



# Association of the leading European River Cruise Companies

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DANUBE CONFERENCE



## **The Challenge**

We need a proof of concept

# The Legislative Framework

The European Green Deal has an evolving legislation. Each sector has a ***basket of measures*** to drive it to reach its decarbonisation goals.

The basket of measures can be compared to a “stick and carrot” approach, where tax and GHG limits become the “stick”, and ETS and Funding become the “carrot”



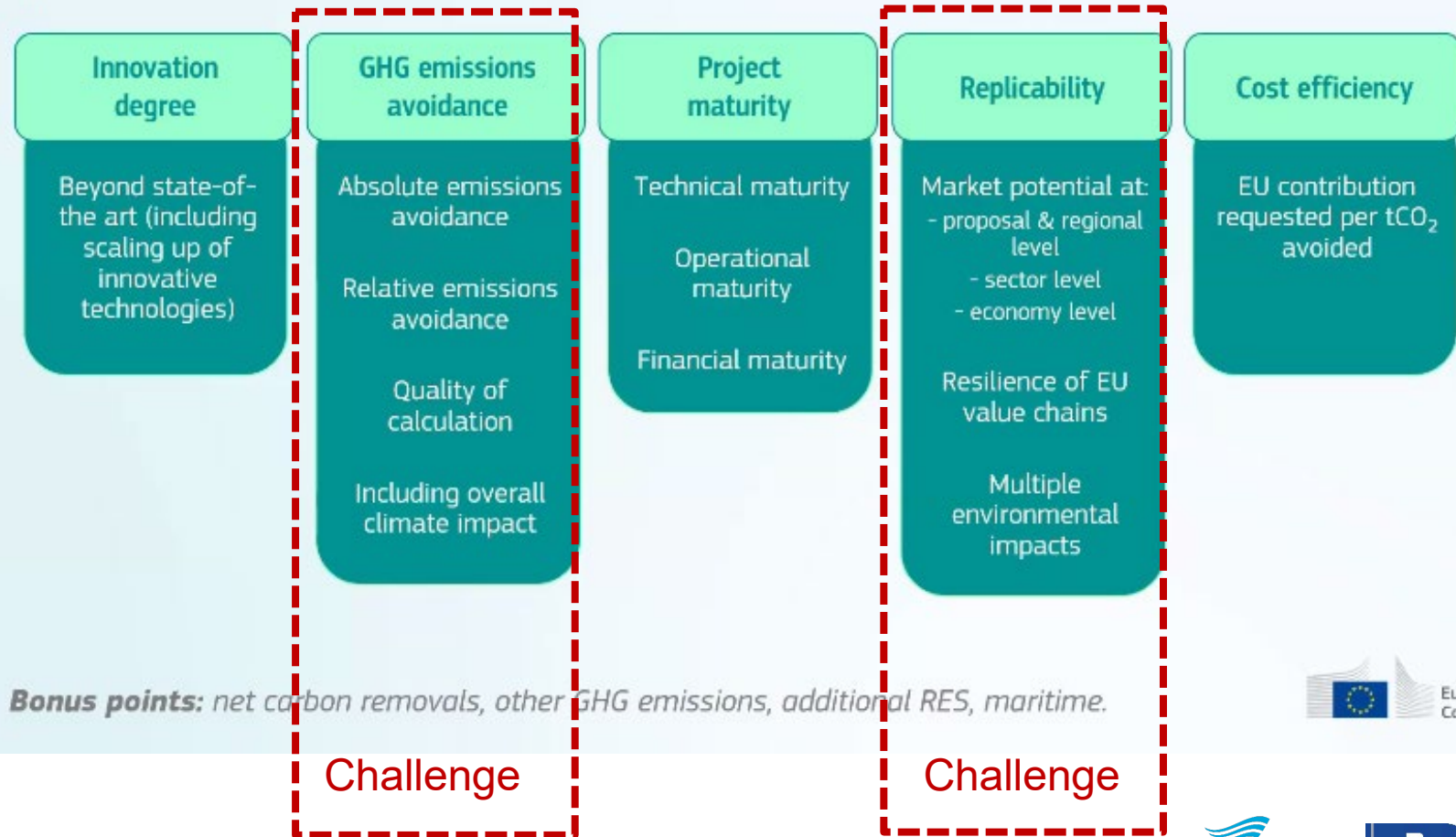
An introduction to one of the world's largest funding programs for the deployment of net-zero and innovative technologies.

Budget: beyond €40 Billion  
Maritime: potential €9.9 Billion

The graphic features a teal header with the text "Innovation Fund" in white. Below the header is a yellow background with a brown ground line. The illustration includes a river with a boat, wind turbines, solar panels, a factory, a city with buildings, a hydrogen tank labeled "H<sub>2</sub>", and a stack of gold coins with a Euro symbol. The European Commission logo is present in the top right and bottom right corners of the graphic.

