



Brussels,
MARE/NH D(2008)

Subject: Invitation to attend the European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference

We are pleased to inform you about our stakeholder conference which will take place in Brussels on May 19th and 20th, 2008, in order to celebrate the first European Maritime Day which will be celebrated annually on May 20th.

The European Maritime Day is an occasion to highlight the crucial role played by the Oceans and Seas, and should contribute to a better visibility of the maritime sectors, more recognition of the importance they play in everyday life, and increased stewardship on behalf of all citizens.

The stakeholder conference will focus on the regional approach to the implementation of an Integrated Maritime Policy, and how the invaluable stakeholder dialogue we had during the consultation process can be continued.

All information concerning the European Maritime Day, including the agenda for the stakeholder conference and a registration form for the event can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritime-day-2008_en.html. Please fill out the registration form and send it to Mare-European-Maritime-Day@ec.europa.eu in order to register. Interpretation for the event will be available in Danish, German, Greek, English, Spanish, Estonian, Finnish, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese and Slovenian, (active) and Swedish (passive). We encourage you to refer your members and any other stakeholders whom you feel may be interested in the event to our website as well.

Please note that while we intend to keep registration via the mailbox open until May 5th, we may close registration early if we reach space capacity. We would therefore invite you to register as early as possible.

We will not be covering any costs for participants. However, you are invited to attend a networking reception which will be held on the evening of May 19th, as well as a buffet lunch on May 20th, where regional maritime products (mullet, oysters, prawns, mackerel, cranberries, herring, and texel lamb) will be offered by the Dutch Coastal Provinces.

In the different regions of Europe, Member States and Regional Governments, organisations of civil society and social partners, NGOs, Ports, Science Institutions and any other organisations working in relation to the sea are invited to participate in the celebrations with their own activities. This can range from open ports and harbour days, to environmental actions, to networking among museums and aquaria, to highlighting maritime projects; anything that the stakeholders in the regions feel they want to highlight in connection with the European Maritime Day.

Please send us a short description of your event and the link to the event's website, if applicable, to Ec-maritime-policy-events@ec.europa.eu (please put "European Maritime Day" in the message subject), so that we can promote it.