



10th July 2010

President Jerzy BUZEK (MEP)

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear President Buzek,

On several occasions, such as the handover of the Joint Declaration by the European Shipbuilding Regions on 8th April 2010, you have demonstrated your support for the European shipbuilding industry. CESA and the EMF, the social partners in this sector, would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your support. You have also experienced firsthand the vital role played by shipyards in the economic fabric of industrialized European nations and have seen the devastating impact on workers, families, and regions when this industrial activity is lost.

There is wide consensus that Europe needs to put in place decisive and urgent crisis response measures to alleviate the temporary but deep demand gap, which in combination with massive global unbalances and unfair trade practices in Asia threatens to jeopardize Europe's successful path of the past years. Irreparable structural damages to Europe's outstanding shipbuilding capabilities with a workforce of 500 000 highly skilled professionals can still be avoided. Unfortunately, neither the Council nor the Commission are taking sufficient action. This was clearly demonstrated at the Shipbuilding Conference held at the European Parliament on 24th June 2010.

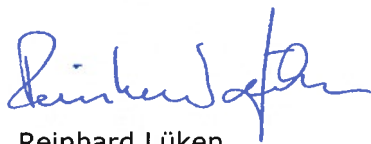
We are convinced that the industrial competitiveness in practically any manufacturing sector depends on a joint European approach to face global competition. Relocation and deindustrialization cannot be a recipe for Europe's future. With a clear focus on sustainable production and products, Europe's economy can secure prosperity and help to shape a better world.

In Shipbuilding, a new form of European industrial policy was already successfully introduced in 2003 and has delivered good results since then. Under the heading LeaderSHIP 2015 the innovative capabilities were further strengthened and the industry's technology edge in highly specialised and complex vessels was expanded. The current global economic crisis has brought new challenges of tremendous scale particularly in the maritime industry. The stakeholders, including the European social partners, have risen to this challenge. We firmly believe that the European crisis response measures we have proposed in the context of the LeaderSHIP High Level Meeting in September 2009 would be an investment to safeguard jobs in this growth market with a sound return on investments for national budgets. The sector is committed to act European. However, without institutional support the common initiative is bound to fail.

After having pioneered modern industrial policy for Europe, shipbuilding could be again the test case to demonstrate that Europe can deliver convincing joint action. We are therefore counting on the European Parliament to push for effective policy proposals.

In close collaboration with the MEPs Ville Itälä (EPP) and Andrea Cozzolino (S&D), who were hosting the Shipbuilding Conference last week, but also in collaboration with the shipbuilding rapporteur of the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr. Marian Krzaklewski, we would like to explore formal Parliament initiatives and would deeply appreciate if you, dear President, would continue to support our efforts.

Yours sincerely,



Reinhard Lüken
Secretary General
CESA



Peter Scherrer
General Secretary
EMF

CC: Joseph Daul MEP, Chairman of the EPP Group
Martin Schulz MEP, President of S&D Group
Guy Verhofstadt MEP, President ALDE Group
Rebecca Harms MEP, Co-President of the GREENS/EFA Group
Daniel Cohn-Bendit MEP, Co-President of the GREENS/EFA Group
Michał Tomasz Kamiński MEP, Chairman ECR Group
Bisky Lothar, President GUE/NGL Group
Nigel Farage MEP, Co-President EFD Group
Francesco Speroni MEP, Co-President EFD Group

Herbert REUL, Chair Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Wolf KLINZ, Chair Committee on Financial, Economic and Social Crisis
Brian SIMPSON, Chair Committee on Transport and Tourism
Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Committee on Regional Development
Pervenche BERÈS, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs