



EUROPEAN UNION



EU
MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

MISSION 'RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030'- THE MEDITERRANEAN LIGHTHOUSE IN ACTION

Palermo, 30-31 May 2023

This high-level event is organised by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Italian government, the Sicily Region, and the University of Palermo, with the support of the BlueMissionMed Co-ordination and Support Action.

The event will be an opportunity to witness the political commitments of the Mediterranean countries towards the Mission [Restore our Ocean and Waters \(europea.eu\)](https://europea.eu) and to present the actions and initiatives which contribute to the Mission objectives that may be scaled up and replicated in other sea basins.

The event will welcome stakeholders from the Mediterranean basin, international and sea basin intergovernmental organisations as well as representatives from regions, cities, ports, islands, shipping, industries, academia, education, researchers, investors, NGOs, citizens and youth.

The programme will include demonstrations of EU projects contributing to the Mission's objectives, side visits to marine protected areas as well as a *Blue Islands Day ceremony*, with exchanges of best practices, awards to islands championing the Mission and with strong participation from youth and blue schools.

29 MAY – SIDE EVENT OF THE BlueMissionMed COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION

FOR MORE INFO: [BlueMissionMed – Supporting the Mediterranean sea basin for the implementation of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)

COMMON GROUND CAMP OF THE MEDITERRANEAN LIGHTHOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO (TBC)

30 MAY – MORNING: SIDE EVENT OF THE BlueMissionMed COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION

FOR MORE INFO: [BlueMissionMed – Supporting the Mediterranean sea basin for the implementation of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)

1st MEDITERRANEAN STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR THE MISSION OCEAN & WATERS
PALAZZO DEI NORMANNI, PALERMO

DAY 1

30 May 2023
Palermo

Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030'- The Mediterranean lighthouse in action

Afternoon Session

Moderator: *Katrina Sichel*
Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo

CONFERENCE OPENING

Exhibition area

14:30 - 15:00 Welcome and introduction

- **Gaetano Galvano**, President of Sicily Region Assembly (tbc)
- **Catherine Chabaud**, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)
- **Kestutis Sadauskas**, Deputy Director General, DG MARE, Mission Manager, European Commission
- **Alvaro Enrique Albacete Perea**, Deputy Secretary General Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Union for the Mediterranean (tbc)

15:00 – 16:30 Actions by the Mediterranean lighthouse communities Reporting from 1st Mediterranean Stakeholder Forum for the Mission Ocean & Waters

Citizens & youth: **Genevieve Pons**, Director General and Vice President of Europe – Jacques Delors in Brussels

Regions and Islands: tbd

Cities: tbd

Ports and Shipping: tbd

Industries: tbd

Fisheries and aquaculture tbd

Research and Education: tbd

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break and networking

17:00 - 17:15 Pontifical Academy of Sciences

Joachim von Braun, President, Pontifical Academy of Sciences (tbc)

17:15 - 17:30 European Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership - Med Sea Connection

Margherita Cappelletto, Italian Ministry of University and Research

17:30 - 17:45 Coalition of cities/mayors for Mission Ocean & Waters (tbc)

18:00 - 22:00 Aperitif & networking dinner

31 MAY

Morning Session

Moderator: TBD

Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo

9:30 - 11:00 PLENARY OPENING

Welcome

- **Renato Schifani**, President of Sicily Region (tbc)
- **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Research, Education, Sports and Youth (tbc)
- **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries (tbc)
- **Anna Maria Bernini**, Italian Minister for University and Research (tbc)
- **Sebastiano Musumeci**, Italian Minister for Civil Protection and Sea Policies (tbc)
- **Giuseppe Valditara**, Italian Minister for Education and Merit (tbc)
- **Tonino Picula**, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of SEARICA (tbc)

Statements by Ministers from Mediterranean countries

- Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain, others (tbc)
- **Olivier Poivre D'Arvor**, French Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues (tbc)
- **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (tbc)

11:00 - 11:20 Coffee break and picture

11:20 - 12:45 Leading actions for the reduction of pollution

This session will address the main actions to reduce plastic litter at sea by at least 50%; reduce microplastics released into the environment by at least 30%; reduce nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides by at least 50%.

Introduction by

- **John Bell**, Director Healthy Planet, DG RTD, Deputy Mission Manager, European Commission
- **Jann Martinsohn**, Head of Unit, Ocean and Water, JRC, European Commission

Panels highlighting the actions with the participation of Charter signatories

Q&A

12:45 - 13:15 Celebrating the Mission Charter's signatories from the Mediterranean

13:15 - 14:30 Networking lunch

DAY 2

31 May 2023
Palermo

31 MAY

Afternoon Session

Moderator: TBD

Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo

14:30 - 15:30 Coalition of Islands for the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters

Panels with examples of actions by islands to implement the ecological/circular/energy transitions for sustainability and increased resilience (signatories to the Mission Charter)

15:30 - 16:00 Awards ceremony EU Blue Champion Islands

- **Kestutis Sadauskas**, Deputy Director General, DG MARE, Mission Manager, European Commission
- **Sebastiano Musumeci** Italian Minister for Civil Protection and Sea Policies (tbc)

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 Blue Champions Schools for Mission Ocean and Waters (Prize)

With the participation of the schools, Marevivo, BlueSchoolsMed (tbc)

In collaboration with Italian Ministry of Education and Merit

17:00 - 17:30 Conclusion

- **Roberto Lagalla**, Mayor of Palermo, (tbc)
- **Alessandro Arico'**, Councillor, Department of infrastructures, mobility and transport, Sicily Region (tbc)
- **Pascal Lamy**, Chair, Mission Board Restore our Ocean & Waters (tbc)
- **Kestutis Sadauskas**, Deputy Director General DG MARE, Mission Manager, European Commission

18:00 - 22:00 Networking aperitif & Dinner (tbd)

