and expressed their expectations for the year ahead.

The **Scottish Maritime Cluster**, represented by **Duncan Cunningham** and **Brian Fulton**, was invited as a special guest to present its work, and provide insights into the maritime industry in the UK.

Participants on-site took part in various activities including visits to the Port of Piraeus and Marina Zea, networking dinners, and an accompanied tour of the maritime fair Posidonia. The **Baltic Sea & Space Cluster** was present at the fair with a national pavilion, and the **ENMC** attended the *POLAND – Thinking out of the box about maritime industry* conference.

At Posidonia, discussions were also held with **Karin Orsel, Chairman of the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA)**, and their **General Secretary, Sotiris Raptis**, focusing on sustainable Blue Economy and cluster collaboration.

**Fabrice Maire, ENMC Chairman and representative of Cluster Maritime Luxembourgeois**, met with **H.E. Elisabeth Cardoso, Ambassador of Luxembourg to Greece, Cyprus, and Romania**, to inform her about **ENMC's** work and engagement with Greek stakeholders.

The **ENMC** thanked all members for their involvement and extended special thanks to **Gregory Yovanof and Strategis – Maritime ICT Cluster** for hosting the event.









# PUBLIC RELATIONS & NETWORKING

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## LES ASSISES, ECONOMIE DE LA MER

**Bordeaux, France — November 19-20, 2024**

The **Luxembourgeois Maritime Cluster** took part in the 19th edition of the Assises de l'Économie de la Mer, held this year in Bordeaux — a meaningful location for **Fabrice Maire, ENMC Chairman and Director of Intershipping**, part of the SOCATRA group based in the city.

During the opening session, **Nathalie Mercier-Perrin, Chairman of the French Maritime Cluster**, emphasized the importance of coordination at both national and European levels. She highlighted the role of the ENMC in promoting the Blue Economy as a strategic industry.

On the second day, **Laurent Bozzoni, CEO of SOCATRA**, presented recent developments in wind-assisted innovation, notably the Alcyone vessel project. Equipped with two rotor sails, the ship achieves up to a 21% reduction in fuel consumption per voyage, marking a significant step toward more sustainable maritime transport.

## 30th ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERAZIONE DEL MARE

**Naples, Italy — October 1-2, 2024**

**The Federazione del Mare**, the Italian maritime cluster, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024. To mark the occasion, a special conference titled *Il Mediterraneo nella storia: da Mare a Medio Oceano* was held on October 1st during **Naples Shipping Week** at the Palazzo Filomarino – Italian Institute for Historical Studies. The event focused on topics such as geopolitics, blue economy policies, and maritime issues, both on the surface and underwater, and attracted over one hundred key stakeholders.

**Fabrice Maire, Chairman of the ENMC**, delivered the opening speech. He introduced the ENMC and presented the recently published document *Key Points Towards 2030*, which outlines essential strategies for the future of the Blue Economy.

The conference concluded with a presentation on the upcoming *World Expo Osaka 2025*, where Federazione del Mare will represent Italy's blue economy on the global stage.







# PUBLIC RELATIONS & NETWORKING

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## News from Brussels - Election Time

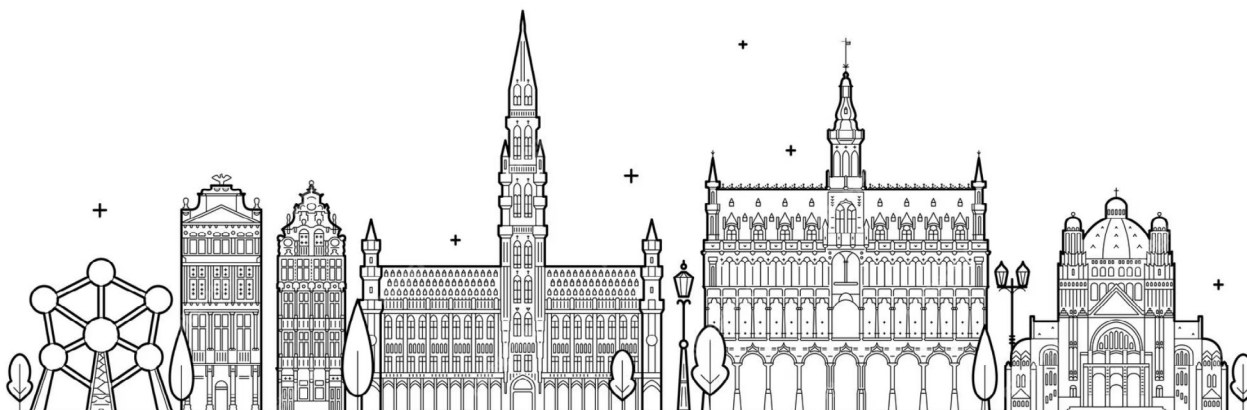
### Brussels, Belgium (February 21-22, 2024)

