



## Exhibition

Acting together for the future of EU Maritime Policy

Brussels, 27-28 November 2007

## Organisation

The Blue Planet Forum is co-organised by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Commission Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, in partnership with NAUSICAA (French National Sea Centre, Boulogne-sur-mer) and the World Ocean Network. The partners' exhibition involves maritime regions, international and European marine professional associations and other stakeholders from civil society that are committed to sustainable use of the seas. The forum is held in association with the Azores Regional Government (Portugal) and Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), representing 155 regions in 26 countries. Expert-led thematic workshops and youth involvement are organised with the support of the European Network of Science Centres and Museums, the European Union of Aquarium Curators and partners of AquaRing (online resource for information on aquatic sciences) and the MARTINS project (Maritime training in safety, a new European partnership aimed at saving lives and ensuring the sustainability of the oceans).



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## Target audience

The Blue Planet Forum is principally aimed at:

- › Representatives of regional and local authorities
- › Maritime professionals

- › Directors of aquariums and science museums
- › Members of the Committee of the Regions
- › Heads of educational and information organisations
- › Youth representatives
- › EU law-makers and officials
- › Consultancies and lobbying organisations

**How to register?:** [Blueplanet-forum2007@cor.europa.eu](mailto:Blueplanet-forum2007@cor.europa.eu)

## Partners Villages:

### "Man and the sea"

- › Nausicaa (French National Sea Center)
- › World Ocean Network
- › European Committee of Professional Diving Instructors (CEDIP)
- › International Polar Foundation (IPF)
- › World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)
- › European Network of Science Centres and Museums (ECSITE)
- › AquaRing project (on line resource for information on aquatic sciences)
- › European Union of Aquariums Curators (EUAC)
- › Participe futur: eco-voluntary work and marine environment researches

### "Regions and the sea"

- › Land Schleswig-Holstein
- › Azores Regional Government
- › Tuscany Region
- › Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- › Arc Manche Regions Assembly
- › Arcolatino
- › Regioeuropa for Drama-Kavala-Xanthi Prefectoral Authority
- › Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe (AMRIE)
- › Valencian Region
- › Pomorskie Region

### "Enterprises and the sea"

- › European Sea Port Organisation (ESPO)
- › European Committee of Environmental technology Suppliers Associations (EUCETSA)
- › European Water Partnership
- › European Islands Network on Energy and Environment (ISLENET) - Sustainable Energy Activities in Communities and Coastal Regions
- › Martins project (maritime training in safety)
- › Marine Pollutions (MAPO)
- › European Marine Equipment Confederation (EMEC)
- › European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA)
- › European Union Recreational Marine Industry Group (EURMIG)
- › Community of European Shipyard'Associations (CESA)
- › European Confederation of Nautical Industries
- › Atelier Rougerie



Committee of the Regions

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# BLUE PLANET FORUM

## Acting together for the future of EU Maritime Policy

EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels,

27-28 November 2007

Committee of the Regions



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In partnership with:





## Editorial

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**Joe Borg,**  
European  
Commissioner for  
Fisheries and  
Maritime Affairs

Europe's coastal regions are

its gateway to the sea and to the wider world. They are also a source of wealth and a store of culture. They have been one of the driving forces behind the Commission's consultation on an integrated European maritime policy. Both the regions and the Committee of the Regions have been quick to recognise the challenges that the emerging maritime policy may bring.

The opportunities are clear: the maritime regions already generate over 40% of Europe's GDP. A worldwide boom in maritime transport, especially in container shipping, has triggered rapid growth in port construction and shipbuilding. Demand for seafood goes hand in hand with the consistent growth of maritime and coastal tourism, while blue biotech holds out for the promise of myriad new uses for the sea's natural resources. Meanwhile, off-shore wind farms, tidal and wave energy, are set to provide an increasing share of renewables.

Nevertheless, the quality of our maritime future will depend upon how we equip ourselves to meet its challenges. Congestion of maritime space, coastal erosion, illegal immigration, trafficking of goods and people, and pollution are just some of the issues we will need to deal with.

Only if we ensure that the development of our maritime economy is sustainable will the quality of life in our coastal regions continue to grow along with GDP. A European maritime policy will play a key role in securing prosperity and well-being for all Europeans, but it is the coastal regions and islands which must form the vanguard of this effort, and which stand to bear the brunt of any mistakes. We therefore need to find the right mix of central coordination and decentralised decision-making.

The role of an integrated European maritime policy is not to create a whole new field of EU legislation, but rather to act as catalyst, to ensure joined-up thinking and effective communication across the maritime sector as a whole.

Stakeholder participation will be even more crucial, as we move from reflection to action. I look forward to working ever more closely with the coastal regions and islands of Europe, in particular through the CoR, over the coming years.



