



# OUR OCEAN

MALTA, 5-6 OCTOBER 2017



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## FINAL REPORT

For more information about the 2017 edition of the #OurOcean conference go to [www.ourocean2017.org](http://www.ourocean2017.org).



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## INTRODUCTION

*"Forests are our planet's green lung, but oceans are its blue heart. It is now up to all of us to keep this blue heart beating."* KARMENU VELLA, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

In the last few decades, science has revealed the widespread deterioration of the marine environment and its resources, something long witnessed by coastal populations. In response, we must focus on nurturing our collective capacity to tackle these challenges and mitigate their impact. We need immediate and forward-looking actions that protect the marine environment. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we must invest in solutions: ambitious political actions that mobilise change-makers from government, business and civil society to turn good ideas into reality.

The Our Ocean Conference is all about driving these commitments. Commitments that will reduce marine pollution, manage aquatic resources sustainably, mitigate climate change, and set up marine sanctuaries. Since 2014, the Our Ocean Conference has brought about 250 concrete actions across the world, committing over EUR 8.2 billion (USD 9.2 billion) and designating 9.9 million square kilometres as new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

The 2017 edition of the Our Ocean Conference – An Ocean for Life will build on these results, making further contributions to maritime security and the sustainable development of the Blue Economy across the world. Held in Malta, and hosted by the European Union over 5-6 October 2017, the Conference generated over EUR seven billion in commitments on oceans.

## SUMMARY OF THE MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

### THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2017

The Conference opened with a dramatic video documentary of the importance of the ocean, its current perilous state and the hope instilled by human commitment to resolve the situation.

**Oleksandra Vakulina** (Euronews) was the Master of Ceremonies.

### WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

**Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission opened the Conference welcomed all the participants, both to the conference and Malta. She said that the Mediterranean used to be called the *Mare Nostrum* (our sea). Belonging originally to the Romans, she said it is now a global common, for all humanity, and we all have a reason to preserve it for perpetuity. A healthy ocean is one of the earth's greatest resources, supporting millions of jobs and livelihoods. Over 90 % of global trade is via the sea. Although bigger than any continent, it is still vulnerable - by 2050 the oceans will contain more plastic than fish, and sea level rise is already impacting coastal communities. Thus, the oceans are becoming a distinct threat, but it is not the ocean's fault. She noted that climate-change and maritime insecurity is man-made, but we can all be part of the solution. John Kerry launched the Our Ocean conference initiative four years ago. This year the EU is proud to put EUR 560 million with 36 concrete actions, from global cooperation with others, to small gestures e.g. EU embassies have cleaned up 27 beaches so far this year. This is truly a collective responsibility. One of the main targets is to put MPAs on 10 % of the ocean area and EU and partners have agreed on the world's largest MPA in the Antarctic. Two-thirds of global waters lie beyond national jurisdiction. Turning to maritime security, she said that nations must work together, and international cooperation is essential. All share an interest to travel safely around the world – the seas can be dangerous when politics fail, increasing insecurity. The EU has played a major role in securing the Indian Ocean during the pirate crisis. The EU is also investing in increasing capacity in the Gulf of Guinea for a network to fight piracy, where local capacity-building is essential, including in the criminal justice system. The EU has excellent satellite-based technology - for instance the Galileo and Copernicus satellite programmes have been tasked with maritime security, pollution monitoring and IUU fishing detection. She concluded that a globalised world needs more such investment in international cooperation and noted whilst this is an ambitious goal, it is a moral imperative and that we can truly be a *Mare Nostrum* for all mankind.

**Karmenu Vella**, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries welcomed all to Malta and the 2017 'Our Ocean' Conference. He said that we are here for one reason only – our Ocean. He noted that it was 50 years to the day when the Maltese Country Representative gave a speech to the UN General Assembly, which led to the adoption of the most far reaching treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), covering laws preventing pollution and governing access to marine resources. He said that we are today discussing the same issues and then asked that whilst we are 50 years older, are we 50 years wiser? The ocean gives us much: climate, food, energy, etc. But it is also clear what we give in return: CO<sub>2</sub>, IUU, pollution etc, but this is taking a toll on the ocean much faster than we expected. Recently the European Commission brought fisheries and the environment together under one Commissioner, thus emphasising their inseparability: if we are to have a green sustainable future, we must

look after our blue planet. This is a global issue, and must be handled internationally. But we must be positive - the EU has been a driving force behind this global effort, and we are all committed to SDG 14 Life Below Water. He said he was proud that there are representatives from over 40 nations here, with Airbus's work on satellite surveillance meaning we are even getting commitments from space! He also welcomed the participation of the private sector to this Conference. The EU itself is bringing more than 30 commitments to the Conference of around 560 EUR million. For instance, 90 % of assessed fish stocks in the Mediterranean are being over-fished. He then announced that the GFCM is set to adopt an EU proposal to establish an MPA in the Adriatic Sea to protect the spawning habitat of hake and langoustine, a first step in a long process. He concluded by saying *"Colleagues, we are all trusted to look after the ocean. Let's get to work, and let's hear your commitments"*.

