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**Gesine Meissner** is a renowned expert on European maritime policy and a former Member of the European Parliament (MEP). As an MEP from 2009 to 2019, she was a key figure in shaping policies on transport, fisheries and environmental sustainability, particularly in the maritime context. She chaired the European Parliament Intergroup on Seas, Rivers, Islands, and Coastal Areas (SEARICA), a platform that brought together policy makers, industry representatives and NGOs to promote sustainable maritime development.

Ms. Meissner has played a key role in numerous legislative efforts, including the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and the Port Reception Facilities Directive, which aim to improve maritime safety and environmental protection in European ports. Her expertise also led to her appointment as Special Envoy of the President of the European Parliament on maritime policy in 2018.

Following her time in the European Parliament, Ms Meissner remained deeply involved in maritime policy, serving on the EU Mission Board on Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters and chairing of German National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Since September 2024, Ms. Meissner has been the European Coordinator for the European Maritime Space under the revised Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Regulation. In this role, she draws on her extensive maritime policy experience to improve the integration of maritime transport infrastructure into the wider EU transport network, with a focus on decarbonisation, sustainable development of European ports and promotion of short sea shipping.

## **BULLET POINTS**

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### **European Coordinator for the European Maritime Space, Ms. Gesine Meissner**

Ms. Gesine Meissner, born on 22 February 1952, in Uelzen, Lower Saxony, Germany, was appointed European Coordinator for the European Maritime Space under the revised Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) regulation in September 2024, succeeding Prof. Kurt Bodewig.

### **Previous Assignments**

2019-04/2024: Member of the Mission Board on Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters

2020-12/2023: Chair of the German National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

2018-2019: Special Envoy of the President of the European Parliament on Maritime Policy

2015-2019: Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Seas, Rivers, Islands, and Coastal Areas (SEARICA)

2009-2019: Member of the European Parliament (MEP), representing Germany in the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) group

2003-2009: Member of the Lower Saxony Regional Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Health and Social Affairs

1993-2003: Freelance Communication and Management Trainer

1980-1993: Deputy Director, Rural Adult Education Lower Saxony Association

1976-1980: Hotel Management and Educator