

Workshop

“For a strong marine and maritime Europe: steps forwards and funding opportunities”

April 20, 2016

Mrs. **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, Chair of the Intergroup, welcomed the participants. She stressed how important it is to bring all the maritime stakeholders together.

Roundtable: *European legislation in the marine and maritime field.*

Mrs **Ulrike RODUST**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup, moderated the roundtable.

Mr. **Haitze SIEMERS**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, explained that there are lots of rules affecting how maritime activities are managed. The management of the sea suffers from sectoral objectives despite the effort of coordination. Implementing the existing framework in a coherent and coordinated manner can be challenging, he stressed that a lot of work needs to be done to this regard. In that respect developing interlinkages between different regulations is a positive effort, he mentioned the contribution of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) introduced by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) to the indicators of the Maritime Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). He highlighted that EU legislations can depend on International frameworks (eg. Shipping which depends on the International Maritime Organisation). Mentioning the example of licencing in aquaculture or windfarm we stated that, although regulation and legislation can provide solutions to maritime activities, getting more inputs from the actors could contribute to find solutions hard law couldn't do. He concluded saying that implantation, enforcement and coherence are the three pillars of a successful legislation.

Mr. **Matjaž MALGAJ**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for the Environment, presented the MSFD ([presentation](#)). He explained that the latest step in its implementation was the publication of the programmes of measures due by the Member States by last March 31st. Only a third of the member States sent it on time. He stressed that the MSFD is a very ambitious approach and is interrelated with many other EU policies such as Circular Economy, Common Agricultural Policy (impact of excessive nutrients on the marine environment), Water Framework Directive or Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. He welcomed the inclusion of an element on marine letter to the United Nation's environment assembly preparatory work.

Mrs. **Barbara SELLIER**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Transport and Mobility, mentioned the successive Erika Packages which provided a strong framework regarding shipping in Europe. In the EU, the level play field is ensured, she said. The legislation is fitted for purpose and properly implemented. She stressed the key role of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to this regard.

Mr. **Lodewijk ABSPOEL**, Senior Advisor North Sea Policy IMP and MSP, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment emphasised that coherently implement what has been agreed on is really challenging. The MSP directive allowed a better understanding building on land-sea interaction. He insisted on the need to adapt to changing situation, stressing how important it is to work on existing legislation, rather than creating new ones, which goes hand in hand with regularly adapting the legislation to keep it fit for purpose.

Mrs. **Ann DOM**, Deputy Director, Seas at Risk, noted the wide spectrum of legislation, and regretted its poor implementation and coordination. She called for seizing the window of opportunity to make the member States fulfil their commitment related to the sustainable goals for the oceans. She referred to a [report](#) of the European Environment Agency showing that EU seas are far from Good

Environmental Status (GES), proving that the MSFD was delivering poorly in terms of reaching its targets. It is needed to stick to the original objective of GES by 2020 and to develop a holistic approach, she said. She mentioned a [conference](#) organised by Seas At Risk on April 26th on deep sea mining. Mrs. Dom concluded her speech underlining the need to look for alternative (by promoting slow shipping, or looking at algae aquaculture rather than fish).

Mr. **George ALEXAKIS**, regional councillor, Crete region, Vice-President of the CPMR in charge of maritime affairs, gave the point the perspective of the coastal regions of Europe ([speech](#)).

Mrs. **Lieselot MARINUS**, Director - Shipping & Trade Policy, European Community Shipowners' Associations, welcomed the latest development in her sector. Regarding short sea shipping, while regretting the lack of internal market, she underlined its potential to solve many challenges EU is facing (by performing well for the environment and having a strong employment potential for instance). She referred to a [brochure](#) published by ECSA.

Open discussion. Q & A

Mrs **Meissner** regretted that while Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) was included in the European Commission's proposal, the Council limited it to land-sea interaction, to keep planning on land as an exclusive competency of the member States.

Mr **Santos** stressed that it is possible to have both jobs and healthy ecosystems. He joined the previous speakers saying that there is a need for ecosystem approach and more knowledge and also for more communication and willingness from the member States to proceed with the MSFD. Explaining that there are around 30 000 area classified under Natura 2000 Network, he asked how many are properly managed/implemented.