**His Excellency Dr. Joseph Muscat**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta welcomed everyone to Malta, a small island at heart of the Mediterranean. He said he wanted his speech to count, and to set the tone, with Malta's commitments showing the way for the others. He committed to the re-use of 70 % of plastic bottles by 2019. Although this might be contentious, it would set the trend. He also said they have designated an area larger than Malta itself as an MPA and committed to designate 30 % of its waters as an MPA by 2018, with management plans by 2020. Malta is also developing a small centre of excellence to assist develop best practices and practical solutions for small states. Dr. Muscat urged the private sector to assist with this, assisting smaller players where possible. Malta pioneered the Law of the Sea and he confirmed that Malta is committed to preserving the oceans.

A video message from **His Excellency António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations reflected that marine and land-based activities threaten our oceans, with SIDS being particularly vulnerable. He mentioned that the recent UN Ocean Conference (5-9 June 2017) was a step in the right direction and wished everyone a productive conference.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales** said he was enormously flattered to be invited to the conference. He acknowledged and thanked all for their contributions, especially John Kerry and Karmenu Vella to initiating these Conferences. HRH reflected his deep affection for Malta and its people and said his interest in marine ecosystems and their resources was initiated by his time in the Royal Navy. He shared a few reflections of his experience to demonstrate the bold action required. Firstly, that the problems are both enormous and systemic. Effective partnerships are essential, as is decisive action – for instance Canada took a difficult decision to close the cod fishery, ending more than 400 years of fishing tradition and put 30,000 people out of work. But it has worked, and cod stocks are recovering. This shows that, given a chance, we can reverse problems and gives hope that we can do the same with plastic litter and ocean acidification. The SDGs and the Paris Agreements have also been key in setting benchmarks. HRH said that whilst we should be relieved that oceans are better understood, he was not sure if the ocean's vulnerability is truly grasped. The 8 million tonnes of plastic that enters the sea each year is very alarming. Faced with such damaging effects on the ocean, the throw away lifestyle, he urged a transition to a circular economy. The blue economy encompasses all economic growth generated by the sea, on the water and on land - this should be welcomed, but should not be an opening for endless exploitation. Corals provide a habitat for two-fifths of all marine biodiversity, but only cover two per cent of the ocean and are much more vulnerable than we thought. The recent degradation of many reefs, inc. the Great Barrier Reef, is a major wake-up call. The huge elephant in the room is climate change. There is some movement in this direction, the sense of urgency to tackle this is still lacking, and surely the recent catastrophic hurricanes in the Caribbean are a wakeup call. HRH said that time is long overdue to look at perverse fishing subsidies and their contribution to overfishing, over-capacity, and IUU. The Prince said

his International Sustainability Unit (ISU) is currently working with the EU and WWF on financing principles for the blue economy and will engage with banks, insurance companies and NGOs to take this forward. HRH looked forward to the next Our Ocean conferences in Indonesia and Norway, but wondered what successes would be revealed: Will IUU being halted? Will plastics be stopped entering the ocean? Will green finance be targeted at the blue economy? Will there be initiatives for sustainability in ocean management? He begged forgiveness for his mounting despair to draw attention to the immense planetary crisis that is evolving, but emphasised that we need urgent change, and to forge partnerships to show it is not too late to change and that at this finely balanced point in our civilization, we must act now. He recognised that his commitment is not new, wanted to restate his commitment to protect not only the health of the ocean, but also the viability of the greatest and most unique of living organisms, nature itself.

**His Serene Highness Prince Albert II**, Sovereign Prince of Monaco voiced his appreciation to HRH Prince of Wales for perfectly voicing the challenges we face. He then said that the status of the ocean is one of the tragedies of our time and whilst it is difficult to take in the complexities of science, it is an essential tool for informed decision-making. He stated that the actions needed are numerous and that there is a need to change the approach of maritime economies to reflect the vulnerability of the resources they depend upon. He ended by stating the urgency to prevent irreparable harm from being done and reflected that there is nothing more contagious than example.

#### SCENE SETTER PANEL: EXPLORING AND SUSTAINING AN OCEAN FOR LIFE

**Sylvia Earle**, the renowned marine biologist and founder of Mission Blue began with a message from the millions of creatures that rely on the oceans for their existence. They want to know why we are holding a conference called Our Oceans – and they think this is a little presumptuous! This planet has been occupied for millions of years by non-humans, who have shaped the world into what it is now. If sharks were here and could speak, they might say that whilst some humans get bitten, hundreds of thousands of sharks are killed each year and that less than ten per cent, or even one per cent of sharks are left since Jacques Cousteau's days. This is true of many different marine species and indeed habitats, and the deep sea.

