



PROTECT OUR OCEANS

the challenge of Europe's
global leadership

*A science-policy conference on
the issues of contaminant dispersal,
biodiversity loss and climate change*



**2021
2030** United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

AIX-MARSEILLE UNIVERSITY EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

AGENDA

WED. 16 JUNE 2021 — ONLINE

Under the high patronage of Ms MARIA DA GRAÇA CARVALHO, Member of the European Parliament

Scientific Coordination by Dr RICHARD SEMPÉRÉ



Registration: [click here](#)



Simultaneous interpretation in EN and in FR

#ProtectOurOceans



Aix-Marseille University and its partners invite European and international policy-makers, leading scientists, ocean governance stakeholders and experts to examine timely issues about the state of ocean science and governance and to propose potential steps forward.

Ocean ecosystems are facing unprecedented challenges that are not yet fully understood. This knowledge is urgently needed to building a holistic understanding of ocean ecosystems and to monitoring the impact of human activities, as emphasized in the [Second World Ocean Assessment](#) (WOA II) launched in April 2021.

The 2021 European Conference coincides with and aims to contribute to two major initiatives to strengthen the European and global ocean science community: the 2021-2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and ‘Horizon Europe’, the framework-programme for research and innovation of the European Union, including its *Starfish Mission* for healthy oceans.

The maritime dimension of the European Union and of its Member States entails a particular responsibility for supporting the global partnership and help enhance scientific collaboration worldwide.

WITH THE
SUPPORT OF



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Hosted by



European Committee
of the Regions



European
Commission



Institut
Sciences de l'Océan
Aix-Marseille Université



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Agenda

09:00 Welcome

- 09:05
- ERIC BERTON, President of Aix-Marseille University
 - MARIA DA GRAÇA CARVALHO, Member of the European Parliament
 - RICHARD SEMPÉRÉ, Scientific Coordinator of the European Conference

Opening plenary: Tackling marine ecosystem disturbance caused by climate-change

The plenary will bring together experts offering a variety of perspectives on the challenges of understanding marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in facing climate change. We will discuss the impact of climate change on ocean ecosystems and its various and cumulative effects that are not yet fully understood. In contrast, is the decisive role of oceans on climate change sufficiently considered? As a way forward, panellists will discuss how to better observe, understand and monitor global change, including by enhancing the use of infrastructures and technologies.

- 09:30
- Marine Biodiversity: our Life, our Future***
- ADELINO CANARIO, University of Algarve, Faro – CCMAR
- Marine microbes in a changing sea***
- MAR BENAVIDES, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) / Aix-Marseille University
- 10 min. Q&A*

- 10:00
- Can science help prevent from further impact of climate-change on marine ecosystems?***
- SOPHIE GAMBARDELLA, Centre for International and European Studies and Research-CERIC, CNRS/Aix-Marseille University
 - GEIR JOHNSEN, Norwegian University of Science and Technology-NTNU
 - JEAN MARC FROMENTIN, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea-IFREMER
 - AODHÁN FITZGERALD, Lead Coordinator, Eurofleets+
- 15 min. Q&A*

- 10:45
- Towards a digital twin of the Ocean***
- MARTIN VISBECK, Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research-GEOMAR, Kiel
- 10 min. Q&A*

11:05 – 11:20 COFFEE BREAK

Intermediary sequence: Synergies between the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development & the Starfish Mission of Horizon Europe

Structuring of European and international networks to advance ocean science is a challenge. This session will discuss how can the ambitions of the 2021-2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Starfish Mission 2030 of the European Union be combined, to set a comprehensive and coordinated Research and Innovation agenda and to enhance collaboration between scientific communities across the world.

- 11:20
- VLADIMIR RYABININ – Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO
 - PASCAL LAMY – Chair of the Board of the *Starfish Mission (Horizon Europe)* framework-programme for Research and Innovation)
 - GENEVIÈVE PONS – Director General of Europe Jacques Delors
- 15 min. Q&A*

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12:05	Presentation of Aix-Marseille University Brussels Office: <i>How it works, how to collaborate with</i>
12:05 - 13:55	LUNCH BREAK
European Commission's priorities for Research and Innovation	
13:55	• JEAN-ERIC PAQUET, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
Second plenary: The challenge of contaminant dispersal	
<p>This plenary will see two scientific keynotes and a roundtable bringing together experts and stakeholders with a variety of viewpoints on what options and risks policy-makers must grapple with to achieve a healthier ocean.</p> <p>Panellists will provide expertise on how pollutants threaten marine ecosystems and food safety, evaluate the effectiveness of past initiatives to reduce marine pollution and discuss critical knowledge gaps as well as urgent policy actions to achieve a clean ocean.</p>	
14:15	<p><i>Distribution and threat to marine ecosystems of plastics and their organic additives in the marine environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RICHARD SEMPÉRÉ, CNRS/Aix-Marseille University <p><i>Mercury in our oceans: the natural story of a contaminant</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LARS-ERIC HEIMBÜRGER-BOAVIDA, CNRS/Aix-Marseille University <p><i>10 min. Q&A</i></p>
14:45	<p><i>Are EU science and policy agendas aligned to take a step forward for cleaning the ocean?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVE TRUILHÉ, Centre for International and European Studies and Research-CERIC, CNRS/Aix-Marseille University • NIALL MCDONOUGH, Chair, JPI Oceans • GAËLLE HAUT, Surfrider Foundation Europe • Representative of "Sud" Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region <p><i>15 min. Q&A</i></p>
15:30-16:00	COFEEE BREAK
EU policies and programmes to protect our oceans (Horizon Europe, EIT, NDICI, Erasmus+,...)	
<p>The EU intends to take a responsibility in global ocean governance, particularly through setting up an integrated R&I agenda that helps overcome existing obstacles to collaboration. As part of the Green Deal and the new 'Horizon Europe' framework-programme for research and innovation, one of the five Horizon Europe Missions is foreseen to mobilise all relevant stakeholders to help protect oceans. Furthermore, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission have reached an agreement in early 2021 to set up a EU-wide Knowledge and Innovation Community dedicated to maritime issues, water and seas in the course of the 2021-2027 programming period.</p>	
16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARIA DA GRAÇA CARVALHO, Member of the European Parliament • ELISABETTA BALZI, Head of Unit "Healthy Oceans & Seas", DG Research and Innovation, European Commission • MONICA VERBEEK, Executive Director, Seas at Risk • PHILIPPE DELAPORTE, Vice-President for Research of Aix-Marseille University
16:45	<p>Final Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Remarks by RICHARD SEMPÉRÉ, Scientific Coordinator of the Conference

