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EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS

WHERE NEXT FOR EUROPE'S SEAS? ● ● ● ● ●



Venue: Sparks Meeting

(Rue Ravenstein 60, Brussels, Belgium)

This event, with a broad range of stakeholders who have a future perspective, aims to provide and harvest insights on what might be the collective pathways for Europe's Marine Future. In essence, the question to be addressed is:

What, in this wider, evolving future landscape, might be the pathways for Europe's Seas, with a perspective to 2050?

A key feature of the day is to have interactive discussions. Following the opening high-level, inspirational scene-setting plenary, there will then be thematic breakout sessions based around the following themes: Global drivers; Economy; Society; and Innovation, with guiding questions to structure the discussions. There will also be EU Project Posters to inform the reflections as well. Each theme would look at opportunities, enablers and barriers, as well as the interlinkages between the themes, with a shorter-term perspective to 2030 and more longer-term to 2050. The day will end in plenary with the sharing of initial insights and main takeaways.

08:30 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 09:35	Opening and welcome by Charlina Vitcheva , Director-General, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission
09:35 - 10:30	Setting the scene on maritime and fisheries and the wider economic, social, technological evolutions and drivers of change that may occur. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video message by Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries• Keynote address by Manuel Barange, Assistant Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations• Moderated discussion between Charlina Vitcheva and Manuel Barange.
10:30 - 10:45	Introduction to thematic sessions, including practicalities For each Thematic Session, participants will be divided into pre-defined groups to then discuss, in parallel, the same theme based on guiding

questions. A moderator will lead the discussions in each group, along with a rapporteur to record the main outcomes.

10:45 - 11:15 *Pause café in communal area with Posters*

11:15 - 12:15 **Thematic Session I: Global Drivers**

This session will serve also as the broader context for the other themes and would consider the influences, drivers and impacts of the broader global context, such as biodiversity, climate change, food and water security, UN SDGs, along with other geopolitical developments and international agreements, plus any future EU enlargements, which can impact significantly on Europe (and conversely Europe can influence globally).

12:15 - 13:30 *Lunch, in communal area with Posters*

13:30 - 14:30 **Thematic Session II: Economy**

With respect to, for example, a sustainable, profitable marine food supply for Europe, plus other maritime activities, in the context of transversal aspects impacting most blue economy sectors, such as integration of maritime activities/marine management, fisheries, aquaculture, regional, notably sea basin, governance and ecosystem management, as well as of global trends and developments, e.g. with respect to EU / third country fishing fleets.

14:30 - 14:35 *Movement of participants to other groups*

14:35 - 15:35 **Thematic Session III: Society**

Such as with respect to evolution of societies in Europe's Coastal Regions and communities, including fisheries, aquaculture, other sustainable blue economy sectors, research and academia, etc., and within the broader context of the evolution of European society, value and challenges, e.g. with regard to impacts on coastal communities of climate change, tourism and offshore renewables; skills and training, notably on new technologies; on gender and inclusion; on youth for generational change, etc.

15:35 - 16:00 *Pause café in communal area with Posters*

16:00 - 17:00 **Thematic Session IV: Innovation**

What would be needed for the next decade and in a 2050 timeframe; what are the existing technologies that would need to be further exploited; what are the new and emerging technologies; what could be the impact of and benefits from developments like digitisation, artificial intelligence, blockchain, robotics, dual use technologies; what are the current obstacles in taking full advantage of these technologies in the public and private sector and how to overcome them? Other issues to consider include where EU is in terms of technological competitiveness on global fisheries, aquaculture and other maritime sectors; how our innovation system compares with others; how the implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies could be an enabler; what measures could be done to develop further EU's position; and how innovation can play a role to reduce the administrative burden for the authorities and operators.

17:00 - 17:15 *Movement back to auditorium*

17:15 - 17:45 **Plenary: Where next for Europe's Seas?** moderated by Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy Director-General, DG MARE

Initial insights and takeaways from the different thematic sessions will be presented briefly, followed by closing remarks, outlining also next steps.

17:45 *Drinks Reception in communal area with Posters*