Dr Earle said that we speak of a common heritage of 'mankind', but it should be common heritage of 'life on earth', and that we should treat other forms of life the same as our own, with dignity and respect. She reflected that only three people have been to the deepest part of the sea – this is pathetic compared to the rapid rate of exploration of space. She went on to say that despite this, we now know so much more – and how much more is to be known, including that our impact on land and sea is changing nature, and this is putting nature - and ourselves - at risk.

**Emily Penn**, cofounder eXXpedition recalled that she was once awoken by the thud of plastic on her biofuelled powerboat *Earthrace's* hull, hundreds of miles from land. She had stopped at small islands who had suffered from industrial overfishing of local resources, sea level rise and increasing use of plastic waste which is difficult to dispose of properly in SIDS. She said there is no concept of throwing waste away into a managed system and thus new infrastructure and understanding is needed of this new persistent material. In one location she picked up 56 tonnes of rubbish in five hours. She said there is now an oceanic soup of plastic, invisible to the eye, hugely complicating the clean-up process. Plastic is now in the food chain and we all have a plastic 'body burden' which we will never get rid of. Whilst not a direct health threat, this is an alarming indicator. Whilst the impacts are at sea, the actions must take place upstream on land. She reflected that this will need a huge change in attitude and the way things are done from present, and whilst we did not set out to destroy the work, we now need to 're-set our sails' and take a new direction. She finished by saying that her generation,



and generations to come want to count upon access to the oceans and its resources, and that they are counting on the leadership and commitments made in Malta today.

## SPECIAL ADDRESS

**Adrian Grenier**, Actor, Founder of the Lonely Whale Foundation said that whilst he is an actor, film maker, UN goodwill Ambassador, etc. he was above all a citizen of the world. He is deeply worried by the state of the oceans, and whilst there are lots of conferences and a lot of talking, there is a lot of catching up to do. He said we have all been neglecting our ocean duties, that *"the music is not good"* and is of destruction, and needs to be transposed to address these problems. With 250 concrete commitments over the last three years of Our Ocean, the baton has now passed to Europe. This will be both a trickle down and a trickle up process. Marine pollution is one of the world's most insidious threats and with ten million tonnes of plastic going into the seas each year, an average person who eats shellfish also consumes 11,000 pieces of micro plastic as well. The Lonely Wave Foundation has assisted businesses and consumers to refuse to use the single use plastic straw and are looking to eliminate 15 billion straws. He asked that everyone give up single use straws - everyone stood up and formally pledged to *"stop sucking"*.

## PANEL SESSION: MARINE POLLUTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short video stressing the need to switch to circular economies, to minimise waste and prevent plastics from reaching the sea.

Scene setter: **Afroz Shah**, Lawyer, Environmental Organiser, UN's Environment Champion of the Earth opened by stating that the level of security in entering the conference showed how much energy we can put into protecting what we love, but regretted that so little effort been put into protecting the ocean. He said that we all know the problem of marine litter, and that we should not wait until there are more rules and regulations, as this needs to be addressed now. He mentioned that it had become a personal journey and showed a short video clip of a very contaminated beach in Mumbai. He said there is a need to rekindle ties with the ocean, and that we all need to take care of our environment and do our bit. To date he has participated in picking up 5,000 tonnes of litter, the world's biggest beach clean-up. He finished by saying that cleaning a beach shows a mental commitment to the marine environment, reinstating our connection with nature.

Moderator: **Ayana Johnson**, Founder of Ocean Collectiv, Adjunct Professor at New York University provided some context to the commitments to be given in this panel. She said that one-third of plastic is dumped in the ocean, is transformed into microplastics and that one-third of fish landed in the UK are contaminated. Addressing this will need major commitments, and that with political will, a cultural shift and technological innovation we can get out of this mess.

**Isabella Lövin**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation, Kingdom of Sweden opened by saying that we are all in this together and need to cooperate. She was proud to be announce some new Swedish commitments. Sweden led the first ever UN oceans conference this June. She emphasised the need for strong commitments at all levels and proposed some ambitious programmes for 2018 worth EUR 55 M and EUR 199 M over the next years in 3 main areas: (i) ocean clean-up, removal of hazardous materials, (ii) to combat eutrophication and (iii) responsible plastic management, cleaning up beaches and looking at new alternative materials. She also used Our Ocean 2017 to announce other commitments, inc. EUR 6.3 M in 2018, and EUR 19 M to follow in MPAs and biodiversity conservation. She wants to make Sweden emission-free by 2045, the first coastal nation to do so. The EcoBonus Initiative has been earmarked about

EUR 5.2 M over 3 years annually to move freight from land to sea. She also committed the allocation of EUR 3.7 M over the next three four years for a set of initiatives by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to support governments, industry and society in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Asia Pacific regions in promoting, enacting and enforcing legislation and other measures to contain and reduce marine plastic pollution. She concluded by stating that there is an urgency to this work, and need to “*start walking, not just talking*”. The ocean is owned by no one, but shared by everyone.

**Barbara Hendricks**, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Federal Republic of Germany said that ‘business as usual’ is no longer an option and emphasised the need for joint action. She said that Germany is committed to the OSPAR and HELCOM conventions, with marine litter reduction being very much part of this. Two years ago, Germany made marine conservation a priority and announced the launch of the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter as part of its 2017 G20-Agenda. She said we need to turn our words into actions - Germany is investing EUR 30 M under a Ten Point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries. She announced the launch of the STRONG High Seas Project this year which through the support by Germany and contributions from partners, the project will receive EUR 3.9 M over the next five years to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

**Shuxian Sun**, Deputy Minister, State Oceanic Administration of China acknowledged that as a coastal country China was aware of their reliance on socio-economic development, that the price of pollution has become a common issue, and confirmed that China was committed to achieving the SDG 14. He announced EUR 8 million (USD 9 million) worth national research projects to develop marine micro plastics, jellyfish, red tide, pathogenic microorganisms monitoring and preventing technology and the country’s intention to focus on the elimination of plastic waste pollution in estuaries and bays and to formulate plans for action against pollution from marine wastes. He also announced that by 2020 China will implement the ‘Blue Bay’ renovation project in at least 66 bays and adjacent areas, approximately 70 % of the coastal water quality meets the excellent or good Grade (I or II Grade) for Chinese National Sea Water Quality Standard. China further announced that it will further strengthen the conservation of the natural coastline, to ensure that the mainland shoreline remains at least 35 per cent undeveloped and that MPAs occupy over 11 % of Chinese coastal waters

**Virginie Helias**, Vice President of Sustainability, Procter and Gamble (P&G) said her mission was embedding sustainability into everything P&G did, and reflected that as P&G brands are used by five billion people every day this was very important. She committed to use innovation to reduce double the amount of recyclable plastics our (PCR) packaging by 2020, with the long-term vision of using 100 % recycled materials. P&G have a limited edition Fairy Liquid ‘Beach plastic’ product with 10 % recycled plastic. P&G Dish brands announced it will continue to use 8,000 tonnes of recycled plastic per year in its transparent plastic bottles, using an average of 40 % Post-Consumer Recycled plastic content across 481 million transparent dish care bottles globally.

**Nicky Davies**, Programme Director, The Plastic Solution Fund committing to raise EUR 12.6 M over the next three years to combat single use plastic packaging, with EUR 9 M already committed. She stated that macro-plastics are the tip of the iceberg, and that micro-plastics are a much more intractable problem. She reflected that plastics will account for 44 % of oil production growth, that plastic is not a carbon sink, with recycling a much better solution. The Plastic Solution Fund is funding on upstream solutions to prevent, not cure, the issue and will assist establish zero waste programmes across Asia. She said they want the EU to set ambitious goals for reducing single use packaging.



### Commitments from Island Stages

**France:** France is committed to marine plastic prevention and announced that France will no longer sell cosmetic products containing plastic microbeads by 1 January 2018 and cotton buds with plastic stems by 1 January 2020. They reaffirmed the second expansion of the marine reserve in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands in the Indian Ocean by one million square kilometres by 2022, which already includes a buffer zone. This will enable France to reach a total of 32 % of French waters classified as Marine Protected Areas by 2022. By 2020 France will protect 55,000 ha of mangroves in its overseas territories.

**European Union:** Stated that oil spills are still a main source of pollution, and that EU coastal states are committing EUR 2.85 M to prevent pollution disasters around the EU, with a further EUR 2.5 M to assist cooperation efforts in the EU neighbourhood.

**New Zealand** was pleased to announce two commitments, firstly to ban all ‘wash-off’ products that contain plastic microbeads for exfoliating, cleansing or abrasive cleaning purposes, which will come into effect by May 2018 and secondly to address the issue of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and commends the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI). New Zealand also recognised that ocean acidification is a major threat and was pleased to announce that they had joined the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification.

**Panama** said that in Oct 2016 they had ratified a commitment to the control of ship ballast water management. They also committed that by 2018, they would contribute more than EUR 850 M to the Panama City and bay sanitation project to ensure the marine contamination is reduced and the health of Panama Bay and marine ecosystems are restored. Panama also committed (i) USD 400,000 to marine parks, (ii) establishing national indicators of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and biodiversity and socio-economic progress over 2017 – 2108 and (iii) contributing a million USD over 2016 -2017 in green tourism for the preservation of biodiversity

**USA:** The State Department announced (i) up to EUR 7.6 M over four years for the establishment of a small grants portfolio on waste recycling focusing on municipal waste management and recycling efforts in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam and (ii) a contribution of up to EUR 418,000 to the New Plastics Economy Initiative’s Circular Design Challenge.