Mr **Malgaj** said that the bigger countries started to develop their own processes a long time ago. He accentuated the need to mutualise the observation tools between the member States to share the costs. He stressed how complicated it is to understand what resilience of ecosystems is: there is a lot of systemic pressure on the environment which has to be dealt with. He explained that some major measures are not to be taken by those whom would benefit from it once its implement (eg efforts of the farmers to use less nutriments so that estuarine ecosystems recover), there is therefore a complex primary work, and it is normal that member States meet some difficulties. Regarding Natura 2000 network he referred to an EEA [report](#) on Marine Protected Areas in the EU. He concluded by mentioning the potential for improving the resilience of the marine environment.

Mr **Vallat**, as President of the French NGO [Septième Continent](#) stated that there is no satisfactory solution once plastics are in sea, the only solution is circular economy and plastics ban. He explained that technical means will allow to protect the environment in deep sea mining sector. He supported the previous statement on short sea shipping.

Roundtable: Developing functional synergies between EU funds: Concrete examples of how EU programs meet the needs of maritime actors.

Mr. **Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup moderated this round table. He highlighted the importance of Mrs. Gruber's work and her strong commitment to a research agenda on ocean and marine sciences.

Presentation of the speakers

Mrs **Sigi GRUBER**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, thanked Mrs. Rodust for having submitted a Pilot Project to support the CFP. She reminded the participant that Blue Growth had been included as a specific component of Horizon 2020 through an amendment of the European Parliament. Horizon 2020 is a programme tool not an objective as such. Cooperation between the relevant actors involved is a key to success as marine research faces scarce resources, and extreme coasts. She explained that this needed cooperation is in the hand of the operational programmes. Regions and stakeholders like CPMR can bring the different actors together. She referred to the [Seals of excellence](#) initiative which helps projects evaluated (but not funded) in Horizon 2020 to find other source of funding, for instance from the regions. She concluded her speech calling the EP to give its active support during the revision of the EFF.

Mr **Claus SCHULTZE**, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs emphasised the need for promoting functional synergies: to mobilise stakeholders under a common reference framework, such as Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies which sets the goals in term of innovation. At this stage there is a need to go towards demonstration project to get research results to the market, he said. He mentioned the recently launched Blue Growth calls but focussed on the [Blue Technology](#) call for proposals. This is designed for consortia with experience that have a concrete idea to develop smart sustainable solutions to the market. He stressed that this call is open to all groups, domains and sea basins. The 1st results are expected by the end of 2018.

Mr **Morten JENSEN**, Head of Unit, Innovation & Networks Executive Agency (INEA) explained that the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) has a two layers approach. The is the Core Network and the Comprehensive Network ([presentation](#)). In the framework of the Motorway of the Sea, the aim is to strengthen the maritime links in Europe (including measures to improve the interactions of the maritime transport with the network on land for instance or meeting the needs of the industry for ice breaking, legislation compliance, etc.) and to develop the interland connexion. INEA also manages the Transport research under Horizon 2020 in order to obtain synergies between research projects and the implementation of the CEF.

Mr. **Damien PERISSÉ**, Director, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, shared Mrs. Gruber and Mr. Schultze views. He introduced CPMR's on-going analysis of the content of RIS3 in Europe and presented the map developed in this context ([methodology](#)).

Mrs. **Kerstin BRUNNSTRÖM**, Acting President of the North Sea Commission of the CPMR, explained how EU funds have contributed to maritime initiatives in Västra Götaland in Sweden ([speech](#)). She stressed that, all things considered, the European Regional Development Fund is actually rather small. She regretted that in her region Interreg not really popular. She associated this lack of popularity to the diversity in the maritime sector and yearly allocation of 2,7M€ by the Region to maritime projects throw its Maritime Cluster which offers the maritime sector other sources of funding. A Challenge of the Region is to encourage them to look to other funding schemes. She presented different initiatives developed in her Region ([presentation](#)).

Mr **Francis VALLAT**, Chairman and co-founder of the European Network of Maritime Clusters, stated that activities aimed to organise and coordinate maritime sectors are important, however, he regretted the lack of financial tools to support such activities. Clusters are central actors in developing functional synergies, he stressed that funding this kind of initiative is vital for the maritime sector as a whole. Focussing on the example of deep sea mining he stressed the need to funded in a combined and coordinated manner scientific research and industrial innovation. In this context, he underlined the absence of coordinated approach within the European Commission. He stated that the European Strategic Investments Fund could provide a solution to this regard.