# The challenge with large funds are the decarbonization criteria

## IF23 Call award criteria



*You will be competing with hard-to-abate sectors such as renewable energy production, energy storage, carbon capture, and low carbon technologies ...translates into big industries...*

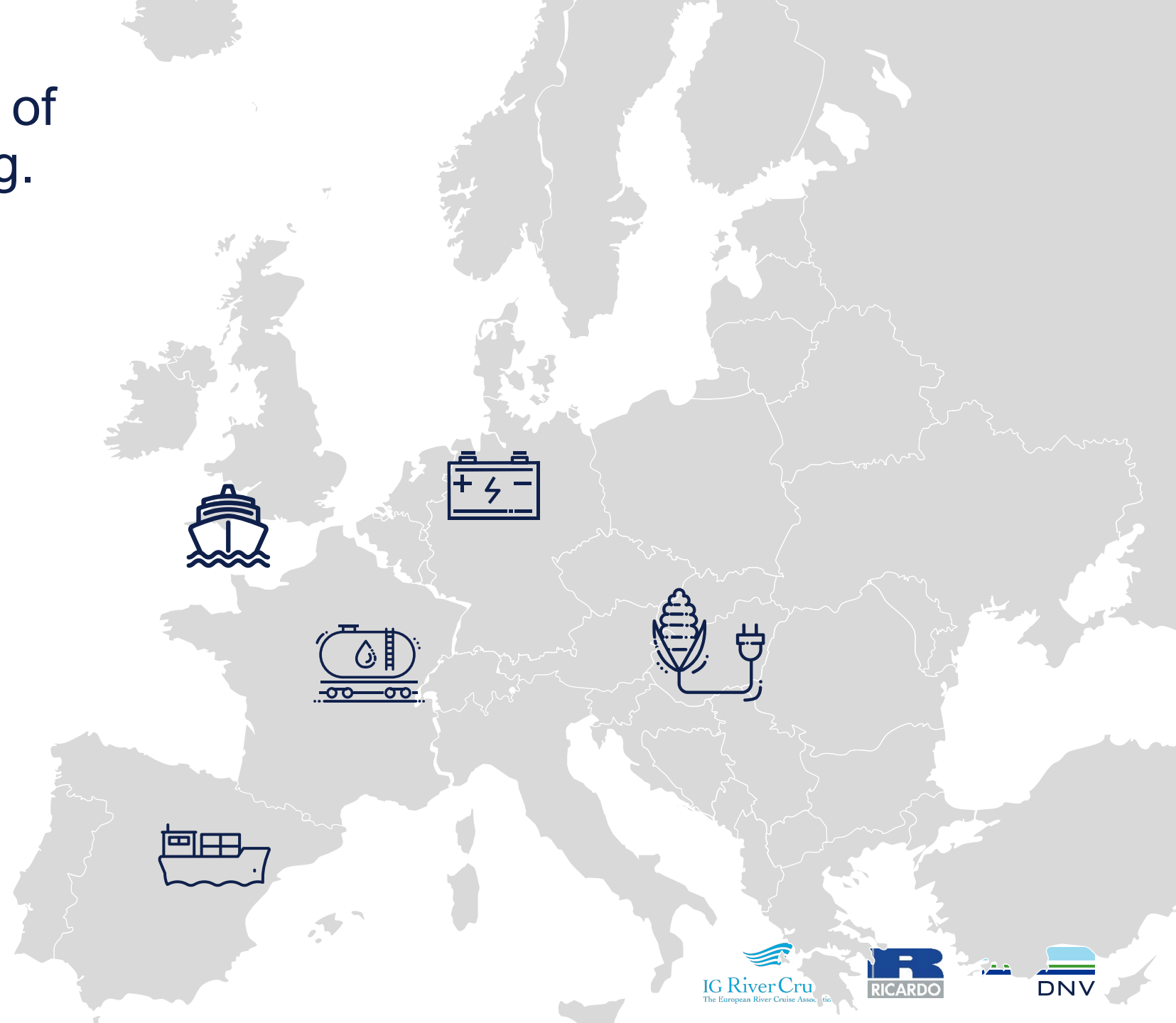
*...remember that shipping is a very efficient transport mode...*

# The sector needs a proof of concept to access funding.

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- Type of Molecule or Electron
- River Stretch
- Number of Ships on Stretch
- Bunkering Infrastructure
- Port Infrastructure

= GHG Reduction and Scaling Potential for River





## **The Findings**

There are timely solutions

# Key findings

No. of vessels in fleet

**380**  
vessels

Passenger day  
capacity

**13.5 million**  
PAX-days

Fuel consumption

**240 000**  
tonnes MGO

Total GHG emissions

**790 000**  
tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-eq

Weighted average  
duration of cruise

**9.3**  
days

Average no. of days  
in operation

**232**  
days

Top 5  
embarkation ports

1. Amsterdam
2. Budapest
3. Basel
4. Cologne
5. Passau

Top 5  
docking ports

1. Budapest
2. Vienna
3. Amsterdam
4. Cologne
5. Passau

Note: all findings are based on operational and technical vessel data for the fleet in 2023

# Technology for decarbonisation is generally at a high level of technology or commercial readiness

Current **deployment levels** will inform basis of decarbonisation potential in foresight scenarios

Alternative fuel propulsion power technology is either commercially mature or expected to be **ready** by 2030