**Unilever:** announced via video message its commitment to help transform global plastic packaging material flows by ensuring all of its plastic packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025; increasing its use of recycled plastic content in its packaging to at least 25 % by 2025 (against a 2015 baseline); publishing the full “palette” of plastics materials used in its packaging by 2020 to help create a plastics protocol for the industry; and helping tackle the industry-wide sachet waste issue, by investing in proving, and then sharing with industry, a technical solution to recycle multi-layered sachets.

**The Aquarium Conservation Partnership** announced the elimination of plastic straws and single-use take-away plastic bags in its 19 member aquariums as of 10 July 2017, and the significant reduction or elimination of single-use plastic beverage bottles in member aquariums by 1 December 2020. The ACP also committed to showcasing innovative alternatives to single-use plastic for its millions of visitors. The members of the ACP are committed to allocate annually EUR 210,000 to this cause.

**Borealis AG** committed to zero wastage from production, also to design products for a second life for plastic material, investing EUR 15 M in this. They also announced a EUR 4 M initiative to accelerate waste management improvements in South-East Asia to be rolled out over 2018-2019.

The **Dow Chemical Company** announced EUR 128,100 funding for three new research projects to help solve the issue of plastics marine litter: two projects, one each in Japan and Indonesia, will set up systems to measure the flow of trash into the ocean and will propose solutions to prevent the characterized waste from reaching the ocean. The third project will test the use of non-recycled plastic in roadways in Indonesia.

**ECOALF**: announced that the 'Upcycling the Oceans' project to test plastic recovery from the Mediterranean is now being tested in Thailand. They also announce that the project will be expanded to all the Spanish Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts. Will expand the number of ports from 32 to 60, and from 440 trawlers to 770, removing 200 tonnes of marine debris.

**GEF and the EIB**: announced a EUR 35.9 million (USD 42.3 million) commitment to the MedProgramme. Implemented by UNEP and the EBRD, this builds on the Barcelona Convention. This exciting partnership with investment banks also includes the EIB, reflecting the ocean as a valued asset. A USD seven million GEF contribution will allow MeHSIP to prepare sub-projects leveraging an expected implementation value of USD 500 M.

**Marks and Spencer**: announced that all its plastic packaging in the UK will be 100 % recyclable and widely recycled by 2022. In addition, M&S will assess the feasibility for all its plastic packaging to be made from one polymer group by 2022 to reduce consumer confusion and to improve recycling.

**Ocean Conservancy, the Trash Free Seas Alliance, & Closed Loop Partners, with the support of brands, including Procter & Gamble, 3M, PepsiCo, and plastic makers from the American Chemistry Council and the World Plastics Council**, announced the formation of a new initiative to reduce marine debris through improving waste collection, recycling and reuse. The initiative, which will be led by Closed Loop Partners, aims to create a new funding mechanism to raise over EUR 128 M over five years to improve waste collection, sorting, and recycling markets in SE Asia.

**PepsiCo**: announced via video message its ambition to design 100 % of its packaging to be recyclable, compostable or biodegradable, increase recycled materials in its plastic packaging, reduce packaging's carbon impact, and in partnership with the PepsiCo Foundation, work to increase recycling rates by 2025.

**Think Beyond Plastic** announced a partnership with California State University at Monterey Bay to develop an Innovation Centre with a budget EUR 4.25 M to accelerate commercialisation of research and innovation with a focus on plastic pollution. This centre will offer growing access to material innovation space for development, characterisation and scalability testing by 2020.

The **Volvo Ocean Race** announced that in its 2017-2018 edition single-use plastic consumption in Race Villages will be reduced by at least 80 %, with the objective to ban it entirely from 2019-2020 edition. In addition, Volvo Ocean Race will raise awareness on ocean plastic pollution by advocating "Turn the Tide" message to 3 million visitors to its Host Cities globally; Volvo Ocean Race will host seven 'Ocean Summits' by the June 2018. Finally, Volvo Ocean race will contribute to ocean science by gathering data and monitoring micro plastic pollution on-board race boats over 2017-2018.

**The Werner & Mertz Group**, whose packaging is already 100 % recyclable, committed to use 100 % recycled plastic in at least 70 million bottles each year as of 2017, corresponding to 65 % of its entire annual bottle volume, aiming to go up to 100 % for all its consumer goods packaging by 2025

**Zero Waste Europe**: a European network of NGOs working with 397 zero waste municipalities, announced the allocation of EUR 300,000 over the next three years to include other 20 cities into the network, thus reducing

waste generation by 20 % and increasing recycling by 40 %. They also announced the allocation of EUR 300,000 to involve 16 cities in South East Asia to implement a zero waste strategy by 2020.

