



2020 UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON BLUE ECONOMY
Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy for the Mediterranean Sea basin
10 – 11 March 2020
Palau de Pedralbes
Avinguda Diagonal 686, Barcelona, Spain

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

DAY 1 - 10 March 2020

08:30-09:00 Registration

PLENARY SESSION

Gala Room + Library Room (video-listening)

(Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

09:00-9:10 **Welcome** – Amb.Nasser Kamel, UfM Secretary General

9:10-9:30 ***On the way to the 2nd UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy: collecting inputs from the Stakeholders***

- Mr. Christos Economou, UfM EU CoPresidency;
- Mr. Bashar Mohammad Abu Rumman, UfM Jordan CoPresidency;

9:30 -10:00 ***Key note messages***

- Ms. Alicia Villauriz Iglesias, Secretary General for Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain;
- Mr J.O. DarSafi Imad, Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport, Palestine;
- Mr. Roberto Ridolfi, Assistant Director-General, Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department, Food and Agriculture Organisation;
- Mr.Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat;
- Mr.Placido Plaza, Secretary General, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM);

*Moderated by Mr. Isidro Gonzalez, UfM Deputy Secretary General
Water, Environment and Blue Economy*



10:00-10:15 **Key messages from Youth**

- Mr. Badr El Mahrad, Youth Ambassador, BlueMed Initiatives, Morocco
- Ms. Nouhad Awwad, Youth Ambassador, UfM Regional Dialogue on "Shared views on key issues in the Mediterranean", Lebanon;

10:15-11:00 **Governance and future of the blue economy in the Mediterranean region: possible scenarios, opportunities and tools**

- Ms. Jihen Boutiba, General Secretary, BUSINESSMED
- Mr. Vito Intini, Senior Regional Economist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Jordan
- Ms. Athina Foka, Head of Service, Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Greece
- Mr. Aomar Bouhrim, CoChair, Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WESTMED), Morocco
- Ms. Marta March, Head of Unit, Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain – BLUEMED Focal Point;
- Mr. Emad Adly, General Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development – RAED
- Mr. Baris Salihoglu, Professor, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

Interactive discussion - Moderation by Ms. Elodie Nunes, Executive Secretary, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Intermediterranean Commission for the Mediterranean

11:00-11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Gala Room and Throne Room

(Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

- Workshops 1 to 4 will be addressing future joint challenges in key blue economy sectors, with a view to promote transformative policies and tools such as maritime spatial planning or maritime clusters; low-emission technologies; sustainable products and services; and the overall shift towards a sustainable, circular blue economy. The expected outputs will help identify future capacity building and technical assistance needs; promote the sustainable blue economy financing principles and practices; mobilise research and foster innovation in the blue economy.
- The workshops will also promote exchange of best practices and new opportunities for partnerships in the Mediterranean region.
- Each workshop will include introductory presentations, followed by an interactive session



coordinated by a moderator and followed by a rapporteur.

11:30-13:00 **Workshop 1: Sustainable food from the sea: sustainable fisheries and aquaculture**

Gala Room (Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

In order to be sustainable, the blue economy must make the shift towards circular, sustainable production and consumption. As fisheries and aquaculture industries represent the third most important Blue Economy sector for income and job returns in the Mediterranean region, they have an essential role to play in this transition. Additionally, fisheries and aquaculture practices need to be part of proper Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management initiatives. Not less, it is essential to reduce the discards and the wastes in order to maximise profits and rationalising the production. From the traceability of the seafood, to the sustainability of the entire production chain, investment is essential in order to enhance food quality, sustainability, and encourage innovation.

Introductory presentations/speeches

- Ms. Karima Goul, Inspector/Blue Economy Focal Point, General Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Algeria
- Ms. Molly Ahern, Food Security and Nutrition Specialist, Fisheries Department, FAO
- Gilles Lecaillon, Ecocean, France;
- Mr. Chadi Mohanna, Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon (tbc)
- Mr. Mauro Randone, Coordinator, Sustainable Blue Finance Programme, WWF
- Mr. Franco Andaloro, Research Director, Working Group on Fisheries & Anton Dohrn Station, Cluster Big Italy

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Ms. Vassiliki Celia Vassilopoulou, Research Director, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and Mr. Christos Theophilou, Policy Officer, DG MARE, European Union*
- *Rapporteur: Mr. Samir Gribes, WESTMED Assistance Team*

11:30-13:00 **Workshop 2: Sustainable maritime transport and ports**

Throne Room (Working languages: EN – FR-AR)

Maritime transport is one of the most extensive and well-established blue economy sectors in the Mediterranean, both in terms of growth and employment. However, due to its magnitude, maritime transport accounts for almost 10% of marine pollution (oily wastes and leaks) and 3% of air-polluting emissions, which have significant impacts on marine ecosystems, on human health, as well as on other blue economy activities. Taken into account the expected growth of the maritime transport sector over the coming years,



solutions and mitigation measures are necessary to tackle the related pollution. At the same time, maritime transport is becoming increasingly digitalized, which presents both a challenge and an opportunity.

