



EUROPEAN UNION



EU  
MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**

## **MISSION 'RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030'- THE MEDITERRANEAN LIGHTHOUSE IN ACTION**

Palermo, 30-31 May 2023

This high-level event is organised by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Italian government, the Sicily Region, and the University of Palermo, with the support of the BlueMissionMed Co-ordination and Support Action.

The event will be an opportunity to witness the political commitments of the Mediterranean countries towards the Mission [Restore our Ocean and Waters \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu) and to present the actions and initiatives which contribute to the Mission objectives that may be scaled up and replicated in other sea basins.

The event will welcome stakeholders from the Mediterranean basin, international and sea basin intergovernmental organisations as well as representatives from regions, cities, ports, islands, shipping, industries, academia, education, researchers, investors, NGOs, citizens and youth.

The programme will include demonstrations of EU projects contributing to the Mission's objectives, celebration of coalitions of cities and regions as well as a *Blue Islands ceremony*, with exchanges of best practices, awards to islands championing the Mission, and with strong participation from youth and blue schools.

**30 MAY – MORNING: SIDE EVENT OF THE BlueMissionMed  
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION**

**FOR MORE INFO:** [BlueMissionMed – Supporting the Mediterranean sea basin for the implementation of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)

1st BlueMissionMed Stakeholder Forum – Shaping The Future of the Mediterranean basin to respond to EU Mission Ocean and Waters objectives

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' - The Mediterranean lighthouse in action

Moderator: *Katrina Sichel*

Venue *Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo*

#### CONFERENCE OPENING

##### Exhibition area

- 14:30 - 15:00**     **Welcome and introduction:**  
*Video on political buy-in for the Mission*
- *Gaetano Galvagno*, President of Sicily Region Assembly
  - *Pascal Lamy*, Chair of the Mission Board Restore our Ocean & Waters
  - *Kestutis Sadauskas*, Deputy Director General, DG MARE and Mission Manager, European Commission
  - *Catherine Chabaud*, Member of the European Parliament
  - *Alvaro Enrique Albacete Perea*, Deputy Secretary General Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Union for the Mediterranean
- 15:00 – 16:30**     **Actions by the Mediterranean lighthouse communities**  
**Reporting from 1st BlueMissionMed Stakeholder Forum for Mission Ocean & Waters**
- Citizens & youth: *Alan Deidun*, Mission Board member  
Research and education: *Fantina Madricardo*, CNR and *Claudiane Chevalier*, Ifremer
- Regions: *Annagiulia Randi*, Emilia Romagna region  
Islands: *Maria Garcies*, CPMR  
Cities: *Josep Canals Molina*, MedCities
- Ports & shipping: *Figen Ayan*, President of MedCruise  
Industries: *Mahdi Khomsi*, BusinessMed  
Fisheries and conservation: *Stefania Valentini*, Federpesca and *Carole Martinez*, Med Pan
- 16:30 - 17:00**     **Coffee break and networking**
- 17:00 - 17:10**     **Health of Oceans for Humanity and Nature**  
*Joachim von Braun*, President, Pontifical Academy of Sciences
- 17:10 - 17:15**     **European Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership - Med Sea Connection**  
*Margherita Cappelletto*, Italian Ministry of University and Research
- 17:15 – 18:00**     **Panel with examples of cities and regions signatories of the Mission Charter**
- **Cities:** *Francesca Corso*, Municipal Councilor of Genova, *Salvatore Quinci*, Mayor of Mazara del Vallo, *Yuliyay Naydenov*, Danube River municipalities association, *Anne Gunnas*, Lysekilis city.
  - **Regions:** *Morena Diazzi*, Representative of Emilia Romagna; *Luz Paramio*, Representative of Azores; *Robin Guillon*, Representative of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.
- Coalition of all Cities and Regions signatories of the Mission Ocean & Waters**
- 18:30 - 22:00**     **Aperitif & networking dinner at the University of Palermo**  
Welcome address by Rector *Prof. Massimo Midiri*

*For those who wish, there will be a guided tour to The Steri building, one of the symbolic places of the city of Palermo, located just inside the University building where the networking dinner will take place.*

**DRAFT PROGRAMME- 31 MAY****Morning Session**Moderator: **Katrina Sichel**Venue **Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo****9:15 - 10:15****PLENARY OPENING****Welcome**

