



EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 2011

19-20 May 2011 – Gdansk (Poland)

On 19-20 May 2011 European Boating Industry once again had the opportunity to participate in European Maritime Day, this year held in Gdansk (Poland). Gdansk, a city with over 1000 years of maritime tradition, provided the perfect location for more than 800 speakers and participants from the European Commission, Polish government, and industry to meet to discuss the hot topics in maritime affairs, focusing this year on 'putting people first'.

Day one of the event consisted of a number of plenary sessions which introduced participants to the maritime industry in Poland and its key priorities, namely the development of Polish ports, tourism and the environment, as well as looking at a number of issues and initiatives at the EU level, including making maritime careers more attractive, how to achieve an ecosystem-based approach when managing activities relating to the sea, and how to promote economically sustainable maritime transport. In her keynote speech, European Commissioner Maria Damanaki spoke of the need for diversifications in the maritime industry and the need to generate *blue growth* through the integrated maritime policy. She also highlighted the vast opportunities offered by the marine environment and how these opportunities might bring new jobs for the people.

Breakfast with the Boating Industry

On Friday 20th May, European Boating Industry and its Polish member POLBOAT welcomed guests from the European Commission, industry and Polish trade press to a breakfast briefing to learn about the boating industry in Poland and in Europe. POLBOAT Vice-President Sebastian Nietupski kicked off the briefing with a presentation on the boating industry in Poland, while European Boating Industry's President Fritz Conyn gave an overview of the situation in Europe.



Igor Mitroczyk, counsellor to the Polish Minister of Economy, concluded the presentations by speaking about innovation clusters. Guests and speakers took a trip along Gdansk's channels aboard Polish-built boats (provided by Galeon, a specialist in motor yachts up to 25m, and by Delphia Yachts, Poland's largest builder of sailing boats).



From left to right: P. Jasionowski (POLBOAT), F. Conyn (European Boating Industry), I. Mitroczyk (Polish Ministry of Economy), S. Nietupski (POLBOAT), P. Nemitz (European Commission), P. Scott (POLBOAT)

Public Forum 2011 – Maritime Industries Forum

President Fritz Conyn also took part in the Maritime Industries Forum which this year focused on the promotion of lifetime careers in the European waterborne sector. The afternoon's panel session aimed to tackle some of the main issues underlying the human dimension of maritime industries. The panel noted that the negative perceptions of the maritime industry, the lack of mobility within the sector and the absence of adequate fiscal and legislative measures, all limited the appeal of maritime careers. Proposals for EU actions were also discussed.

