



Blue Economy Conference at SEALOGY®

‘A new approach for a sustainable Blue Economy’

Ferrara, 18 November 2021

Venue **SEALOGY® - The European Blue Economy exhibition Ferrara Fiere Congressi, Via della Fiera 11, Ferrara, Italy Plenary Meeting Room - GRECALE**

Organizers The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, in coordination with SEALOGY®

Description In May 2021, the European Commission published a Communication for a Sustainable Blue Economy. It set forth a new approach, which fully embeds the blue economy into the European Green Deal and the European recovery strategy and represents the European Commission’s vision for a blue economy that is sustainable, green, resilient and circular and contributes to climate change mitigation. The new approach provides coherence across the blue economy sectors, facilitates their coexistence and looks for synergies in the maritime space, without damaging the environment. It also underlines the need for investment in research, skills and innovation.

The Conference offers the opportunity to debate the importance of a sustainable blue economy to deliver climate resilient, healthy and productive ocean and seas in Europe. Moreover, it will highlight how such an approach is essential for achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal and how it complements other recent Commission initiatives on biodiversity, food, knowledge and more, ensuring a green and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

On November 18, 2021, we will explore and debate the importance and the environmental, social and economic benefits of a sustainable blue economy, as well as the support needed in this respect. This conference is yet another opportunity to provide a platform for discussions and deliberations as to the blue economy prospects and how we can harness the opportunities offered by this inevitable transformation of our society and economy for a booming blue economy. Relevant stakeholders will present and discuss the opportunities for a Green Recovery for the blue economy. For this to take place, it is necessary for the European institutions and the Member States to take a responsible look not only at the

European Union's climate and environmental ambitions but also at the financial and social challenges as well as the possible structural changes involved in the implementation of all proposed measures.

Discussions on each panel will particularly zoom in on specific issues, namely:

- 1. The European Green Deal and the new approach for a sustainable Blue Economy**
- 2. The socio-economic value of blue ecosystems**
- 3. 'Blue' knowledge, skills and innovation for a sustainable blue economy**

Each session will contain opening statements followed by a panel discussion [either Pecha Kucha format (<https://www.pechakucha.org/faq>) or input statement without any slides of max. 5 min].

Structure 4 plenary panels addressing the thematics identified above.

Main topics European Green Deal
Sustainable Blue Economy
European recovery strategy
Investments in the blue economy
Horizon Europe
Ecosystem services
Aquaculture & fisheries
Horizon Europe - Mission *Restore our Ocean and Waters*
Maritime Innovation
Maritime Clusters
Marine knowledge, data and observation
Blue Skills Ocean
Literacy

Languages English and Italian

Moderation **Mr. Spyros Kouvelis**

On 18 November, prior to the conference, the opening ceremony of SEALOGY® will be held from 10:30 to 10:50.

Thursday, 18 November

10:00 – 11:00 Registration and welcome coffee at the SEALOGY® CLUB

11:00 – 11:40 Opening plenary session – Official Welcome speeches
Hall: GRECALE

Keynote **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission (**through video-message**) - The European Green Deal and the new approach for a sustainable blue economy

Speeches **Mr. Francesco Battistoni**, State Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies
Mr. Andrea Moretti, President, Ferrara Fiere Congressi

Mr Alessio Mammi, regional councilor for agriculture and food, hunting and fishing, *Emilia-Romagna Region*

Mr. Giacomo Costantini, Councilor for Tourism, Agriculture and Agri-food, Natural Areas and Po Delta Park, *Municipality of Ravenna*

11:40 – 13:00 Plenary 2: The European Green Deal and the new approach for a sustainable Blue Economy
Hall: GRECALE

11:40 – 11:45 Introduction by the Chair – The new Blue Economy approach
Chair **Ms Andreea Strachinescu**, on behalf of the Director-General, DG MARE, *European Commission*

11:45 – 13:00 Statements followed by a panel discussion
Speakers **Mr. Francesco Salvemini**, European Semester Officer, *European Commission Representation in Rome*
Ms Marily Konstantinopoulou, Business Development Manager, *BlueCycle*
Mr. Bruno Guillaumie, Secretary General, *European Molluscs Producers Association*
Ms Margot Van Soetendael, Coordinator, *FARNET Support Unit*
Ms Angela Nazzaruolo, Director of FLAG Costa dell'Emilia-Romagna

Scope: This plenary will aim to provide insights and foster a discussion on the prospects of the Blue Economy, in light of the requisites of the European Green Deal.

As the European Green Deal emphasizes the central role of a sustainable 'blue economy' in alleviating the multiple demands on the EU's land resources and in tackling climate change - among many other challenges and needs of course, the new approach we have charted for it needs to be coherent and robust. It needs to look into the necessary paradigm changes, innovations, investments and knowledge, which can provide for a maritime space that is not damaging to the environment and fosters growth and prosperity. The role of oceans in mitigating and adapting to climate change is indisputable. By way of example, the sector can contribute by improving the use of aquatic and marine resources and by promoting the production and use of new sources of protein that can relieve pressure on agricultural land. But the ocean and European seas can also contribute to energy production, to the greening of transport. And a sustainable blue economy in Europe will create tangible opportunities for new jobs and businesses, while it can also offer solutions for circularity and restore biodiversity too.

