



Ukrainian Maritime Cluster at Europort 2023

Within membership in the Ukrainian Maritime Cluster (UMC), MDEM representatives had an opportunity to join Ukrainian delegation which visited the leading international exhibition for maritime sector Europort 2023 in Rotterdam in the framework of grant project “Ambassadors of Mykolaiv” financed by GIZ. Europort is the largest maritime meeting & knowledge sharing B2B platform for innovative technology and complex shipbuilding with an average of 25,000 professional visitors and 1,000 exhibiting companies



The Ukrainian Maritime Cluster this year had also a mission for arrangement of the Ukrainian pavilion at Europort 2023. Co-exhibitors were SMEs, namely shipbuilding and ship repair companies, service providers, design bureaus of Mykolaiv region, among them – MDEM. In course of the exhibition, numerous high-ranking officials, representatives of shipbuilding companies and associations were hospitably welcomed at the Ukrainian pavilion. Europort has become a meeting point with colleagues from various entities of Damen Shipyards Group, namely Chief Operating Officer, Marc van Heyningen, Director Operations DOSV, Tjarco Ekkelkamp, Frank van der Velden, Manager Engineering (PG) of DOSV, Katarzyna Romantowska, Managing Director Damen Engineering Gdansk, Richard de Gouw, Director Engineering Damen Workforce Romania.

On the first day of the exhibition the Ukrainian Pavilion opening took place, it gathered together honorary guests and Mass Media representatives: the 1st Honorary Consul of Ukraine to The Netherlands, Karel Burger Dirven, the First Secretary (Economic Cooperation) of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Netherlands, Buchok Volodymyr, the Secretary General of Sea Europe, Christophe Tytgat, and Manager Engineering (PG) of Damen Offshore & Specialized Vessels, Frank van der Velden.

Karel Burger Dirven in the interview for the Ukrainian multimedia platform “Ukrinform”



noted, the presence of Ukraine here [at the exhibition] proves that Ukraine is alive. The participants of exhibition were ensured that even at present conditions they can cooperate with Ukrainian companies. He visited Mykolaiv this year and saw not only the destruction, but also the resilience of Ukraine

and Ukrainian companies in process of communicating with UMC member companies. They continue working professionally and are open for cooperation for European and, of course, Dutch companies.

[Click here to watch the video](#)

Frank van der Velden emphasized that Ukrainian engineers contribute in design and engineering of a big number of Damen vessel - starting with research vessels and ending with passenger ships. Partly the team is involved in construction of the offshore vessel.

The honored guests expressed words of support, stressed the courage of the Ukrainian people who have persevered through challenging times. They commended the determination of Ukrainians, as reflected in the slogan: “Ahead with Ukraine!”.

Besides, MDEM and other Mykolaiv companies’ representatives had B2B meetings, got acquainted with the latest trends in the maritime industry and established new business contacts live.

UMC pavilion was also attended by honored guests from European Shipbuilding and Maritime Equipment Association (SEA Europe) – by René Berkvens, SEA Europe Chairman, and Christophe Tytgat, Sea Europe Secretary General. “...In these terrible times we all have got new friends and Sea Europe in this sense is very opened to have you onboard. We all realize that it is very hard situation for business. But looking at your slogan “Ahead with Ukraine”, I think if we unite, if we stay together, we will come to prosperous future. And we all are willing, it is a mightful fact that only together we can be strong, we can lift of the situation”, stressed Christophe Tytgat to Ukrainian delegation.

The last day of Europort 2023 members of Ukrainian delegation

received an opportunity to pay a visit to Damen Shiprepair Rotterdam. Sales Manager Damen Shiprepair & Conversion, Oscar van Wees, made a short presentation about Shiprepair & Conversion Holding and a yard tour. Words of courage and support, atmosphere of Damen family community and an example of the company with 300 years of shiprepair experience has become an excellent final point for visitors from Ukraine.

Last but not least, we are filled with hope that participation of Ukrainian companies at Europort 2023 will become a powerful impetus for the development of Ukrainian maritime industry, and strengthening pillars for future reconstruction and restoration of Ukraine in global value chains! <<



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