Mr **Jacopo MOCCIA**, Policy and Operations Director, Ocean Energy Europe, explained that in the context of the energy transition every source of renewable energy can contribute to reach the targets of the EU. He stated that ocean energy could meet around 10 % by 2050 of the EU needs of energy. In order to contribute significantly a strong support from the EU is fundamental in terms of policy (MSP for instance) and financing. He highlighted that this is a high risk sector. Although money is available for R&D, the different initiatives development struggle with the valley of death when private investors are needed to turn research into industry. In this respect he insisted that member States tend to hide behind Horizon 2020, he stressed how importance it is for them to play their role of support in complement to EU funds. The underlined the opportunity to make the ESIF a tool to use public fund to leverage private funds. He concluded calling the Region to use their own money to strategically invest in 1 or 2 parts of the value chain of marine energy.

Mrs **Iliaria NARDELLO**, Executive Director, European Marine Biological Resources Centre (EMBRC), presented EMBRC ([presentation](#)) stressing that the issue of knowledge is a high priority as the

infrastructure is designed to provide access to the research on marine ecosystems. It's aimed to address local development needs. She explained that, although EMBRC economic model is based on national funds, it works closely with the Regions. A Memorandum of Understanding with the regions is currently under development.

Mr **Jan Stephan FRITZ**, German Marine Research Consortium, KDM, stated that initiatives aimed to mobilise the community could contribute to unlock marine research's potential. He highlighted the example of the JPI Ocean, involving some 20 member States, which supports the implementation of the MSFD for instance. He stressed the need to find an umbrella to tackle the fragmentation and diversity of the debate: getting rid of the sectoral approach could be a part of the solution to this regard as building on competition would be a good thing.

Open discussion. Q & A

Mr **Santos** shared his concerns regarding the Blue Growth concept where stakeholders and local implementers may tend to put aside environment matters. He recalled that Blue Growth must be developed in strict obedience of the MSFD.

Mrs **Dom** pointed lack of funding to ensure MSFD implementation. She stressed that member States tend to say that they don't have the funds to do anything more than business as usual. She called the EC to benchmark the ecosystem based approach. In deep sea mining there is a shift from financing marine research toward demonstrator and innovation. She wondered why this shift is occurring without any EU policy. She concluded saying that environment should be seen as a transversal dimension crossing all sectors.

Mrs **Gruber** explained that 10 projects on the GES have funded, she underlined that, often, the project's results are not known. Therefore, her Unit is making effort to enhance the dissemination of research projects in order to bring the results back to whoever need them.

Mr **Abspoel** mentioned the work of the Dutch government to develop the idea of a licence to operate or grow. This is aimed to explain to society what is being done in the ocean. In the offshore wind cumulative effect analysis are being held in the Netherlands he said.

Mr **Schultze** stated that idea of using ecosystem approach as a benchmark for blue growth could be pushed forwards in the European Parliament when looking at the mechanic of the programmes. Regarding the potential of action for the EP, he stressed that although Interreg looks at clustering activities, many of the programmes don't allow private actors to be involved. This issue could easily be fixed. He called to look at the details of the programming to give a cleared direction on how money will be spent.

Mr **Vallat** mentioned the potential for new programmes to meet the needs of the actors on the field. He claimed that sustainable environmental constraints are a strength for EU industry, not a burden.

Mr **Malgaj** explained that DG Environment is looking at how licencing procedure can feed back money. Knowledge generation is a challenge which can be answered by creating the conditions to bring marine (research community) and maritime (economy, policy makers) stakeholders closer together.

Mrs **Wendy Bonne** from JPI Ocean, wondered whether the scientific community is trained enough to implement policies, to develop at the same speed as the industry and the technology. They agreed that member States should make effort to complement Horizon 2020. The MSFD and WFD research set very ambitious targets ambitious ones, but sometimes unrealistic.

Mr **Santos**, asked Mr Moccia why is it so complicated to find investors for the marine energy?

Mr **Moccia** underlined the high risk in the field of marine energy. Investors tend ask for high profit in a too short term period which do not fit to the reality of the sector. He called for a new approach in the testing of marine energy devices by putting one machine in the water and monitoring it rather than pre-testing and pre-monitoring it. He concluded stressing the need for legal certainty.

Mrs. **Gesine MEISSNER** thanked the participants and speakers.