The **United Kingdom** announced its commitment to banning the manufacture and sale of plastic microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics and personal care products by the end of June 2018, as well as committing EUR 566,700 (GBP 500,000) to launch a new 'litter innovation fund'. The UK also announced a global partnership on fisheries-related marine litter with the GGGI.

**Sri Lanka:** stated progress from 2016 commitments, including moving toward oil contingency planning and MPA designation, and a new act in 2017 has banned trawl fisheries. They also announced its commitment to make the country polythene-free.

#### **The Ellen MacArthur Foundation Innovation Prize**

Video introduction by **Ellen MacArthur**. **The Ellen MacArthur Foundation's** Circular Design Challenge with EUR 850,000 (USD one million) prize money was launched together with the Prince of Wales's ISU and is funded by Wendy Schmidt. Together with a 12-month accelerator programme, the prize money will help scale design solutions that keep plastics in the economy, and out of the ocean. Commissioner Vella then announced the six winners to be:

1. Waste-free shopping (i) MIWA (Czech Republic); (ii) Algramo (Chile);
2. Single dose sachets: (i) Evoware (Indonesia); (ii) Delta (UK); and
3. Reinventing coffee to go: (i) CupClub (UK); (ii) TrioCup (USA)

#### **PANEL SESSION: MARINE PROTECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Video introduction on MPAs reflecting that they are small in number and poorly resourced. It said we should look to 10 % of the ocean area being protected by 2020, and 30 % by 2030.

Scene setter: **Dr. Enric Sala**, Marine Ecologist and National Geographic Explorer said that MPAs are key to preserving the oceans, with fish abundance 600 % higher than unprotected areas, and that one km<sup>2</sup> of protected gives EUR 12 M income from additional tourism and other economic services. However only 1.5 % of the ocean is fully protected and 1.6 % partially protected.

Moderator: **His Excellency Heraldo Muñoz**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Chile emphasised the role of multiple actors in ocean management. He then announced the creation of three new MPAs totalling 620,152 km<sup>2</sup> with almost 46 percent of Chile EEZ now protection. He also announced a National Committee to Combat IUU Fishing and that Chile is now a cooperating non-contracting party to the IATTC. He was pleased to announce that during Oct 2017 a bill will be sent to the Chile congress to prohibit the use of plastic bags in coastal communities, a first in South America. Finally, Chile is working on a National Oceanic Policy to improve integration between different ministries.

**His Excellency Henry Puna**, Prime Minister, Cook Islands. The Cook Islands is a small island state with a large EEZ of 2 million km<sup>2</sup>. He said that the ocean is the essence of life for our people and that his government had consulted widely with them over the last 5 years. The support was overwhelming – Cook Islanders want the MPA extended from 1.1 M km<sup>2</sup>, to 2 M km<sup>2</sup> and sea bed mining banned in coastal areas (agreed 2 years ago). He announced that 3 months ago, with the passing of the Marae Moana Act 2017 there are now 15 exclusion zones encircling each of the 15 islands of the Cook Islands to 50 nm from shore. The total area of the exclusion

zones is 324,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 16 % of the EEZ. The Cook Islands have committed to 100 % renewable energy by 2020 and have already exceeded 50 % target. He concluded with the sobering message that there are still many countries that are still ignoring the plight of oceans, despite recent efforts and global accords such as the Paris Agreement.

**Dominic LeBlanc**, Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, said that Canada has an interim target to protect five per cent of their waters by the end of 2017. They have established three new MPAs and have a set of new science-based criteria for area based-measures, which can act as refuges. Canada recognises that future MPAs should include a minimum set of management standards and announced that Canada is developing an Advisory Panel to support this. Canada is investing EUR 8,175,916 over four years to protect the Last Ice Area, the only Arctic region expected to retain summer sea ice until 2050. Canada reaffirmed the establishment of the Coastal Restoration Fund, making available around EUR 51 M from 2017-2022 for eligible projects. He finished by committing that Canada will be a valuable and trustworthy partner in ocean protection.

**Dalton Tagelagi**, Minister for Natural Resources, Niue. Marine protection is of great importance to the people of Niue, saying that IUU fishing, the increasing level of fishing effort and climate change are all major threats to Niue. Cyclones are appearing for the first time, coral bleaching and marine litter all impact the marine environment. The government of Niue with various partners would like to announce their intention to make 40 % of the EEZ (127,000 km<sup>2</sup>) as a large-scale MPA encompassing the Beveridge Reef, introducing a ban on commercial fishing over the next three years.