- Battery electric**
  - **Current:** Several vessels equipped for peak shaving; one fully electric vessel
  - **Forecast\*\*:** low uptake by 2030 and 2050
- OPS**
  - **Current:** Almost all vessels equipped
  - **Forecast:** improved landside infrastructure
- Hydrogen**
  - **Current:** No known deployment
  - **Forecast\*\*:** low uptake 2030, medium 2050
- Methanol**
  - **Current:** No known deployment
  - **Forecast:** industry expressed interest
- Biofuels**
  - **Current:** ~90% can operate on biofuels
  - **Forecast:** Availability hindering deployment

Power converter technology	TRL (1-9) / CRL (10-11)				Can it be retrofitted?
	2022	2025	2030	2035	
Methane (LNG) ICE	10	11	11	11	Yes, but limited*
HVO ICE	11	11	11	11	N/A – Fuel is drop-in
Methanol ICE	9	10	11	11	Yes
Hydrogen ICE	7	9	10	11	Yes*
Fuel cell PEM	8	9	10	11	Yes*
Fuel cell – High temperature	7	8	10	10	Yes*

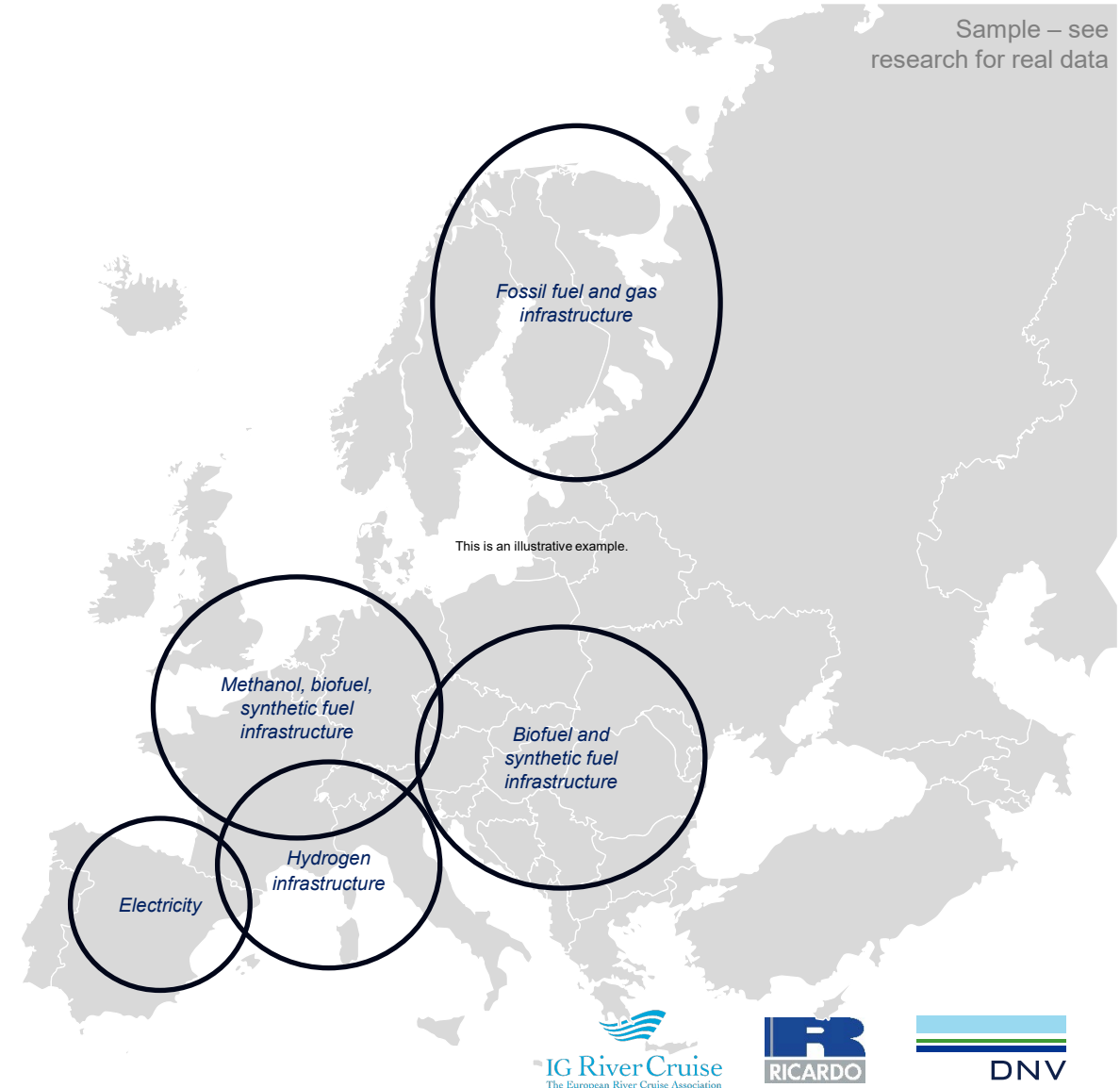
\*Retrofit potential dependent on fuel storage volume while maintaining vessel range

\*\* 2022 survey results

# Geographical Difference to Decarbonization

Question to be determined: When mapping the current fleet, versus fuel availability, where would a new-build vessel with zero technology make sense and where we would we place net-zero technologies in retrofitting or new-build?

