INTERGROUP
SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS
AND COASTAL AREAS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP
Seas, Rivers, Islands & Coastal Areas

BLUE ACTION

The slowing Gulf Stream

A science-policy breakfast discussion

04.09.2018, 8:00-10:00
European Parliament Brussels
ASP 5G1

Is the Gulf Stream slowing down? And if it does, what will be the consequences? And how should we prepare for them?

The Gulf Stream, as a part of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or AMOC, transports warm water from the tropics to the North Atlantic Ocean, and plays a major role in regulating Europe's weather and climate. Now, there is speculation that the AMOC could be slowing or shut down, as the global climate continues to change. This could have important consequences for our weather and climate, potentially increasing the risk of extreme weather such as storms and heatwaves.

To predict and prepare for changes to Europe's weather and climate, it is important that we understand how changes in the ocean and changes in climate are linked. With this understanding, researchers hope to be able to quantify the risk of extreme weather events in the future, and develop early-warning indicators. Today, the monitoring of the ocean already helps scientists to predict climate seasons to decades ahead with some skill. Likewise, an understanding is emerging of the nature and variability of the AMOC and its components based on coordinated international observational efforts.

The SEARICA Intergroup, along with scientists from the EU-funded Blue-Action project and their collaborators, AtlantOS, are hosting a discussion event to explore the impacts of Atlantic Ocean circulation on weather and climate. The Blue-Action project aims to better understand and explain the impact of changes in the Arctic on the weather and climate of the Northern Hemisphere. AtlantOS, meanwhile, is paving the way for a pan-Atlantic Ocean observing system, to collect the data we need to better understand and manage this ocean basin.

The Blue-Action project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727852.

*Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible on www.searica.eu in order to guaranty and organise the access to the EP. The day of the conference, participants are kindly requested to present themselves at **07:30** in order to avoid delays.*

08:00 - 08:10 Welcome remarks by **Ms Gesine MEISSNER,** MEP, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (Searica)

08:10 - 08:20 Setting the Scene

Mr Steffen OLSEN, Danish Meteorological Institute.
Mr Tor ELDEVIK, University of Bergen, Norway.

08:20- 09:00 Panel Discussion

Introduced and moderated by Deirdre CLUNE, MEP
Mr Ben MOAT, National Oceanography Centre, UK
Ms Karin Margretha LARSEN, Havstovan, Faroe Islands
Ms Marilena OLTMANS, GEOMAR, Germany
Mr Marius ÅRTHUN, University of Bergen, Norway
Mr Martin NESBIT, Head of Climate and Environmental Governance Programme, IEEP (tbc)

09:00 – 09:25 Feedback round

Introduced and moderated by Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS
Ms Yvon SLINGENBERG, Director International and Mainstreaming and Policy Coordination, DG CLIMA (tbc)
Mr Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY, MEP, Searica Vice-President in charge of Healthy Seas (tbc)
Ms Sofia RIBEIRO, MEP, Searica Vice-President in charge of the Outermost Regions (tbc)

09:25 - 09:55 Q & A Session

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09:55 - 10:00 Conclusions by **Gesine MEISSNER,** MEP, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (Searica)

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