**Jeremy Darroch**, Chief Executive Officer, Sky Corporate. Sky, who have 23 million customers in Europe, became carbon neutral 10 years ago. He said the company was now committed to reducing plastic wastage, and launched the Sky Ocean Rescue initiative at the beginning of 2017. He committed to (i) the removal of all single-use plastics from its operations, products and supply chain by 2020; (ii) EUR 30 M over 5 years to create an Ocean Rescue Innovation Fund; and (iii) a partnership with WWF for the safeguarding MPAs around Europe.

**Wietse van der Werf**, Chief Executive Officer of the Sea Ranger Service presented the first international maritime service, pioneering citizen engagement in environmental monitoring and conservation. He said that it was possible to combine personal passion and with professional resources to create innovative solutions. He reminded everyone that there are 6,500 MPAs in the world, but they lack resources to be patrolled, managed and monitored. From 2018, 17 navy veterans will train more than 300 youth in a two year pilot. This will bring this approach to new counties, with the added benefits of encouraging local ship-building.

### **Commitments from Island Stages**

**Argentina:** Environment Ministry gave a commitment to creating two new MPAs which will increase the area covered to 155,918 km<sup>2</sup> and be a first step to achieve the protection of 10 % of these areas.

**Australia:** stated that 36 % of Australia EEZ is already protected, and the focus is now on good management. The Great Barrier Reef has a 25 year plan with acknowledged best practise, and the government is finalising the next generation management plans. They would be happy to share this experience with others.

**Cambodia:** The Vice-Minister of Fisheries announced a commitment to establish a MPA of 120 km<sup>2</sup> and their commitment to fighting IUU fishing by ratifying the PSMA agreement.

**Costa Rica:** was proud to inform that important actions have been taken, inc. the establishment of Cabo Blanco Marine Management Area MPA (831 km<sup>2</sup>), and enforcing MPA management elsewhere. Costa Rica has started

managing coastal zones with voluntary guidelines for sustainable fisheries and is developing a programme for managing the Tropical Eastern Central Pacific.

**Croatia:** announced an expansion of their MPA network to achieve 11 % coverage. They announced EUR 24 M for establishing 90 Natura 2000 sites and EUR 13 M for marine habitat mapping. By the end of 2018 will have a marine monitoring system, with EUR 10 M over five years. Croatia also announced a five year national capacity building program starting in 2017, to train Natura 2000/MPA managers, spatial and temporal regulation of 20 % of their internal waters.

**Mexico's** representative announced the establishment of Revillagigedo National Park (140,000 km<sup>2</sup>) with a total ban of fishing activities in the area.

**Myanmar** has a coast of 3,000 km and committed to develop a marine spatial plan by 2021 covering around 485,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Myanmar's EEZ.

**Saudi Arabia**, which has long coastlines on both Red Sea and the Gulf is committed to achieving the SDG 14 goals by combatting illegal fishing, and establishing MPAs, planting mangrove trees and reseeded coral reef areas.

**Romania** reaffirmed its commitment to prepare a national plan to enhance institutional capacities and cooperation with maritime sectors to achieve good environmental status in the Black Sea marine region by 2020, notably the protection and preservation of the marine ecosystem.

**Environmental Law Institute:** announced a EUR 1 M programme under a number of areas, inc. (i) decision-making, EIA and MSP, (ii) better MPA enforcement, and (iii) addressing habitat degradation.

**The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers** produce 40 % of the world oil and gas and announced that their updated Seabed Survey Data Model (SSDM) is now freely available.

**Marine Construction Technologies** stated that underwater noise is pervasive over most ocean basins, with long-term and acute impacts. They committed to reduce this by 70-90 % per pile and a reduction of construction-related noise pollution worldwide by 15 per cent by 2022.

**The MAVA Foundation** announced a EUR 17 M commitment to the conservation of marine biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean and West Africa.

**Med ReAct:** announced EUR 360,000 to launch the Adriatic Recovery Project over 2017 to 2020.

**Nekton Labs:** announced a scientific collaboration programme in the Indian Ocean over 2018 – 2021 with six research cruises, culminating in a 'State of the Indian Ocean Summit' in 2021.

**Tara Expeditions:** Committed to financing a major expedition to the Pacific Ocean, looking at coral reefs and micro biomes.

**Saildrone:** announced that by 2022 it will build a global ocean monitoring network consisting of 1,000 wind and solar powered saildrones providing planetary coverage at a 6x6 degree resolution. In addition, from 2018, Saildrone will award 30 days of saildrone-powered data per year (valued at c. EUR 842,000 of research ship time), to the most impactful research project submitted.

