

Sea for Society

*Improving human-Ocean dynamics
by building a “Blue Society”*

Wednesday 18 November 2015

15:00-18:00

Room JAN 4Q2

European Parliament (Brussels)

Chaired by:

Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

AGENDA

Our global Ocean is vast, covering over 70 % of the Earth and is vital to our life and wellbeing producing a huge range of goods and services. Yet it is extremely fragile and is experiencing increasing pressure on its resources and ecosystems through human activities. Sea for Society, an FP7-funded, three-year mobilization and mutual learning action plan with 28 partners from 12 countries, set out to address the challenge of taking advantage of the Ocean’s tremendous opportunities to meet society’s current and future needs whilst protecting it for future generations. Sea for Society has engaged over 500 stakeholders and citizens in a dialogue on the future of our Ocean. Together they have developed more than 700 ideas to improve human-Ocean dynamics and over 600 solutions to address barriers to sustainability. Ultimately, putting these solutions into action will help us build a Blue Society.

This event, organised in collaboration with the EP Intergroup on “*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*”, will provide a platform to learn and exchange on how the concept of a Blue Society can become a reality through open discussion among invited participants representing science, industry, policy-makers and civil society. Sectoral representatives, including youth, will use their own practical experience to explain how we can move towards a Blue Society by galvanizing its values within their own spheres of influence. The event will be an opportunity to exchange ideas and for identifying practical strategies for the future. Organisations and individuals present will have the opportunity to sign a commitment to become champions of the Blue Society by committing to positive change in their own personal and professional activities.



Registration **14h00 – 14h50**

15:00-15:10 Welcome address by **MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos**

15:10-15:50 **Sea for Society Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plan**

- Main outcomes and results: **Philippe Vallette**, General Manager, Nausicaá
- Introducing the short film “*Building a Blue Society*”: **Manuel Cira**, Head of Cultural Service and International Cooperation, Nausicaá
- Developing the Blue Society Concept: **Francois Simard**, IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme
- Recommendations to the European Commission and Stakeholders: **Telmo Carvalho**, Coordinator FCT Ocean Office, Portugal

15:50-16:05 **European Commission:** Remarks from **Philippe Galiay**, Head of Sector '*Mainstreaming Responsible research and Innovation in Horizon 2020 and the European Research Area*', DG Research & Innovation

16:05-16:45 **Testimonials and Insights on Building the Blue Society from Stakeholders**

- Political Dimension: **Tiago Pitta e Cunha** - Cabinet of the President of Portugal
- Civil Society: **Puri Canals** – MedPAN
- Scientific community: **Niall McDonough** – European Marine Board
- Business Sector: **Lara Barazi** - Kefalonia Fisheries
Francis Vallat - European Network of Maritime Clusters
- Youth Group: **Joanne Casserly (IRL)**

16:45-17:30 **Questions and discussion with the panellists and the audience**

Moderated by **Manuel Cira**, Nausicaa, and **Robert Sanders**, European Business Network

17:30-17:40 Closing remarks by **MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos**

17:40-18:00 **Becoming Champions: Signing of the Blue Society Stakeholder's commitment**



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