The workshop is expected to open an effective and inclusive discussion on stimulating investment in more sustainable maritime transport, benefitting environmental and human health, whilst improving economic and employment opportunities.

Introductory presentations/speeches

- Mr. Alex Josephides, Deputy Director General, Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Ms. Florence Perouas, Deputy Harbour Master Marseille, France
- Ms. Ana Kusovac, Head of the Division for the implementation of standards for marine protection against pollution from ships and inland navigation, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Montenegro (tbc)
- Mr. Daniele Bosio, WESTMED Italian CoChair; Coordinateur des Océans et des Mers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- Mr. Khaled Ben Gharbia, President of the Managing Committee, CMA CGM, Tunisian Branch

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Mr. Mohammad Al-Sakran, Executive Director, Jordan and Mr. Francesc Carbonell, Head of Sector Transport, UfM*
- *Rapporteur: Mr. Frederick Herpers, WESTMED Assistance Team*

13:00-14:30 LUNCH (Buffet)

PARALLEL SESSION *(continued)*

Gala Room and Throne Room

(Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

14:30-16:00 Workshop 3: Sustainable tourism

Gala Room (Working languages: EN – FR)

The Mediterranean region is among the world's leading tourist destinations. Representing the first 'blue economy' sector for income/s and job/s generation in the basin, tourism is a catalyst for young entrepreneurship, MSME's growth and overall sustainable local development, whether rural or urban. To maximise tourism unexpressed potentials, dedicated vocational training, capacity building and horizontal soft skills – including digitalization, business management - are urgently called for. Positioning the Mediterranean as a truly 'green' touristic destination is key to enable sustainable growth for the sector, but this would require standard/label/certification for eco-tourism, as well as application of resource efficiency and carbon neutral principles to the entire value chain/s of the sector. Efforts should also be strengthened towards greater (sustainable) product diversification, tackling seasonality issues and access to new markets, as well as



use of big data. Impact of climate change on cultural and natural assets is also to be fully acknowledged, so to develop adequate adaptation measures towards fully sustainable infrastructures and business models. Last but not least, access to public support and private investments for strategic sectoral changes remain a big challenge for the sector, in order to foster its innovation and resilience through time, and shift towards more resilient tourism models ensuring full economic, social and environmental sustainability for the basin.

Introductory presentations/speeches

- Ms. Anat Arieli, Director of Ocean and Coastline Unit, Planning Administration, Israel
- Ms. Anna Escoda, Programme Manager, Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry - ASCAME;
- Mr. Roberto Grassi, Programme Manager, Interreg Med Tourism Community;
- Capt. David Bugeja, Chief Officer & Harbour Master, Ports & Yachting Directorate, Malta
- Ms. Puri Canals, President, MedPAN
- Mr. Amir Lubovac, Senior Expert, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia&Herzegovina (tbc)

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Mr. Isidro Gonzalez, Deputy Secretary General, UfM Water, Environment, Blue Economy*
- *Rapporteur: Mr. Matteo Bocci, WESTMED Assistance Team*

14:30-16:00 **Workshop 4: Marine renewable energies**

Throne Room (Working languages: EN – FR-AR)

The workshop will assess the potential of the blue/sea-based renewable energy sources and the status of this sector in the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean has the potential to become an important source of clean energy, facilitating the transition of the region to sustainable energy sources. Targeted and responsible investments are the key instrument in order to harness the potential of renewable energies in the Mediterranean and use them as the basis for further economic and carbon-neutral industrial development. Along with the opportunity to generate blue power, renewable infrastructures and facilities have the potential to stimulate economic growth through R&I, job creation, and to provide energy diversification to the region.

Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management are unavoidable conditions in order to maximise the benefits of the sector and to ensure the economic and the environmental sustainability of it.

