

PLEASE NOTE THAT SPEAKERS ARE TO BE CONFIRMED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.



Overview

Europe's seas and oceans form an integral part of the European fabric with over a third of EU citizens living within 50km of the coastline. In addition, the European maritime and shipping industries are key employers, and they remain one of the most important means of trade for Member States.

The Blue Economy sectors play an integral role in supporting the EU meet its ambitions set out in the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan for Europe. Despite Blue Economy sectors being vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, they also can play a significant role in the transformation of Europe's future economy.

This conference will bring together policymakers, local government and industry representatives from the marine, maritime, shipping and technology sectors to explore how Europe can lead the way towards a sustainable blue economy. We will consider the work of policymakers to date in helping to achieve this goal, including the safeguarding of economic growth, the various funding opportunities for innovative projects and R&D initiatives, and the support for small and medium-sized enterprises. Specifically, the conference will also discuss how technology and innovation can reduce the effects of climate change and promote a more sustainable blue economy whilst driving economic growth for all. This includes the harnessing of renewable energy; reducing ocean plastics and waste; and accelerating the digital and green transformation of the shipping industry.

08:30am – 09:00am

Registration and Networking

09:00am – 09:10am

Welcome Address from conference rapporteur
Rika Nakazawa, Author & Technologist **(confirmed)**

09:10am – 10:00am

Morning Keynotes

Moderator: to be confirmed

Hon. Aaron Farrugia, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Government of Malta **(confirmed)**

Paul Holthus, Founding President & CEO, The World Ocean Council **(confirmed)**

István Ujhelyi MEP, Vice-Chair TRAN Committee, Group S&D, European Parliament **(confirmed)**

10:00am – 10:20am

Networking break

10:20am – 10:35am **Keynote Presentation: View from the European Parliament**
Josianne Cutajar MEP, Vice-Chair of SEArca, Group S&D, European Parliament **(confirmed)**

10:35am – 10:50am **Keynote Presentation: View from Industry**
Daniel Meyer, Managing Director, Hydrogenious LOHC Maritime **(confirmed)**

10:50am – 12:10pm **Session 1: Harnessing marine renewable energy for a climate neutral future**

European seas are being increasingly used to generate clean, renewable energy, including additional offshore wind energy sites, as well as energy from tides and waves. Work is well underway to transform these sources of energy into electricity and marine renewables are on course to become a core component of Europe's energy sources by 2050. This session will explore government strategies to harness the potential of marine renewable energy, including the funding in place to support new developments. We will also examine the work across the region from different industry players and what needs to be done to overcome any obstacles they may face in the future that will hinder the widespread development of marine renewable energy.

- Which countries are leading the way in marine renewable energy and what can we learn from them?
- How are policymakers supporting the value chain investing in renewable energy developments?
- What technologies are harnessing the power of Europe's seas to produce green electricity?
- What are the main sources of public and private funding and what support is available to help companies access these funds? What dedicated EU financial instruments have been established?
- How can we ensure these technologies co-exist with nature?

Moderator: **Katarina Wallin Bureau**, Managing Partner, RISE Purpose **(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Delilah Al Khudhairy, Director, Maritime Policy & Blue Economy, DG MARE, European Commission **(confirmed)**

Joachim Balke, Head of Unit, Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation, DG ENER, European Commission **(confirmed)**

Eric Banel, Director General, Maritime Affairs, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (DGAMPA), Government of France **(confirmed)**

Kaupo Läänerand, Deputy Secretary General for Maritime, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Government of Estonia **(confirmed)**

Torben Hartz, Government and Real Estate sector, Corporate Finance Partner, EY Nordic **(confirmed)**

12:10pm – 1:10pm **Networking Lunch**

1:10pm – 2:25pm **Session 2: The Green and Digital Transformation of the Shipping industry**

The shipping industry has reached a pivotal moment for technological development. Digitization, new technologies and alternative fuel innovations are helping to build a smarter, cleaner, more efficient and sustainable industry. This session will explore the key technology trends shaping the future of the shipping and large vessel industry, and how they are helping to meet ambitious wider climate goals.

- How is the shipping industry working to reduce its carbon footprint and meet environmental regulations?
- To what extent are renewable energy sources and energy-efficient ship designs supporting EU climate goals?

