

Turku, 1 February 2016

## **Invitation to the European Maritime Day Conference, Turku 18 – 19 May, 2016**

*Main theme: “Investing in competitive blue growth – smart and sustainable solutions”*

Esteemed Mayor, dear colleague!

On behalf of the organizers of the European Maritime Day (EMD) Conference 2016 in Turku, the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the City of Turku, I have the great pleasure to invite you to attend this outstanding stimulating event.

European Maritime Day is the annual meeting point for Europe’s maritime community to network, discuss and forge joint action. The EMD will be opened by **Karmenu Vella**, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs.

The conference will provide a strong input to shape future policies and the practical steps needed to drive change in the blue economy and the wider maritime integrated maritime agenda.

EMD Turku 2016 will emphasize the role of finding practical, smart and sustainable solutions to new challenges. Therefore, we also emphasize the role of companies and researchers and invite them to present their innovations, both in the meetings but also in the exhibition space and networking village. Furthermore, the **Enterprise Europe Network** will organize specific B2B matchmaking meetings.

Participation in the EMD2016 is free of charge. The conference languages are English, German and French. In addition, translation will be provided among others from Swedish, Polish and Russian.

The EMD 2016 Conference will be followed on 20 May by a high-level IX Baltic Sea Forum of Finland, with the keynote speech to be delivered by the former President of Finland, **Tarja Halonen**. The Forum is organized by the Centrum Balticum Foundation, in cooperation with the City of Turku. Its main theme is “Maritime cluster in the Baltic Sea region and beyond”. It will be conducted in English.

Dear colleagues,

Blue growth, in all of its dimensions, offers huge possibilities for sustainable growth. It is not only a matter of cities located on the seashore, but all stakeholders who are interested in developing solutions in maritime matters, be they local authorities, companies, research institutes, civil society organisations etc.

I sincerely hope that you can follow our invitation and attend the European Maritime Day Conference 2016 in Turku and discussions on smart specialization and cooperation of cities and regions in maritime issues, to be organized during the conference.

Likewise, I would be very pleased if you can share this invitation and information within your respective networks!

We would be pleased to provide you with any further information you may need. Please contact me or my colleagues (Mikko Lohikoski, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, +358 50 559 0238, mikko.lohikoski@turku.fi or Mika Akkanen, Manager of International Affairs and Protocol, +358 50 559 0590, mika.akkanen@turku.fi).

Please find more information about the EMD from the following links:

European Maritime Day 2016:

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/en/turku-2016>

Registration:

<https://scic.ec.europa.eu/fmi/ezreg/EMD2016/registration>

Matchmaking event:

<https://www.b2match.eu/emd2016>

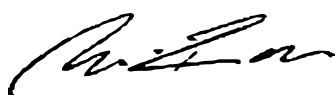
Networking village and exhibition booth:

[https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/European\\_Maritime\\_Day\\_2015\\_Networking\\_Village\\_7667](https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/European_Maritime_Day_2015_Networking_Village_7667)

Baltic Sea Region Forum of Finland's programme:

<http://www.centrumbalticum.org/en/events/baltic-sea-region-forum-2016>

Looking forward to meeting you in Turku!



Aleks Randell  
Mayor of Turku