Introductory presentations

- Mr Javier Abanades, Head Of Hydrodynamic Modelling, Wind Energy



Division, TYPESA Group, Spain

- Prof. Aldo Drago, Head, Physical Oceanography Research Group, University of Malta
- Mr. Antonio Sarmento, President of the Board, WavEC Offshore Renewables, Portugal
- Mr. Simone Bastianoni, Coordinator, InterregMed BLUE DEAL Programme Italy (tbc);
- Mr. Alessandro, Iglesias Campos, Programme Specialist, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNESCO

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Y. Ibraheem, Senior Advisor, UfM and Mr. Christos Theophilou, Policy Officer, DG MARE, European Union*
- *Rapporteur: Mr. Frederick Herpers, WESTMED Assistance Team*

16:00-16:30 COFFEE BREAK

- Workshops 5 to 8 will be addressing priority themes of blue economy, with a view to pinpoint specific topics of common regional interest. Building on previous advancements, the workshops will explore further opportunities for joint actions. Adaptation to climate change will, among other topics, focus on infrastructure adaptation and coastal erosion; blue skills, careers and employment will present the results of the relevant seminar of 19 November 2019 (Brussels) to build a longer-term process; economic implications of environmental impacts – the ongoing regional actions and coordination efforts on marine litter will be presented; the final workshop will discuss maritime safety and security, including cybersecurity, coast guard cooperation, and search and rescue operations.
- The workshops will also promote exchange of best practices and new opportunities for partnerships in the Mediterranean region.
- Each workshop will include introductory presentations, followed by an interactive session coordinated by a moderator and followed by a rapporteur.

16:30-18:00 **Workshop 5: Adaptation to climate change**

Gala Room (Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

The Mediterranean region has one of the most threatened coasts in the world: nearly 40% of the coastline is built up, a third of the population (about 150 million people) lives close to the sea and the infrastructures are often at mean sea level. Furthermore the region, with its rich history and unrivalled natural beauty, is one of the top tourism destinations in the world, hosting more than 300 million tourists per year.

As consequence of climate changes in the region, rising sea levels, storm-surges, flooding, erosion and local land subsidence do impact more and more harbours, ports, coastal cities and infrastructures as well as wetlands and other habitats such as coastal dunes, cliffs and beaches. It has been estimated that about 15 mega cities (port cities with a population



greater than 1 million in 2005) are at risk of flooding, unless further adaptation is undertaken (MedECC Study). Marine Protected Areas are equally affected but at the same time offer nature-based solutions to support efforts towards climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Given the centrality of these issues, the workshop is expected to enhance the debate on the nature-based solutions and on the technology-based solutions to the climate crisis in order to find the right balance in the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems; and address the level of actions and investments needed to to mitigate and adapt to the relevant impacts.

Introductory presentations

- Mr.Jorge Gutierrez, Southern Europe Regional Manager, ECONCRETE
- Mr.Maria Snoussi, Professor, University Mohammed V and BLUEMED Focal point Morocco
- Mr.Eduardo Balguerias Guerra, Director, Spanish Institute of Oceanography
- Mr.Salah El Sadi, Head of Industrial Engineering, Ministry of Economy, Palestine (tbc)
- Mr.Béchir Bejaoui, Researcher, National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM), Tunisia
- Ms. Marianne Courouble, Policy Officer, MEDWET

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Mr.Arnault Graves, Senior Advisor Climate Change, and Mr.Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director Water, UfM*
- *Rapporteur: Mr.Thanos Smanis, WESTMED Assistance Team*

16:30-18:00 **Workshop 6: Blue skills (re-skilling and upskilling), careers and employment**

Throne Room (Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

The first UfM November 2019 Seminar specifically dedicated to Skills, Careers and Employment in the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean revealed that the blue economy cannot be viewed in isolation from the forthcoming transformative technological trends of the entire region and that education, cooperation, decentralization are key concepts to be looked at. It also stressed that targeted educational and employment policies, adapted to the specificities of the region, are needed. Public and private sectors' partnerships are extremely important, while local authorities also have an important role to play. Furthermore, vocational skills are also important as vectors of employability, in addition and complementary to traditional higher education ones. In particular, upskilling and reskilling in the blue economy sectors can also increase employability and entrepreneurship, bridging gaps in the Mediterranean societies and empowering women and youth entering labour markets, while fighting against brain drain and gender imbalances. Strategies in the sector should tackle a general lack of awareness about existing tools and address the mismatch between graduates and competences required by business. A variety of strategies and tools for blue career development exist and can be



easily adapted to local needs. The Med Blue Economy Platform can be further used as a platform of exchange of training tools/ mobility programs/etc.

Introductory presentations

- Mr. Zacharias Sioukoulos, CEO, Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute
- Mr. Arian Kraja, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance & Economy, Albania (tbc)
- Mr. Imed Zammit, Director General, Mediterranean Institute for Maritime Career/s
- Ms. Mina Mourad, Grants Officer, Education for Employment - EFE, Egyptian Branch
- Mr. Rui Azevedo, Secretary General, Fórum Oceano - Associação da Economia do Mar, Portugal
- Ms. Jerneja Penca, Head of Academic Affairs, Euro-Mediterranean University, EMUNI

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz, Business Expert, UfM and Mr. Giuseppe Provenzano, Education and Skills Expert, UfM*
- *Rapporteur: Mr. Matteo Bocci, WESTMED Assistance Team*



DAY 2 - 11 March 2020

PARALLEL SESSION *(continued)*

Gala Room and Throne Room

(Working languages: EN – FR - AR)

09:00-10:30 **Workshop 7: Marine litter**

Gala Room (Working languages: EN – FR– AR)

Preserving the health of the Mediterranean Sea is one of the priorities of the blue economy. About 8 million tonnes of plastic waste enter the ocean every year, threatening marine fauna and ecosystems, as well human health and sea-based economies.