- “New” fuels are not distributed in the same logistical and geographical manner as traditional fuels are. Therefore, each area will have fuel diagnostic pockets that are unique to one energy carrier. For example, Paris has announced a hydrogen infrastructure on the river, whilst Rotterdam and Amsterdam maybe the key methanol hubs of the future.
- As a result, the fleet of vessels should not all be equipped with the same technology. Instead, zero emission new-build technologies can be deployed in some areas, whilst net-zero technologies may be more favourable in other areas for both new-build and retrofitted vessels.
- Such regional distinction will have a massive impact on operations cost based on fuel infrastructure cost and technology deployment.

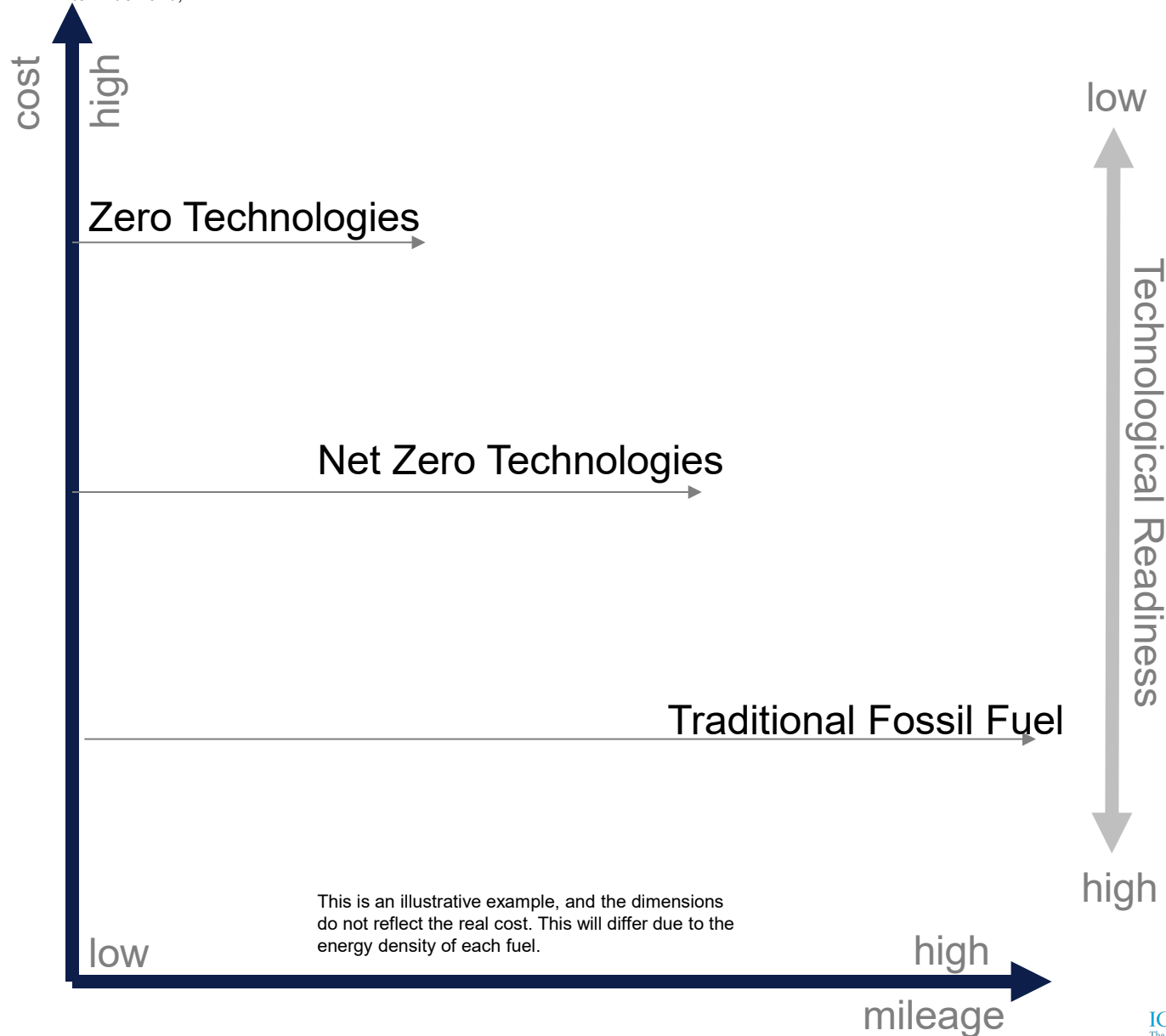


The energy density of different fuels differs significantly. This results in "new" fuels needing more storage space, providing less mileage per ton; the cost is impacted by the production complexity and the current lack of committed long-term demand;

