

## PRESS RELEASE

# Shipping is ready for alternative fuels — Now policy must unlock supply

**Berlin, 20 March 2025:** Half of all shipping tonnage ordered in 2024 features alternative fuel-capable propulsion. 79% of the existing orderbook's deadweight tonnage is designed to run on alternative fuels. The fuel supply chain has not kept pace. According to the International Energy Agency, only 4% of announced renewable hydrogen production capacity has reached a final investment decision, and just 1% of projects specifically target fuel applications.

The gap between vessel readiness and fuel availability is not a technical but a policy problem. The eFuel Alliance today published a blueprint setting out the concrete regulatory changes needed to mobilise between €34.7 and €46.7 billion in maritime eFuel investment by 2035. Current commitments fall far short of the volumes required to meet anticipated demand from the rapidly growing fleet of alternative fuel-capable vessels. The shortfall is structural and it can only be closed through targeted legislative action.

The paper's proposals target three EU regulatory frameworks: the Renewable Energy Directive, the FuelEU Maritime Regulation, and the maritime extension of the EU Emissions Trading System. Complementing these regulatory adjustments, the blueprint also outlines necessary reforms to public funding schemes to unlock large-scale investment in renewable marine fuels. Detailed statements on each are available separately.

CEO of the eFuel Alliance, Ralf Diemer: "The shipbuilding industry has held up its end of the bargain: more than half of all vessels ordered last year can run on alternative fuels. The market has moved. The regulatory framework governing the fuel supply chain has not. In its current form, it is too rigid, too fragmented, and too short-term to drive the investment decisions we need. More than 300 eFuel projects exist globally. Only a fraction has reached the final investment decision. That is not a pipeline problem – it is a policy problem. The amendments we are proposing are specific, implementable, and directly tied to investment outcomes."

### >>>The eFuel Alliance e.V.<<<

The eFuel Alliance is an interest group committed to promoting political and social acceptance of eFuels and to securing their regulatory approval. We represent more than 160 companies, associations and consumer organizations along the eFuel production value chain. We stand for fair competition and equal competitive condition for all relevant emission reduction solutions. We are firmly committed to further climate change mitigation and seek recognition for the significant part eFuels can play in sustainability and climate protection. Our aim is to create the conditions for the industrial production and widespread use of CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral fuels from renewable sources of energy.

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