

FINCANTIERI: EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER APOSTOLOS TZITZIKOSTAS VISITS THE MONFALCONE SHIPYARD

The European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, visited the Monfalcone shipyard, one of Fincantieri's main production sites and a strategic hub for European shipbuilding. The visit was an opportunity to showcase the Group's industrial capabilities, its distinctive expertise in the construction of technologically complex ships, and its commitment to a sustainable and digital transition in the maritime sector. The Commissioner was able to learn more about the excellence of the site, an international benchmark for quality, innovation, and production efficiency.

The meeting was attended by Fincantieri's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, **Pierroberto Folgiero**, the General Manager of Fincantieri's Merchant Ships Division, **Luigi Matarazzo**, and **Davide Cucino**, SVP EU & NATO Affairs. The visit's agenda included a meeting with Marine Interiors and Fincantieri Ingenium, followed by a focus on the shipyard presented by Director **Cristiano Bazzara**. The delegation then visited the production areas and a ship under construction, stopping to talk to the workers, confirming the central role of people in the competitiveness of the sector.

During the meeting, the need to further strengthen the competitiveness of European shipbuilding emerged, consolidating its leadership in high value-added ships and recovering strategic segments in response to Asian competition. The dual dimension of the industry, which is fundamental for European defense and security, was also reiterated, with particular attention to the underwater domain and the protection of critical infrastructure. The role of innovation in sustainable and digital transition is also central, with a focus on decarbonization technologies – including long-term solutions such as hydrogen and nuclear – and digital initiatives. All these issues are pillars of the future EU Maritime Industrial Strategy expected in 2026.

Pierroberto Folgiero, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Fincantieri, commented: *"Welcoming Commissioner Tzitzikostas to our shipyard in Monfalcone is recognition of the role that Fincantieri plays for the entire European shipbuilding industry and for the revival of the maritime economy on our continent. The visit allowed us to share our priorities: strengthening Europe's industrial competitiveness, investing in innovation, digitalization, and decarbonization—including through long-term technologies—and recovering strategic market segments. These are key themes of the future EU Maritime Industrial Strategy, to which we are ready to contribute with the strength of our supply chain and our expertise."*

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism said: *"It was truly inspiring to visit Fincantieri's shipyard in Monfalcone. It is impressive what our maritime industry in Europe is capable of, despite the challenges it faces. In the upcoming EU Maritime Industry Strategy, which I will present in early 2026, the European*

Commission will define actions to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience, innovation, and technological leadership of the sector."

The Monfalcone shipyard, founded in 1908 by the Cosulich brothers, is Fincantieri's production hub for new-generation cruise ships and the largest in the Group, with a supply chain involving 600 companies in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, over 23,000 workers, and more than 40 vessels delivered since 1990. In recent years, the site has benefited from significant investments in infrastructure, safety, and employee well-being, and is at the center of an innovation process that introduces robotics, digital twins, real-time tracking, physical AI, augmented reality, and additive manufacturing, confirming its status as an international benchmark for quality, efficiency, and sustainability.

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Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only player active in all high complexity marine industry sectors. The Group is a leader in the construction of cruise ships, naval and offshore vessels, and stands out for its extensive experience in the development of underwater solutions, thanks to its integrated industrial structure capable of managing and coordinating all activities related to the commercial, defense, and dual-use sectors. It holds a strong presence in key markets also thanks to the internalization of high value-added, distinctive technologies; it is also a leader in sustainable innovation and in the digital transformation of the shipbuilding sector. The company is active in the field of mechatronics, electronics, and digital naval systems, as well as in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and marine interiors solutions. It also offers a wide range of after-sales services, including logistic support and fleet assistance. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri is a global player with a production network of 18 shipyards worldwide and over 23,000 employees. It maintains its know-how, expertise and management centres in Italy, where it directly employs over 12,000 workers and creates around 90,000 indirect jobs.

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