**Michel Delebarre,**  
President, Committee  
of the Regions

The sea is at the heart of European decision-makers' thoughts and concerns. It

concerns every one of us, and the public clearly understands and appreciates the added value of a European approach in this area. I believe that we can draw parallels between European maritime policy and two other major European policy challenges – demographic change and global warming. Firstly, it's clear that these policies must be based on an integrated approach. We can no longer deal separately with issues such as safety and sea transport, port services, fisheries and the management of natural resources; we need to ensure that we address economic, social and environmental concerns in a linked-up way. It also goes without saying that we will not be able to tap into the enormous economic potential of the seas and coastal regions if we are not ready to take shared responsibility for sustainability and conservation of marine ecosystems. Secondly, we need to be cautious when faced with alarmist or even fatalistic scientific forecasts which can often make the global issues which these policies relate to seem abstract. We must not forget that the stakes involved matter for everyone, especially at the local and regional levels. We are talking about policy processes which can, and must, have an impact at the grassroots. That is why the Committee of the Regions, in which more than 100 members represent coastal authorities, has recently adopted opinions on this subject, in 2005 and 2007, and will ensure that elected representatives, in partnership with their networks, remain committed to helping shape the future maritime policy of the European Union. In view of this, the Forum is particularly timely in the context of the presentation of the European Commission's maritime action plan. The Blue Planet Forum will also be an opportunity for the Commission to take some new ideas on board for the Blue Paper on a Common European Maritime Space, set to be published in 2008. However, I would emphasise that the Blue Planet Forum is, above all, a great opportunity for local and regional authorities and maritime professionals (scientists, environmental experts, NGOs, associations), together with young people, to contribute to future policy. It will therefore provide a communication platform for exchange of best practice, project dissemination and networking among targeted partners and elected representatives of the coastal regions.

## Why a Blue Planet Forum?

The Blue Planet Forum is set against the background of the European Commission's Blue Paper on Maritime Policy, the follow-up to a year-long consultation process launched following its 2006 Green Paper, *Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas*. The Blue Paper, presented on 10 October, reports on the conclusions of the consultation, outlines the Commission's maritime policy vision and proposes concrete action around four key areas: maximising the economic use of the oceans and seas in a sustainable way, attributing a maritime role for Europe in the world, making the most of knowledge and innovation, and ensuring a high quality of life in coastal regions.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs are organising the event to raise awareness of the proposals and to demonstrate how they will help maritime stakeholders better respond to the economic, social and environmental challenges they face. The strategic importance of Europe's maritime regions cannot be over-stated: around 90% of the EU's foreign trade and 40% of its internal trade is carried out by sea. The EU believes an integrated, sustainable approach, anchored within the Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth, is the best way to ensure the maritime economy reaches its full potential.

The Union is investing strongly in developing its seaports and in protecting the marine environment. For the period 2000-2006, EU ports received a total of 3.6 billion euros from instruments such as the Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

The Blue Planet Forum takes place in parallel with the CoR's November plenary session, during which Commissioner Borg and members of the assembly will also discuss the Blue Paper. The forum is designed to raise general awareness, generate a desire for political and public action and to apply the principle of sustainable development to the seas and oceans. The Forum is also a platform for partner organisations to reach out to a wider audience.

One of the aims of the Forum workshops – gathering experts and representatives of a Youth Forum – is to come up with recommendations and a joint plan to mobilise the public and to help maritime stakeholders better respond to the economic, social and environmental challenges they face. The Forum's proposals will be reported to the Committee of the Regions' Plenary Session on 28 November.

The Blue Planet Forum will feature a photo exhibition conceived by NAUSICAA, the French National Sea Centre, as well as an exhibition centred on three thematic villages – "Regions and the sea", "Enterprises and the sea", "Man and the sea" – illustrating best practices and a more sustainable use of European marine resources.

In partnership with World Ocean Network, the organizers are particularly keen to mobilise networks that are in a position to inform the public at large, especially young people, about the importance of maritime affairs and the role they can play toward a sustainable use of the ocean.

The event will also feature – in cooperation with *European Communities Sailing Club* – the photo exhibition "Sail for Europe", charting the *Treaty of Rome's* participation in around-the-world sailing races.

## Oceans Award

The regional government of Schleswig-Holstein will announce the winner of the Elisabeth Mann-Borgese-Meerespreis Prize 2007. Named after the celebrated marine conservationist and daughter of Nobel Prize novelist Thomas Mann, the award honours distinguished socio-political endeavour in respect to the oceans as well as integrative and interdisciplinary achievements for the protection and conservation of the seas. Other regions and maritime associations will highlight best practices and showcase projects.



## Programme

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### Tuesday 27 November 2007

#### Plenary Conference

##### 09:30 - 10:00 Welcome and Registration

The opening Plenary Conference will assess the state of the oceans and challenges around EU maritime policy. The participants will scrutinise the issues confronted by political decision-makers, the marine professional sector and civil society, as well as the European as a whole. As the first stage of reflection, they will offer food for thought for the experts and young people taking part in the subsequent workshops and European Youth Oceans Forum.

