



News release  
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## Green Marine Europe: A growing commitment from the European maritime industry

**Bilbao, October 17, 2023** – Green Marine Europe (GME), a European environmental certification program dedicated to the maritime industry, unveiled **its 2022 results and certified ship owners** on October 17 during a day of discussions organized in Bilbao, Spain.

Ahead of the unveiling of the results, this day began with the work of **Green Marine Europe's Steering Committee**, in charge of the **strategic orientations of the European program**. The **Port of Bilbao** hosted its proceedings, aboard a **Brittany Ferries ship**, a GME certified shipowner since 2019 and a member of Green Marine Europe's Steering Committee. These are all strong maritime symbols – the **Port of Bilbao** being a **central and pioneering player in the Atlantic Arc**, with the emergence of **green corridors**, developed thanks to a proactive and innovative policy of the Port in favour of supplying ships with alternatives to fuel.

### Four years of existence and rising influence

The mobilisation of the European maritime industry is growing with:

- **Quadruple the number of participants - 25 participating ship owners** in 2023, compared to six in 2019;
- The **number of vessels** in the fleets of the participating ship owners **increasing tenfold** - from 50 vessels in 2019 to **more than 500** in 2023;
- **Ever more diversified areas of activity** – passenger ships, container ships, tankers, bulkers, tugboats, offshore ships, ro-ro, and service ships.

### Eight new participants and 22 certified ship owners

For this fourth consecutive evaluation year, **14 European ship owners have been certified** – Brittany Ferries, CMA CGM, Compagnie Maritime Nantaise - MN, Compagnie Maritime Penn Ar Bed, CORSICA Linea, Aranui Cruises, Ifremer/Genavir, La Méridionale, Maritima, Orange Marine, Ponant, Socatra, Sogestran Shipping, and Stena Line. **Eight participants have been certified for the first time, including MSC Cruises**, a ship owner that joined in 2021, but was not then in time to join the certification process for that year.

The eight new 2022 participants reflect GME's increasing attractiveness:

- **Baleària**, the first Spanish ship owner to join GME
- **Bourbon Offshore Surf**, first ship manager of the BOURBON Group
- **Hovertravel** or the arrival of a British ship owner within GME
- **L'Express des Îles**, 35 years of serving Caribbean destinations
- **Manche Îles Express**, a shipping company from Normandy

- **Louis Dreyfus Armateurs (LDA)**, a traditional family business with international influence
- **Somara**, towing and port services throughout the Caribbean
- **SPM Ferries**, the shipping company within the territorial collectivity of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

## Performance is at the heart of participant engagement

After three years of clear progress, the **2022 results show a slight drop in the overall average by one-tenth of a point to stand at 2.6** (on the 1-to-5 scale). This plateau is explained by **the influx of new participants (+50%)**, and the need to **familiarize themselves with all the program's requirements**.

However, for the **14 ship owners already certified in 2021**, the levels continue to progress with **17 higher levels reached in 2022** when all performance indicators are combined.

Aligned with the present concerns of European and international bodies, **the NOx and SOx-PM performance indicators show the best averages: 3.1 and 3 respectively**. With the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships expected to come into force within the next 24 months, the **"Ship recycling"** performance indicator suggests that ship owners have significant room for improvement with the **level average at 2**.

All the results and an analysis of the performance in 2022 are available in the [2022 Performance Report](#).

## Green Marine Europe opens its door to shipyards

In 2022, Green Marine Europe began the process of extending the certification program to shipyards. It brings together **shipyard representatives from the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Italy, Portugal and France**, as well as **partners from industry, associations and NGOs**.

The **first performance indicators will address issues such as** waste management, greenhouse gas emissions and pollutant air emissions, spill prevention and stormwater management, community impacts, and community relations. **The goal: the certification of the first shipyards as of 2024**.

**Florent MARCOUX, Managing Director of Surfrider Foundation Europe (SFE) and Green Marine Europe's Finance Expert:** "Green Marine Europe is the story of a European collective that expands and strengthens that of Green Marine in North America. The addition of Spanish and British ship owners, as well as the addition of indicators for shipyards, are important steps in the deployment of a certification that covers the European maritime transportation chain."

## Anticipating changes in European regulations

In 2023, Green Marine Europe is reviewing its performance indicators for **"Pollutant air emissions - SOx and PM"** and **"Underwater noise"**. In the case of SOx-PM, it involves **better taking into account certain technological progress** in environmental matters – such as shoreline power – to further lower emission levels. For the **underwater noise** indicator, the revision involves a **reduction in speed** (Level 4) and **the recognition of additional ratings from "quiet" classification societies** (Level 4 and 5).

The 2024 program is already being prepared, with the revision of the performance indicators regarding "Waste management" and "Oily discharge".

### About Green Marine Europe

[Green Marine Europe](#) is a voluntary certification program for the European maritime industry adapted from the Green Marine program in North America. Green Marine Europe offers a detailed framework for maritime enterprises to measure their environmental footprint and then reduce it. Participants must demonstrate continual and measurable improvement, year after year, to maintain their certification. The environmental certification program addresses priority environmental issues related to air and water quality, the protection of biodiversity, and waste management. The program is now comprised of 11 distinct performance indicators, relating to ship owners and to shipyards. Find GME on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

### About Surfrider Foundation Europe

[Surfrider Foundation Europe](#) is an NGO for the protection of the ocean, aquatic environments and their users. With 30 years of expertise and work in the field, the organization has become a reference source on environmental issues linked to its work themes: aquatic waste, water quality and user health, coastal development, and climate change. Surfrider Foundation Europe works daily with key stakeholders aiming to defend this common good with the goal of triggering real changes at the heart of our societies. To do this, the organization relies on three complementary levers of action: education and awareness, scientific and legal expertise, as well as political advocacy, to establish profound and lasting changes for the ocean's preservation.

[For more information:](#)

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