# Dear delegates of the Horizon 2020 Transport Program Committee,

Finnish Marine Industries, representing the whole Finnish marine community, finds the Initiative of the Vessel for the Future PPP highly important and strongly supports its innovative and ambitious objectives.

Marine industry employs more than 20 000 people in Finland and generates over 6 billion euros turnover yearly. Finland is geographically located behind ice covered Seas, so maritime cluster is the prerequisite for the Finnish economy. At European level the industry employs more than 500 000 people. The importance of the industry for Finland and for entire Europe is high both economically and socially. This is why it is essential to support the competitiveness and innovativeness of the branch to maintain the European leadership status.

The LeaderSHIP2020 strategy was composed in cooperation of the industry and European Commission for this purpose. The strategy recommends establishment of contractual Public Private Partnership for Horizon 2020 to foster the innovation and the strengths of European maritime industry and to sustain the construction of safer and cleaner vessels.

To act towards these targets, Vessels for the Future association has been launched and the PPP proposed by the industry to the Commission. The initiative aims at delivering innovative technologies, for increased eco-efficiency and towards zero risk operations, with demonstrator for faster market share. The PPP gives an important contribution to the Europe 2020 goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, to the Innovation Union Flagship initiative as well as the White Paper on Transport aiming at single European transport area, for instance.

The Finnish Marine Industries consists of leading marine equipment manufacturers, turn-key suppliers, designers, software and system providers as well as shipbuilding, ship repair and offshore yards. The association coordinates cooperation in industrial and economic policy among the companies in the sector. Finnish Marine Industries coordinates the R&D activities of the branch.

Finnish marine industry development is depending on the Vessels for the Future PPP.

Finnish Marine Industries has been active in EU framework programs FP6 and FP7 like in programs Intership, Hercules etc. during the years. The marine industry needs continuous international cooperation to determine the research needs of the branch through the PPP. The roadmap of Vessels for the Future PPP is also in line with the Strategic Research Agenda of Finnish Marine Industries.

Finnish Marine Industry strongly supports the establishment of the PPP. Though the initiative it will be possible to form and continuously implement the common European research agenda for maritime industry and to also more effectively form consortiums for the Horizon2020 calls.

Finnish Marine Industry hopes to see the PPP included already in the 2016-2017 calls of Horizon2020. If this will be implemented, the Finnish industry sees that the interest of the additional industry companies to join will also be higher. At this stage Meyer Turku, Arctech Helsinki Shipyard, Wärtsilä and Rolls-Royce are members of the association and some other companies like NAPA and stakeholders like Aalto University have raised their interest to join.

Sincerely,

Juha Heikinheimo,

Chairman of the Board
Finnish Marine Industries

Merja Salmi-Lindgren

Secretary General

Finnish Marine Industries