The fight against ocean litter, therefore, must be fought primarily on land, but also at sea. Circularity principles applied to the economic processes, changes in citizens' /consumers' behaviours and everyday life are essential to sustainably re-shape our way of producing and consuming goods. As marine litter pollution does not know geographical boundaries, close collaboration at regional level is essential.

Building on the results of the November 2019 UFM Joint Plastic Busters Workshop and the 2020 BLUEMED 4th workshop for the Pilot on Healthy, Plastic-Free Mediterranean Sea, bringing together key players and projects from both the North and the South of the region, the scope of this workshop will further operationalize synergies among ongoing actions, enhance cross-fertilization among organisations and projects and promote upscaling and capitalization of relevant findings, monitoring protocols and mitigation measures among countries of the region in order to consolidate the coordinated fight against marine litter throughout the region.

Introductory presentations

- Mr.Miguel Lizaso, Policy Officer, European Commission/Research and Innovation; and Ms. Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator, BLUEMED Cordinated Support Action
- Prof. Cristina Fossi, University of Siena; Scientific Coordinator InterregMed Plastic Busters MPAs and CBC Common
- Mr.Raouf Hadj, Aissa, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environmnet and Renewable Energy, Algeria
- Prof. Michael Scollous, Chairman, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development; Team leader, Water and Environment Support Programme;
- Ms. Roberta De Palma, Chief Technical Advisor, UNIDO and Magali Outters, Team Leader, SCP/RAC - ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region SwitchMed Programme



Open Discussion

- *Moderator: Ms. Alessandra Sensi, Head of Sector Blue Economy and Environment, UfM ; and Ms. Mariam Sall, Head Environment, Community Assistance and Development (ASCOM), Mauritania (tbc)*
- *Rapporteur: Thanos Smanis, WESTMED Assistance Team*

09:00-10:30 Workshop 8: Maritime Security and Surveillance

Throne Room (Working languages: EN – FR– AR)

Maritime security is vital for the welfare and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and for the world in general. The protection of trade as we know it, of people and their coastal activities and at sea, of the environment and external borders, which are to large extension maritime, depend on maritime security. Consolidating regional cooperation, across sectors and borders, in key areas supporting maritime security, such as maritime surveillance, exchange of information, capacity building and capability development, as well as on research and innovation, is therefore essential in addressing specific challenges of the region such as irregular migration, illicit arm smuggling and oil pollution.

Introductory presentations

- Mr. Youssef Ben Romdhane, General Director of Maritime Transport and Ports, Ministry of Transport, Tunisia
- Commissioner General Thierry Duchesnes, Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean, France
- Mr. Iordanis Naziris, Policy Officer, Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Greece
- Stakeholder from Egypt (tbc)
- Ms. Andrea Tassoni, Policy Advisor, European Maritime Security Agency - EMSA

OPEN DISCUSSION

- *Moderator: Mr. Christos Economou, Head of Unit, DG MARE, European Union*
- *Rapporteur: Mr. Frederick Herpers, WESTMED Assistance Team*

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

PLENARY SESSION

Gala Room + Library Room (video-listening)

(Working languages: EN – FR– AR)



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The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan

11:00-12:00 – ***Projects as Tools for Action: Future Opportunities***

- Mr. Stefano Dotto, Head of Sector, DG NEAR, EU
- Mr. Christoph Maier, InterregMed/PANORAMED, Interreg MED Joint Secretariat EU
- Mr. Miguel Lisazo, Policy Officer, DG Research and innovation, EU
- Mr. Martin Heibel, Communication Officer, Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) Med Programme, EU (video message, tbc)
- EIB (tbc)
- Mr. Ignasi Ferrer, CEO, Seastainable Ventures

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - Moderated by Alessandra Sensi, Head of Sector Environment and Blue Economy, UfM

12:00-12:30 ***Reporting from the Workshops – Summary of the main inputs from the Stakeholders to the 2nd UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy***

Reporting from each Thematic Workshops 1 to 8

Moderation by UfM Co-Presidency and Secretariat

12:30-13:00 **CLOSING REMARKS** – UfM Co-Presidency and Secretariat

13:00-14:30 **LUNCH (Buffet)**



14:30 **START of the WESTMED HACKATHONS**

(only for registered participants)