**Question 1:**  
What are you aiming for?

**Question 2:**  
How does Nox, Sox,... impact your decision making?

**Question 3:**  
How does your decision making differ considering New Build vs Retrofit?

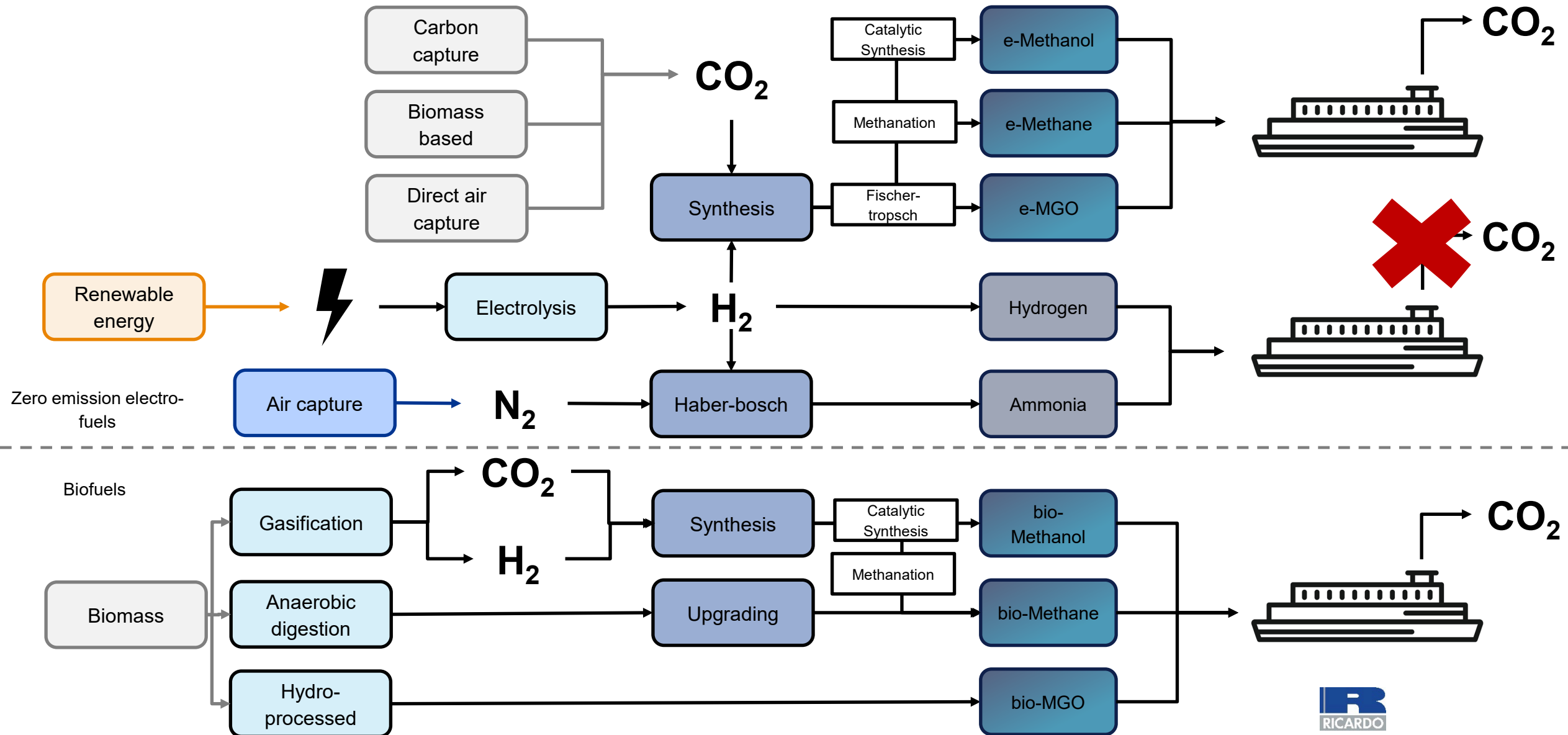




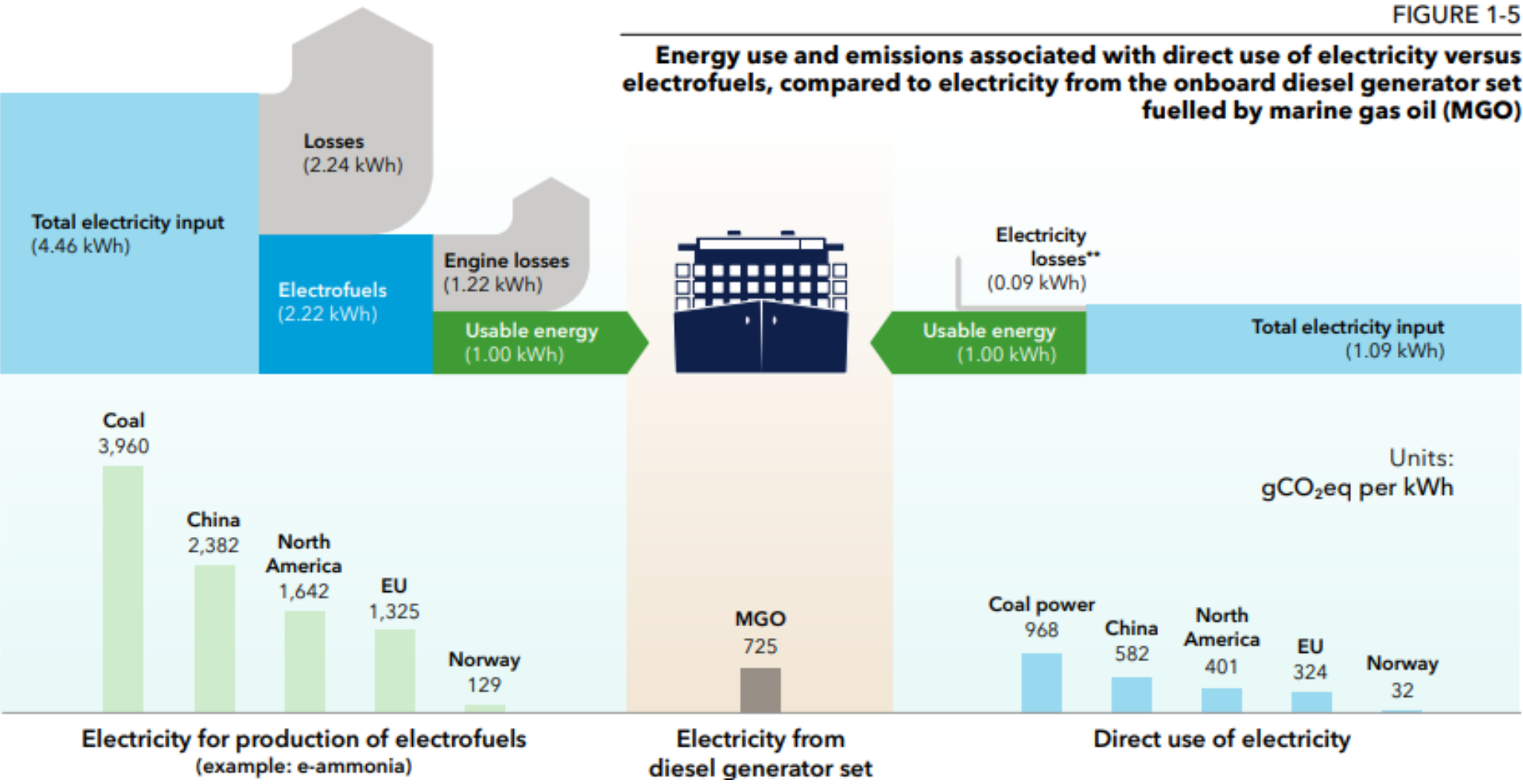
## **The Foresight**

We need a consortium and agree