Before the EU elections, the **ENMC** was in Brussels for a series of key events addressing major transport and maritime issues.

We attended *Moving forward together: what's next for EU mobility and transport?*, a conference by **DG MOVE**, which explored the impact of geopolitics, the need for a fair and inclusive transport transition, and the importance of EU competitiveness.

At *Turning the tide*, organized by **SEARica** and **CPMR**, discussions focused on climate resilience in coastal and maritime infrastructure, calling for urgent policy and education support for regions affected by challenges in transport, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. The *Navigating the Interplay* roundtable by **ECSA** addressed the role of public funding in ship finance, stressing the need for dedicated EU Innovation Fund calls to support decarbonization and technology development.

These complementary events highlighted the ongoing uncertainty in the EU transport and Blue Economy sectors. **ENMC** expressed hope that the next EU mandate will support competitiveness and stability for all stakeholders involved.









# TRADE FAIRS & CONFERENCES

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## 7th BLUE SUMMIT

**Lugano, Switzerland – October 11, 2024**

The seventh edition of *Un Mare Di Svizzera* took place on October 11, 2024, in Lugano, Switzerland. The conference brought together institutional representatives, key stakeholders, and decision-makers to discuss the Blue Economy, logistics in the Mediterranean region, the attractiveness of these sectors, and related fiscal policies.

**Axelle Salvage, Cluster Manager of the Cluster Maritime Luxembourgeois and Coordinator of the ENMC**, presented the key strengths of the Luxembourg flag and emphasized the need for stronger European-level collaboration across all countries and sectors of the Blue Economy, especially in the current context of decarbonization.

## OEIRAS BLUETECH OCEANO FORUM

**Oeiras, Portugal – October 16-17, 2024**

An international summit focused on Blue Economy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) took place from October 16 to 17 in Oeiras, Portugal. The event was organized by **Fórum Oceano**, a member of the **ENMC**, and aimed to strengthen global cooperation in the blue economy and ocean sustainability.

AI played a central role during the summit, from real-time multilingual translation to roundtable discussions exploring its applications in marine observation and everyday practices.

**Fabrice Maire**, delivered the closing speech, highlighting the transformative potential of AI in the blue economy. He emphasized how AI can reshape how we explore, manage, and sustainably use ocean resources.

Regarding ocean observation and maritime spatial planning, he noted AI's capacity to improve data accuracy, support predictive planning, optimize resource use, and enhance ecosystem protection.





Oeiras, Portugal - October 16-17, 2024





# TRADE FAIRS & CONFERENCES

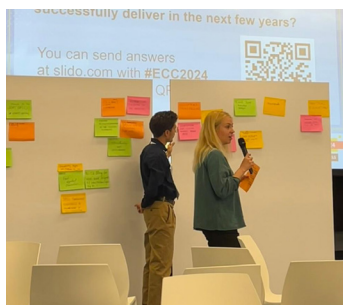
## European Cluster Conference

Brussels, Belgium — May 6-8, 2024

From May 6 to 8, 2024, **ENMC** took part in the European Cluster Conference, preceded by the Forum of National Cluster Associations. Alongside our members **Cluster Maritime Luxembourgeois** and **De Blauwe Cluster**, we engaged in valuable discussions on the future of cluster initiatives in Europe.

Key topics included the green and digital transitions, competitiveness, and the evolving EU policy landscape. Special attention was given to the role of metaclusters, such as **ENMC**, in building and reshaping European value chains.

The importance of skills and adaptability was also addressed, with insightful contributions from experts like **Alain Tubiana** (IRIUS Master in Innovative Network Management - University of Strasbourg, France).







**ENMC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**10 JUNE 2025**



*Nice, France*







European Network  
of Maritime Clusters

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