
Maritime Achievements and Future Challenges Final SEARICA Conference

**09.04.2019, 09:00-12:00
European Parliament Brussels
PHS 5B001**

With a coastline seven times as long as the US', the EU has the world's largest marine realm. It provides food, jobs, economic growth and regulates our climate. In order to continue to benefit from our oceans, the EU needs to find a balance between making use of its economic potential while maintaining healthy seas at the same time.

Today, oceans are high on the agenda. Marine litter is a great concern of the citizens. Coral bleaching is only one of the most obvious impacts of climate change on the ocean. At the same time offshore wind power and new technologies such as tidal and wave are a key element of a more sustainable energy production. Digitalisation and innovation will change the blue economy and its careers dramatically. Furthermore, maritime cooperation and energy supply to islands are current topics to ensure that islands remain accessible and sustainable.

The EU has become a global pioneer in maritime policy thanks to its Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, its excellent research institutes, innovative blue enterprises and its regional cooperation in the different sea basins.

Throughout the last four years, the SEARICA intergroup has organised various events and initiatives to support maritime legislation, funding and networking. SEARICA Members succeeded in establishing a Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative, a Pilot Project on ocean literacy and the post of a Special Envoy on Maritime Policy. They pushed for a Mission: Healthy Oceans in the upcoming Horizon Europe programme, a maritime dimension in the Invest EU programme and called for a greater emphasis on oceans in climate policy at the COP21.

With the parliamentary term coming to an end, this final SEARICA conference aims at reflecting on past maritime achievements and looking at future challenges and its possible solutions.

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 08:30 in order to avoid delays.

Please note that you are kindly invited to the **Ocean Social** at Grand Central, Rue Belliard 190 at 18.30.

09:00 – 09:30 Introductory Session

09:00 – 09:10 Welcome and opening remarks by **Ms Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, President of SEARICA

09:10 – 09:20 Address by **Mr Karmenu VELLA**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

09:20 – 09:30 Address by **Ms Eleni MARIANO**, Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

09:30 – 10:15 Roundtable 1

Fostering Maritime Education and Blue Careers

Moderator: **Mr Tiemo WOELKEN**, MEP, Member of the SEARICA

Panellists:

Ms Andreea STRACHINESCU, Head of Unit, Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE

Ms Antidia CITORES, Surfrider Foundation

Ms Lucia FRAGA LAGO, Centro Tecnológico del Mar (CETMAR)

Mr Robert TE BEEST, President, KIMO

Respondent: **Ms Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, President of SEARICA

Q&A Session

10:15– 11:00 Roundtable 2

Knowing and Protecting our Seas

Moderator: **Mr Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS**, MEP, Member of SEARICA

Panellists:

Ms Sigi GRUBER, Head of Marine Resources Unit, DG Research & Innovation

Mr Martin VISBECK, Coordinator of AtlantOS at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany

Ms Julia SCHNETZER, Marine Microbiologist

INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



Ms Hege OLBERGSVEEN, Counsellor for Environment, Mission of Norway to the EU

Respondent: **Mr Marco AFFRONTE**, MEP, Member of the SEARICA

Q&A Session

11:00- 11:45 Roundtable 3

Islands

Moderator: **Mr Tonino PICULA**, MEP, Vice-Chair of SEARICA responsible for Islands

Panellists:

Mr Nick BROOKES, Executive Director CPMR

Mr Stefano MALLIA, EESC

Ms Monica VERONESI, Deputy Team Leader, FARNET Support Unit

Ms Andreia CARREIRO, Regional Director for Energy of the Azores

Mr Brendan DEVLIN, Advisor to DG Energy

Respondent: **Ms Sofia RIBEIRO**, MEP, Member of the SEARICA

Q&A Session

11:45 - 12:00 CONCLUSIONS by Gesine MEISSNER