This plenary aims to provide insights and foster a discussion on the prospects of the Blue Economy in the future and according to the policy objectives set forth. It will delve into the tools and enablers to achieve the necessary green transition in the sector. And it will take into consideration the intersection of marine environment, circular economy, policy and technology, along with the investment opportunities available, to debate how the blue economy can provide the space for buoyant new endeavors and opportunities.

13:00 – 14:30 Light Lunch at the SEALOGY® CLUB

14:30 – 15:30 Plenary 3: The socio-economic value of blue ecosystems
Hall: GRECALE

14:30 – 14:35 Introduction by the Chair
Chair **Mr. Frangiskos Nikolian**, Head of Unit DG Mare A3, *European Commission*

14:35 – 15:30 statements followed by a panel discussion
Speakers **Ms Sheila Heymans**, Executive Director, *Marine Board*
Dr. Rémi Mongruel, Economist, researcher, *Ifremer*
Ms Anna Addamo, Joint Research Centre, *European Commission*

Ms Katia Frangoudes, Researcher, *European Marine Board*

Scope: In this plenary session, the socio-economic contribution of various production sectors of the Blue Economy will be examined, with a focus on ecosystem services.

Humanity's relationship with the oceans and the way people use and exploit their resources is evolving significantly. Economic activities linked to the seas and oceans will from now on need to be developed in the context of a soaring global population, increased consumption and the ever-growing need of new sources for food, feed energy and ores. European Green Deal requisites add to this complexity and call for more ambitious, more urgent solutions.

As more maritime sectors and activities are analysed and evaluated, aspects such as Ecosystems services, whose assessment has largely been disregarded, either because of its complexity or lack of relevant data need to be closely looked at, since their importance is crucial for human wellbeing. Measuring them is also fundamental for understanding trade-offs between different types of activities. This plenary session aims to firstly clarify what is meant and understood by Ecosystems services and to briefly outline what data/information are available so far in the various sectors. Then, enter into a deeper discussion with a socio-economic perspective: How do we give ecosystems a value? What methodologies are available, what indicators exist already and how useful (or not) are they?

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break at the SEALOGY® CLUB

16:00 – 17:20 **Plenary 4: 'Blue' knowledge, skills and innovation for a sustainable blue economy**
Hall: GRECALE

16:00 – 16:05 Pitch: "Sailors and scientist adventures at the Mediterranean Sea", by **Ms Kiara Aiello**, Youth4Ocean Young Advocate

16:05 – 16:10 Introduction by the Chair
Chair **Ms Andreea Strachinescu**, Head of Unit DG MARE A1, *European Commission*

16:10 – 17:20 Statements followed by a panel discussion
Speakers **Ms Elena Gaudio**, Representative, *Ministry of Education, IT*
Dr. Maria B. Lekakou, Professor in Maritime Economics, Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, Dean of the Business School, *University of the Aegean, EL*
Mr. Nikos Therapos, Head of Policy and Finance, *ENALEIA*
Mr. Iain Shepherd, Senior Expert, DG MARE, *European Commission*
Dr. Kate Larkin, Deputy Head of Secretariat, European Marine Observation and Data Network, EMODnet Secretariat, *Seascope Belgium*
Ms Klara Ramm, Expert in the Economic Chamber Polish Waterworks

Scope: In this final plenary session we will attempt to debate- through panelists that are experts in their fields - the social and innovative aspects of the blue economy and the actions we have now launched in this respect to address the new policy requisites of a sustainable, resilient, decarbonised and circular blue economy.

Our coasts and seas have the potential to deliver growth and jobs in the coming years. To achieve that, we first need to make people aware; then, create opportunities for their active involvement in the blue economy; attract highly qualified and skilled professionals in it; and create the conditions for more innovation to come to the surface. Yet, many blue economy sectors are experiencing decline, difficulties in finding the right employees, face hurdles in their efforts to innovate – and most sectors expect these difficulties to continue in the near future. Education and training systems for young people and adults need to be re-tuned, awareness about the ocean and seas needs to be boosted and these days more emphasis is also put on the critical issues that hinder the development of knowledge, of a better understanding of the marine

environment and its status through better data collection and use in science. Opportunities to foster innovation need to proliferate too.

This plenary aims to reveal opportunities to reinforce our knowledge about our marine environment, to reveal outlets for innovative technological and other ventures and present how highly educated and young workforce will benefit the blue economy and the conditions for doing so. It will reveal also tools in our disposal, conduits and facilitators that help innovation and knowledge management, and opportunities to maintain or increase the attractiveness of the EU as a centre of excellence for the blue economy.

17:20-17:30 **Concluding remarks of Conference by DG MARE – Ms. Andreea Strachinescu**

17:30 **End of Conference**