

5 January 2017

Distinguished Member of the European Parliament,

On 23 or 24 January 2017, the INTA Committee will vote on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

With this letter, **SEA Europe<sup>1</sup> seeks your support to vote in favour of CETA** because of the following benefits of this agreement to European shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers:

- (1) First and foremost, **CETA will eliminate import duties on many European ship types** in the next three to seven years. Currently these import duties are at 15% to 25%. This elimination will make it more attractive for the European industry to export vessels or equipment to Canada.
- (2) Secondly, **CETA will phase out 99% of all industrial tariffs** in a timespan of about seven years. This will have a significant positive impact for European maritime equipment manufacturers, most of which are SME enterprises.
- (3) Thirdly, **the CETA chapter on regulatory cooperation introduces a mechanism which will allow European certification bodies to certify EU products for the Canadian market**. This will reduce regulatory costs as well as the burden of certification on the shipbuilding industry.
- (4) Finally, **CETA is expected to open-up the Canadian procurement clauses on federal and local levels**. If so, this will have a positive effect for the European industry.

SEA Europe hopes that these sector-specific benefits illustrate the importance of CETA for European shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers and hence SEA Europe counts on your positive attitude towards and vote in favour of the agreement.

Bilateral trade agreements, such as CETA, are an essential tool for European shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers in reaching a global level playing field and in

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<sup>1</sup> SEA Europe is the voice of the European maritime technology industry and represents the interests of the national associations of the EU, Norway and Turkey. Companies that are member of SEA Europe's member-associations are European shipyards or European maritime equipment manufacturers. European shipyards build, repair, convert or maintain all types of ships and maritime structures, in particular sophisticated, high-tech ships. European maritime equipment manufacturers produce sophisticated equipment and technologies to be used onboard ships. Together, this industry generates an annual turnover of € 91 billion and provides employment to more than 900,000 people.



entering foreign markets. This helps the future of our industry, which is often confronted with severe, unfair and distortive competition from third countries.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tytgat", written over a horizontal line.

Christophe Tytgat  
Secretary General



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