# Production pathways and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – Net Zero vs Zero

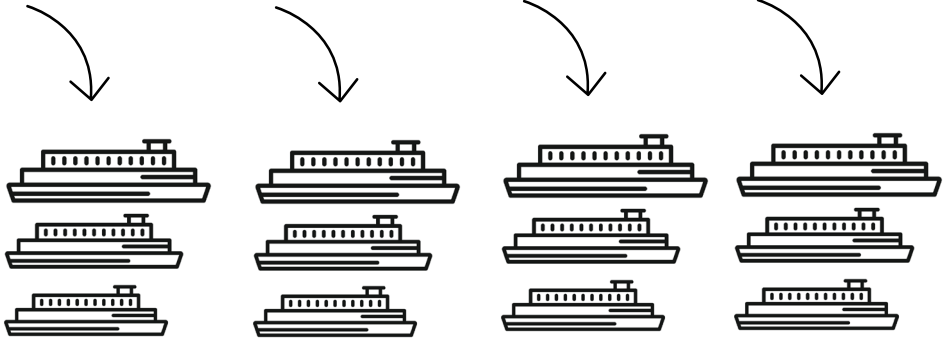


# Electrons versus Molecules, with limitations on the renewable electricity, the most efficient is to use electricity directly onboard without converting to a fuel

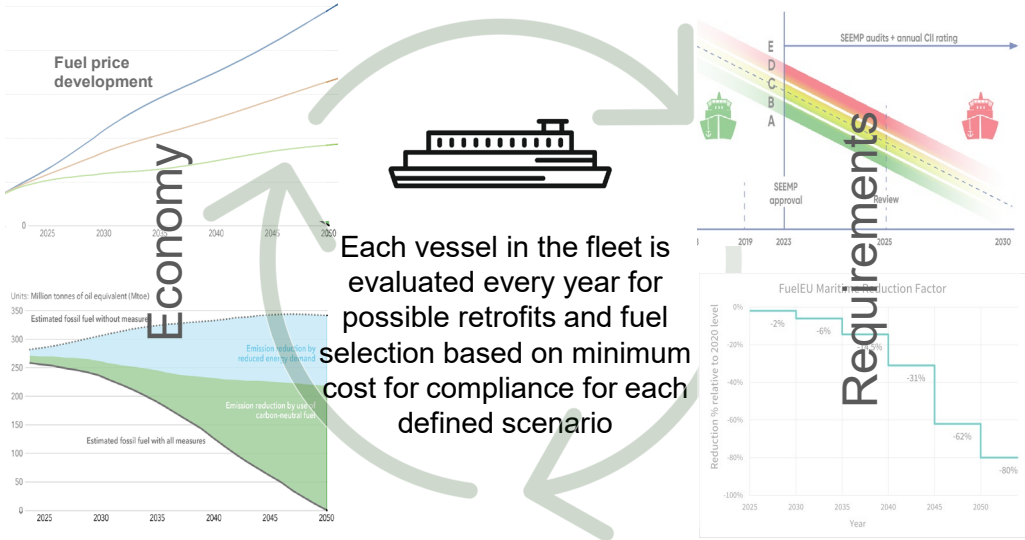
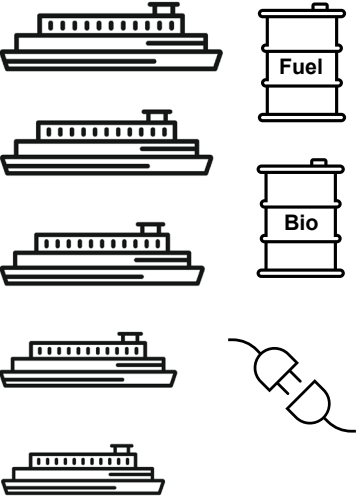