- What technologies and innovations are available to shipping companies and how are they helping the industry become smarter, more efficient and more sustainable?
- How are policymakers supporting shipping companies and larger vessels access new technologies?
- How are policymakers supporting investment in this sector?
- What are the technology challenges facing the industry?

Moderator: **Annika Kroon**, Head of Unit, Maritime Transport & Logistics, DG MOVE, European Commission **(confirmed)**

Introductory Video Presentation: **Andrey Novakov MEP**, Group EPP, European Parliament **(confirmed)**

Speakers:

Claire Merlin, Director General, Ports of Strasbourg **(confirmed)**

Jim Corbett, Environmental Director – Europe, World Shipping Council **(confirmed)**

Monique Giese, Global Lead Shipping, Partner, KPMG **(confirmed)**

Thomas Desnijder, Energy Transition and Sustainability, North Sea Port **(confirmed)**

Peter Schild, Chair of the Marine Fuels Committee, Methanol Institute, Managing Director Sustainability, Proman AG Switzerland **(confirmed)**

Representative, **Ponant (confirmed – speaker name tbc)**

2:25pm – 2:55pm

Afternoon Keynote presentations

Keynote presentation: The Port of The Future (15 mins)

Emma Cobos, Director of Innovation and Business Strategy, Port of Barcelona **(confirmed)**

Keynote presentation: View from CINEA (15 mins)

Paloma Aba Garrote, Director, The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), European Commission **(confirmed)**

2:55pm – 3:15pm

Networking Break

3:15pm – 4:00pm

Afternoon Keynotes: In conversation with...

Moderator: TBC

Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission **(confirmed)**

Jason Liberty, President & CEO, Royal Caribbean Group **(confirmed)**

Markus Müller, Chief Investment Officer ESG & Global Head of Chief Investment Office, Deutsche Bank **(confirmed)**

4:00pm – 5:15pm

Session 3: Solutions to combat ocean plastic pollution and improve waste management activities

Europe's seas and coastlines are a source of natural and economic wealth for Europe. However, up to 500,000 tonnes of plastic waste end up in Europe's seas every year, which has devastating effects on marine, coastal ecosystems and the blue economy, as well as costly social and economic consequences.

With plastic production expected to double by 2040 this session will explore how policymakers, Member States and municipalities must work together to reduce ocean plastic pollution. Participants will hear from some of Europe's leading innovative companies that are supporting these efforts. This session will also examine the private funding initiatives aimed at reducing ocean waste and the ways that the public and private sectors can access these funds.

Technology and innovation have a crucial role to play. Innovations such as biodegradable plastics, waste management systems that capture and recycle plastic before it reaches the sea, and smarter packaging design can help to significantly decrease the amount of plastic in our oceans.

However, it's important to note that while technology and innovation are important tools in the fight against plastic pollution, they are not a silver bullet. Addressing plastic pollution will require a multifaceted approach that involves reducing plastic consumption, improving waste management infrastructure, and changing societal attitudes towards plastic.

- To what extent have biodegradable plastics, waste management systems and smarter packaging been successful in reducing ocean plastics to date?
- What European waste management projects have been successful and what can we learn from them?
- What action are policymakers taking to identify suitable solutions for addressing the challenges of ocean plastic pollution?
- What work is being done to reduce single-use plastics and microplastics and promote recycling?
- How is green infrastructure supporting these efforts?
- What funding is available to support projects that reduce the discharge of waste into Europe's seas?
- What work is being done to change societal attitudes towards plastic and how are we inspiring youth action and engagement?

Moderator: **Catherine Chabaud MEP**, Renew Europe Group, European Parliament (invited)

Speakers:

Anne Marieke Eveleens, Co-Founder, The Great Bubble Barrier (**confirmed**)

Antti Tooming, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Government of Estonia (**confirmed**)

Veronica Manfredi, Director, Zero Pollution, DG ENV, European Commission (**confirmed**)

Christina Wunder, President, Idealists Quarterly (**confirmed**)

Representative, **Plastics Industry** (tbc)

5:15pm – 5:20pm: Closing thoughts and next steps

Rika Nakazawa, Author & Technologist (**confirmed**)

5:20pm: Conference close