



EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 2021
THE EUROPEAN UNION INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY:
an Atlantic and Mediterranean Approach
20 May 2021 | 15.30-17.00 (CET)

Hybrid event

European Institute of the Mediterranean
Sala de Actes, Girona 20, 08010 Barcelona

ZOOM on line platform

INTRODUCTION

In Europe, oceans, seas and coasts are crucial drivers of economic prosperity. They provide a livelihood for millions of Europeans, whether they work in tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, or offshore energy. The wealth created by the **blue economy** – all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts –, is considerable, reaching a turnover of €750 billion in 2018, according to the European Commission. Against this backdrop, the blue economy has still an enormous untapped potential for growth, innovation, jobs and investments that can contribute to reduce poverty, boost inclusive development and recover from the COVID-19 crisis. However, this potential lies on healthy seas, oceans and coasts, as well as on all the services provided by marine ecosystems, today threatened by a set of challenges, including climate change and environmental degradation.

In order to provide a more coherent approach towards these issues, the European Union has developed an **Integrated Maritime Policy (EUIMP)** which seeks to increase cooperation and coordination between different policy areas, and foster cross-cutting policies such as blue growth. It has among its objectives the development of a sustainable blue economy that ensures the health of seas and oceans based on a more dynamic and coordinated approach, drawing on the **EU Blue Growth strategy** and in line with the **UN Agenda 2030**, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources.

In collaboration with



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط





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The EUIMP notably lies on sea basin strategies to ensure tailor-made measures and foster cooperation between countries (including non-EU countries). These include the **Mediterranean Basin** where the blue economy potential to contribute to economic prosperity is particularly important but facing at the same time particularly acute challenges within a fragile ecosystem: mass tourism, overfishing, pollution, illegal fishing, coastal degradation, climate change and marine litter. In this framework, the EU, together with the Union for the Mediterranean, EU member states and Mediterranean partner countries, supports initiatives, such as the WestMED, to develop a **sustainable Mediterranean blue economy** that reconciles human economic activities with the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

On the occasion of the celebrations of the European Maritime Day 2021, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in collaboration with the Government of Spain, the European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), are organising the conference **“The EU Integrated Maritime Policy: an Atlantic and Mediterranean Approach”**. Bringing together speakers from different institutional backgrounds, this event will highlight achievements made in the transition towards a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean Basin, including successful initiatives and policies. Speakers will outline the current priority areas and policy challenges, including those arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, before shedding light on emerging sectors and trends in the blue economy that offer great potential for the post-COVID-19 recovery and which call for greater cooperation, especially in the Western Mediterranean sub-basin. A discussion with experts and practitioners involved in promoting a sustainable Mediterranean blue economy will follow the presentations to deepen the reflection on the paths to foster sustainable blue growth in the region.

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PROGRAMME

15.30

Welcoming Remarks

Josep Ferré, Director General, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

15.35

Opening Remarks

João Mira Gomes, Ambassador of Portugal to Spain

15.45

Roundtable

Moderator

João Mira Gomes, Ambassador of Portugal to Spain

Speakers

Isabelle Viallon, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission

Presentation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (EUIMP)

Helena Vieira, Director General of Maritime Policy, Directorate-General of Maritime Policy, Ministry of the Sea, Government of Portugal

Presentation of Portugal's national contribution to the implementation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (EUIMP)

Jaime del Olmo, Deputy Sub-Director for Agricultural, Fishery, Food and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Government of Spain

Presentation on the 5+5 perspective and the WestMed Initiative: Structure and Role

Ignacio Gandarías, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government of Spain

Presentation on the 5+5 perspective and the WestMed Initiative: Main Activities of WestMed in Fisheries and Aquaculture



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Isidro González, Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Presentation of the UfM initiatives to foster a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean / UfM Ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (2021)

First reactions

Tiago Pitta e Cunha, Chief Executive Officer, Oceano Azul Foundation

Enrique de Villamore, Director, Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (RAC/SCP)

Céline Dubreuil, Director of Programmes, Plan Bleu - Regional Activity Centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Roger Albinyana, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

16.55

Concluding Remarks

Josep Ferré, Director General, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

María Ángeles Benítez Salas, Head of the European Commission Representation in Spain

An event with English-Spanish simultaneous translation