# Modelling principle

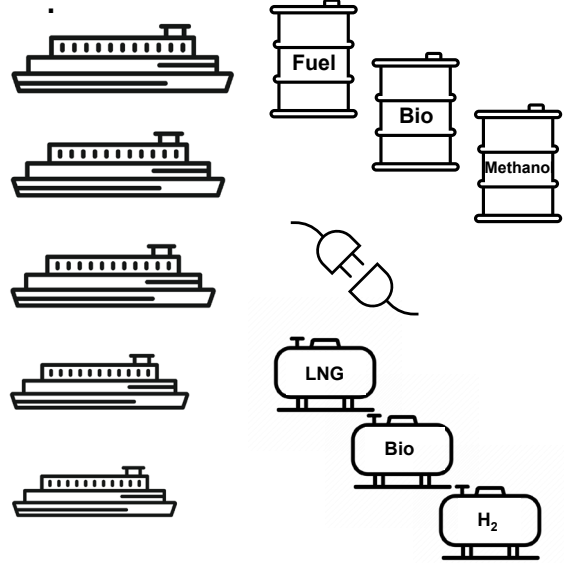
Orderbook + fleet renewal + increased capacity



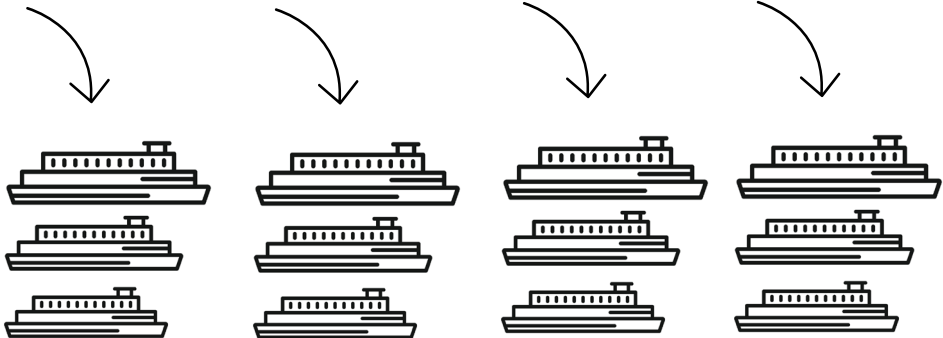
## Baseline



## Future fleet & energy



Sale + recycling



# Scenario development – Foresight

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## **Scenario 1: “Liquid drop-in fuels dominate” - MGO with transition into bio- and electro-based fuels**

There is a high availability of sustainable biomass as feedstock for producing low-carbon bio-based fuels in the short and medium term. In long term there is a gradual increase of renewable electricity for producing low carbon electro-based fuels. The total volumes of low carbon fuels are sufficient for the cruise fleet to decarbonize, and the prices are affordable. Blend-in of low carbon liquid fuels is therefore the preferred decarbonization option, as new ships can be built with traditional fuel technologies having relatively low CAPEX, and existing ships will not need to undergo any retrofits to comply with the regulations. This preference will lead to a low interest in development of methanol infrastructure and carbon storage for shipping. As a result, these options become expensive and unavailable.

## **Scenario 2: “Electrons dominate” - Electrons in battery and hybrid solutions**

There is a gradual improvement in energy density for batteries that result in an increased uptake of battery and hybrid solutions. At the same time the onshore electricity production and infrastructure promotes use of electricity as an energy efficient solution for de-carbonisation. When the ships need to extend the cruising range, MGO will be gradually replaced by bio-MGO and E-MGO when required to fulfil the emission requirements as most ships will also have options to operate with conventional combustion engines in this scenario.

## **Scenario 3: “High momentum for methanol” – MGO is replaced by methanol in the long term**

A few fully equipped dual fuel methanol ships are already on order in other ship segments. In the first years, methanol is expensive, and in the first periods, we see a combination of alternative fuels for decarbonization. However, as the infrastructure and fuel production of methanol develops, this turns out to be a successful pathway for decarbonization in this scenario. Bio-methanol achieves lower production cost than other bio-based fuels, at the same time these products are highly sought after by other sectors, leading to higher prices.