##### 10:00 - 10:40 Opening Plenary conference

- › Michel Delebarre, President of the Committee of the Regions
- › Claudio Martini, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- › Fokion Fotiadis, Director General, European Commission Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
- › Joao Mira Gomes, Portuguese Secretary of State for maritime affairs, on the behalf of the Presidency of the EU

Presentation of the winner(s) of the 2007 Elisabeth-Mann-Borgese-Meerespreis Award

##### 10:40 - 11:30 Presentations on the state of oceans

- › Introductory message from Jean-Michel Cousteau, Ocean Futur Europe
- › The State of our Oceans by Philippe Vallette, Director-General of NAUSICAA and co-chair of the World Ocean Network
- › The intergovernmental perspective by Ehrlich Desa, head of capacity building, UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- › The Blue Paper on maritime policy: the European Union's political response to the challenges facing maritime policy, by John Richardson, Head of the Task Force on Maritime Policy, European Commission Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
- › White Planet issues: interdependence between sea and climate, by Gauthier Chapelle, scientific officer, International Polar Foundation
- › Jacques Rougerie, architect specialised in marine infrastructure.

##### 11:30 - 13:00 Political Round Table

"How can local and regional authorities, politicians, stakeholders from marine professional sectors and civil society, encourage citizens to take sustainable management of the oceans seriously?"

- › Brad Watson, vice-chair of the Arc Manche Assembly, cabinet member for communications & external relations, West Sussex County Council (United Kingdom)
- › Sinikka Bohlin, Bureau member of the Nordic Council of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, member of the Swedish Parliament
- › Aaron McLoughlin, Head of WWF European Marine Programme
- › Carlos Manuel Martins do Vale César, President of the Azores Regional Government (Portugal), member of the CoR
- › Struan Stevenson, MEP, co-rapporteur for the Fisheries Committee on the European Commission Green Paper *Towards a future maritime policy for the Union: a European vision of the oceans and seas*, President of the Parliamentary Intergroup on sustainable development
- › Konstantinos Tatsis, President of the Prefectoral Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi (Greece), member of the CoR.
- › Saskia Richartz, EU marine policy director, Greenpeace European Unit
- › Aqqaluk Lynge, poet-politician, President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Greenland)

#### Exhibition

##### 13:15 Opening of the exhibition on the future of the oceans

In the presence of Commissioner Joe Borg and CoR President Michel Delebarre Seafood cocktail organised by Azores Regional Government, Portugal

#### Workshops and Youth Forum

##### 14:30 - 17:30 Expert-led thematic workshops

"How to inform, educate and associate European citizens with the future European maritime policy". The expert-led workshops will examine the actions undertaken by the World Ocean Network partners and other participating stakeholders in the light of a new EU maritime policy. Two leading themes of the workshops will be communication and education regarding:

- › Strategy and governance: citizenship and consumer responsibility;
- › Policy implementation: capacity building and knowledge-based society.

##### European Youth Forum "Let European youth take part in ocean governance" : bilateral meetings programme with EU officials

The Forum will also be an opportunity to invite motivated and resourceful young people aged 16 to 20, selected from regional and national forums and other backgrounds to take part in

the debate. The objective of the First European Youth Forum is to involve young people from all over Europe in ocean governance and stewardship, as future decision makers and consumers of marine resources. They are expected to produce recommendations with regard to the implementation of the Commission's Blue Paper and a future EU maritime policy and to construct a joint long-term action plan for youth cooperation in the EU decision-making process regarding maritime affairs. Their work will be enriched through bilateral meetings with both European Commission and European Parliament officials and experts.

##### 20:00 - 21:30 Film screening from the World Festival of Underwater Image

### Wednesday 28 November 2007

#### Workshops and Youth Forum

##### 9:00 - 10:00 Report from the expert workshops to the European Youth Forum

##### 10:30 - 13:00 :

- › Expert-led thematic workshops "How to inform, educate and associate European citizens with the future European maritime policy" – drafting of a joint action plan
- › European Youth Forum "Let European youth take part in ocean governance" – youth-led workshops on maritime Europe.

##### 14:30 - 16:00 Youth Forum plenary session (with participation of experts): adoption of youth recommendations

#### Committee of the Regions' Plenary session

##### 16:30 - 18:00 Committee of the Regions Plenary Session

- › Chaired by CoR President Michel Delebarre
- › Statement by Commissioner Joe Borg on EU maritime policy
- › Expert-led workshops and Youth Forum reports
- › Discussion on Blue Paper with CoR members including Uwe Döring, Minister for Justice, Employment and European Affairs of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, rapporteur for the CoR opinions on EU maritime policy.

#### Official reception

##### 20:30 Dinner organised by Provincia de Reggio Emilia, Italy