- **Renato Schifani**, President of Sicily Region (tbc)
- **Roberto Lagalla**, Mayor of Palermo
- **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries (video)
- **Joanna Drake**, Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Moncef Boukthir**, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of Tunisia
- **Nello Musumeci**, Minister for Civil Protection and Sea Policies, Italy
- **Anna Maria Bernini**, Minister for University and Research, Italy

**10:15-10:30****Awards ceremony of the Blue Champion Islands****10:30-11:00****Coffee break****11:00– 11:30****Statements by government representatives from Mediterranean countries**

- **Olivier Poivre D'Arvor** (France) and representatives of Croatia, Cyprus, Portugal, Spain.

**11:30- 12:15****Leading actions for the reduction of pollution**

This session will address some actions to reduce plastic litter at sea by at least 50%; reduce microplastics released into the environment by at least 30%; reduce nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides by at least 50%.

- **John Bell**, Director Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, Deputy Mission Manager, European Commission
- **Jann Martinsohn**, Head of Unit, Ocean and Water, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

**Pitches from national projects/programmes/initiatives**

Introduction by **Nicola Carlone**, Vice Admiral, Commandant of the Italian Coast Guard

- **Spyros Kouvelis**, Mission Board member
- **Berengere Prince**, World Bank
- **Anne-Leila Meistertzheim**, Plastic@Sea
- **Daniela Maric Pfannkuchen**, Interreg Italy-Croatia

**Q&A**

12:15 - 13:00

**Panels highlighting some actions of the Mission Charter**

- Typhoon, *Angeliki Kosmopoulou*, *Athanasios C. Laskaridis Foundation*
- Green Deal Malta, *Stefan Spiteri*, *Ewropa*
- ACCESS2NAPA, *Francesco Magagnoli*, *Port of Ravenna Authority*
- For Coastal municipalities with mooring fields over Neptune seagrass beds, *Juanita Zorrilla*, *Submon*
  
- Outreach and Support to the Mission, *Geneviève Pons*, *Europe Jacques Delors*
- Global Blue Economy Hub, *Paul Holthus*, *World Ocean Council Europe*
- BBI-JU Flagship SCALE project, *Julie Person*, *Microphyt*

**Q&A**

13:15 - 14:30

**Networking lunch - Celebrating the Mission Charter's signatories from the Mediterranean**

DAY 2

31 May 2023  
Palermo

**DRAFT PROGRAMME- 31 MAY**

**Afternoon Session**

Moderator: *Katrina Sichel*

Venue **Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo**

14:30 - 15:00

**Panels highlighting some examples of EU funded projects**

**Introduction by *Paloma Aba Garrote*, Acting Director of CINEA**

- **BlueMissionMed**- coordination and support action for the Mediterranean lighthouse
- **REMEDIES**- Co-creating strong uptake of remedies for the future of our oceans through deploying plastic litter valorisation and prevention pathways
- **SEACLEAR2.0**- Scalable Full-cycle Marine Litter Remediation in the Mediterranean
- **OCEAN CITIZEN**- Marine forest coastal restoration: an underwater gardening socio-ecological plan

15:00 - 16:00

**Panel with some examples of islands signatories of the Mission Charter**

- *Sylvain Petit*, BeMed-Islands capitalisation process, SMILO
- *Athanasios Polychronopoulos*, Tilos island
- *Marcial Bardolet*, Balearic Islands, Mediterranean Posidonia Network
- *Chloe Ní Mháille*, Aran Island
- *Giuseppe Siracusano*, Salina Island

**Coalition of all islands signatories of the Mission Ocean & Waters**

**16:00 – 16:20**

**Coffee break**

**16:20 – 17:00**

**Panel with examples of school projects signatories of the Mission Charter**

- *Rosalba Giugni, Marevivo*
- *Danae Patsiou, “Schools against plastics”, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research*
- *Rebecca Katsaris, “Increasing Marine Environment Awareness Via Creative Arts”, Enalia Physis Environmental Research Center*

**Celebrating the Blue Champion Schools in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Education and with the participation of schools**

**17:00 - 17:30**

**Conclusion**

- *Tonino Picula, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of SEARICA*
- *Maria Cristina Pedicchio, Mission Board Member*