As a result, the share of methanol ships in the order book increases gradually to become a marked standard towards 2050 in this scenario.

**The aim of this consortium is to bundle the competencies and skills to decarbonize river vessels within 10 years based on 2024 EU regulations.**



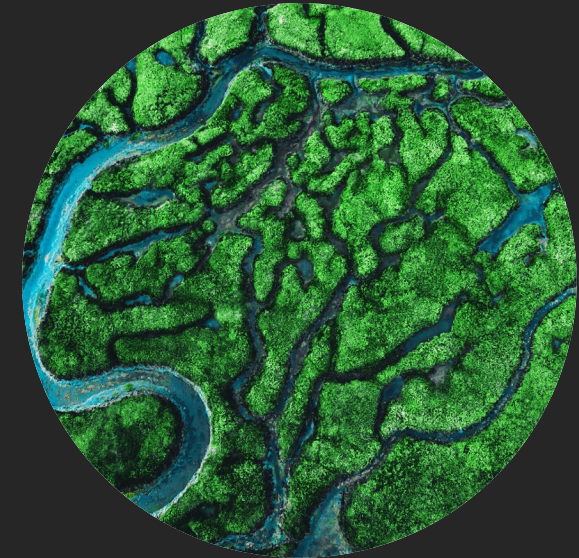
### **Retrofit**

Increase the value of today's vessel by providing funded decarbonization solutions focused on engine replacement.



### **Replace**

Design and Build new vessels for the Rivers of Europe.



### **Relocate**

Relocate vessels based on NET-Zero and Zero GHG geographical criteria as well as mitigation and adaptation rules.



# Credits

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THE IG RIVER CRUISE WORKED WITH ITS MEMBERS AND THE RESEARCH TEAMS OF RICARDO AND DNV TO ESTABLISH THE DATA FOR THIS PRESENTATION.

# Ship Financing Portal



## What is the Ship Financing Portal?

The **Ship Financing Portal** is a valuable resource that aims to provide businesses and relevant organisations with the necessary financial tools to drive fleet renewal and retrofitting, enhance efficiency, and reduce environmental impact.

The **Ship Financing Portal** centralises access to a wide range of financing products, including grants, loans, and bonds, making it easier for stakeholders to find suitable opportunities to fund their needs, projects, and technology development.

The **Portal** will be updated periodically to reflect the latest opportunities within the sector.

### Consolidated resource

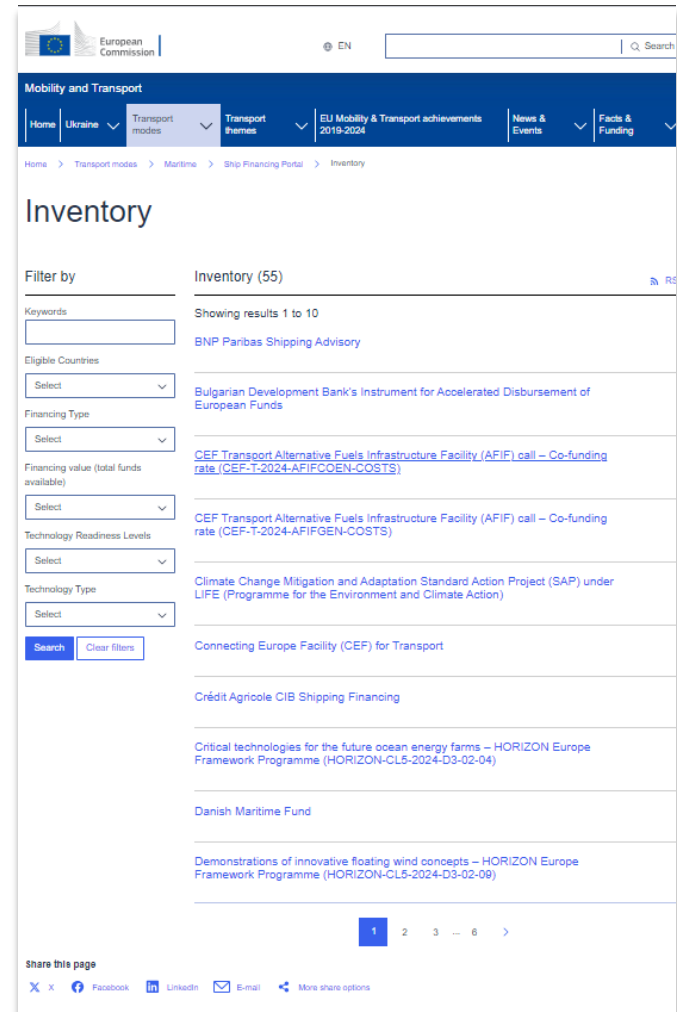
Access to a centralised variety of pan-Europe financing products, making it easier for stakeholders to find suitable financing opportunities.

### Current information

Up-to-date information on available grants, loans, and other financing products administered by the EU, Member States and private financial institutions.

### Sector-specific solutions

Financing products relevant for the shipping sector, facilitating the development and deployment of green maritime technologies.



Explore the Ship Financing Portal:



[https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-modes/maritime/ship-financing-portal\\_en](https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-modes/maritime/ship-financing-portal_en)