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Speakers

*In the presence
of*

Prof. **Eric Berton**, President of Aix-Marseille University

*EU policymakers
& EU players*

Ms **Maria da Graça Carvalho**, Member of the European Parliament (Patron of the European Conference)

Mr **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Mr **Pascal Lamy**, Chair of the Board of the *Starfish* Mission (Horizon Europe framework-programme for research and Innovation)

Ms **Elisabetta Balzi**, Head of Unit “Healthy Oceans & Seas”, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Director representing Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur Region

Dr **Niall McDonough**, Chair of the Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans)

Mr **Aodhán Fitzgerald**, Lead coordinator of the Eurofleets+ project

*United Nations
2021-2030
Decade of Ocean
Science for
Sustainable
Development*

Dr **Vladimir Ryabinin**, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – UNESCO

NGOs

Ms **Geneviève Pons**, Director of Europe Jacques Delors Think Tank

Dr **Monica Verbeek**, Executive Director of Seas at Risk

Ms **Gaëlle Haut**, Representative of Surfrider Foundation Europe

*Scientists &
Academic
Leaders*

Prof. **Adelino Canario** – University of Algarve, Faro – CCMAR

Dr **Mar Benavides** – Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)/Aix-Marseille University

Dr **Sophie Gambardella** – CNRS/Aix-Marseille University

Prof. **Geir Johnsen**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Dr **Jean-Marc Fromentin**, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER)

Prof. **Martin Visbeck**, Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, Kiel (GEOMAR)

Prof. **Philippe Delaporte**, Vice-President for Research at Aix-Marseille University

Dr **Richard Sempéré**, Director of the Ocean Science Institute & of the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography – CNRS/Aix-Marseille University

Dr **Lars-Eric Heimbürger-Boavida** – CNRS/Aix-Marseille University

Dr **Eve Truilhé**, CNRS/Aix-Marseille University

Scientific & Coordination Team of the European Conference

Dr **Richard Sempéré**, Scientific Coordinator (Director of the Ocean Science Institute, Director of the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography, CNRS/Aix-Marseille University)

Dr **Pascale Ricard**, CNRS Researcher at the Center for International and European Studies and Research (CERIC) – Aix-Marseille University

Mr **Karl Stoeckel**, EU Liaison Officer, Aix-Marseille University Brussels Office

Mr **Naoufal Aouane**, Deputy EU Liaison Officer, Aix-Marseille University Brussels Office

Dr **Mar Benavides**, IRD Researcher at the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography, Aix-Marseille University

Dr **Lars-Eric Heimbürger-Boavida**, CNRS Researcher at the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography, Aix-Marseille University



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Aix-Marseille University is the largest French speaking university with 80,000 students, 119 research units, 16 multidisciplinary graduate schools, including the new 'Ocean Science Institute'. The university was founded on 1 January 2012 by the merger of the three previously existing universities in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille. As a comprehensive and research-intensive university, AMU conducts its research activities in the site of Aix-Marseille with the largest French research organisations (CNRS, CEA, IFSTTAR, INSERM, INRA and IRD). AMU is one of the three first French universities granted as 'Excellence Initiative' in 2016 under the French "Investing for the future" programme (PIA). AMU is ranked the second French university in terms of participation under the European framework-programme for research and innovation Horizon 2020.

[Learn more](#)



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

On 5 December 2017, the United Nations declared that a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development would be held from 2021 to 2030. The Ocean Decade provides a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ocean Decade provides a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to create a new foundation across the science-policy interface to strengthen the management of our oceans and coasts for the benefit of humanity. The Ocean Decade will strengthen the international cooperation needed to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society. It will also contribute to the UN processes protecting the ocean and its resources, such as the SAMOA Pathway, the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea, the post-2020 framework for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Ocean Decade requires the engagement of many different stakeholders to create new ideas, solutions, partnerships and applications, these include: scientists, governments, academics, policy makers, business, industry and civil society. [Learn more](#)



European Committee
of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union (EU). It represents local and regional authorities across the European Union and advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and cities (70% of all EU legislation).

The CoR is a political assembly composed of 329 members and 329 alternates from all EU countries (grouped by political party and headed by the President) who have been elected at local or regional level (for example as Mayors or Presidents of a region). They come to Brussels up to six times a year to debate their opinions on proposed legislation and agree on resolutions for further action by the EU.

CoR members are supported by an administration headed by the Secretary-General. [Learn more](#)