## PANEL SESSION: MARITIME SECURITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Scene setter: Sir James Burnell-Nugent**, Senior Fellow, Oceans Beyond Piracy opened by stating that without maritime security, marine economic activities suffer, as 90 % of trade is conducted by sea. He noted that the Stable Sea Maritime Security Index was published in Malta the previous day. He also said that the UN now has full member status for the High Sea and that a collaborate approach is needed to the interconnected issues of maritime security.

**Moderator: His Excellency Robert Dussey**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Togolese Republic opened stating that the first international summit on maritime security on Africa was held last year. He reminded the plenary that the AU Charter for Maritime Security, Safety and Development (the Lomé Charter) has been signed, but whilst progress is being made, there is still a lot of work to do.

**His Excellency Danny Faure**, President, Republic of Seychelles. Opened by stating that in 2009 piracy became a new treat to the national wellbeing, cost of living and GDP of the Seychelles. An international response and UN resolution to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia resulted in a rolling three year action plan in 2010 to combat piracy, but regional capacity to combat piracy is still limited. There is also a need for international cooperation, even as regional capacity builds, he called upon the EU to continue to support maritime security of the Western Indian Ocean, a process due to end in 2018. He concluded by saying that maritime security is essential for a sustainable blue economy, and committed to developing a comprehensive national maritime security strategy over the next year.

**Susi Pudjiastuti**, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia opened by saying that Indonesia is a large archipelago with over 17,000 islands, and thus highly dependent upon maritime resources. She reported that IUU fishing had cost nearly 15 % households, was leading to food insecurity, as well as a loss of export earnings. She said the Government had been very bold in combatting IUU fishing and as a result fish stocks have increased from 7 to 12 million tonnes over the last 2.5 years at a cost of USD 10 million a year. She finished by a call to give the ocean a right to be protected.

**Yury Fedotov**, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Opened by saying that satellite imagery can be used to strengthen capacity-building efforts in maritime surveillance. The UNODC have supported various countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean to better target illegal activities, but said there was a need to address all the value chain. The UNODC has launched a four year project with Norway to strengthen policy and legal frameworks, as well as capacity of prosecuting crimes in the fishery value chain and was committed to support maritime surveillance capabilities.

**François Lombard**, Senior Vice President Head of Intelligence Business, Airbus Defence and Space said the big challenge is to bring cost-effective data to support decision-making. Satellites are very versatile with many different types of sensors and different resolutions. Airbus has ten private satellites that have global coverage and are under-used for maritime uses, so there was a need to bring this new technology to the government and private sector. He said it was possible to track very large areas, so it was essential to develop machine learning for automating this. He finished by saying that Airbus was putting more marine information online via the One Atlas platform.

### Commitments from Island Stages

**Italy:** ensured that in 2018 maritime surveillance via four naval units and 700 personnel will protect vessels and support maritime operations at a cost of EUR 84 M, as well as one naval unit and 200 personnel to train Libyan



Coast Guard personnel at a cost of EUR 43 M. Italy will also invest EUR 200 M in short-term measures on behalf of African countries, both at sea and land for addressing migration and control. In the Western Indian Ocean, Italy will support a EU counter-piracy operation, with one navy unit and 200 personnel over 2018 costing EUR 26.8 M.

**Japan** hosted the first Coast Guard Global Summit in September 2017. As Japan suffers from tsunamis it requires preparedness and awareness-building. Japan is particularly aware that climate change will result in further natural disasters and impact maritime security, and is committed to support space-based observation networks with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

**Fish-I Africa's 'Stop Illegal Fishing'** commits to developing a programme of vigilance in East Africa, covering 500 fishing vessels and will be completed by 2022.

**Indian Ocean Commission:** committed to increase from five to eight the number of states participating in the EU-funded Regional Fisheries Monitoring mechanism in the Southwest Indian Ocean.

**Iridium Satellites** committed to (i) operate a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System from 2020 and (ii) providing Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) services for tracking marine hazards.

**Kongsberg Satellite Services** announced that Space Norway will launch the first of a 10 satellite array to detect IUU worth EUR 830,000.

**Pew:** announced EUR 5 M additional funding to be committed by 2020 towards a global system of enforcement to fight IUU fishing. Pew will include continued work with partners such as Fish-I Africa and Ocean Mind for detecting IUU and supply chain verification.

**Satlink** announced that by 2020 its electronic monitoring software will be extensively enhanced to facilitate footage review, including potential discarding situations and support species' recognition.

**Thales Alenia Space** and its partners with the support of France announced that they will be investing EUR 26 M over four years to support the development of Stratobus - an autonomous stratospheric airship an airship that can fly at an altitude of 20 km for over a year at a time, and can survey objects over a 400 km wide area. The first flight of Stratobus is foreseen for early 2021.

**His Holiness Pope Francis:** A representative of His Holiness Pope Francis spoke. He said that His Holiness took this occasion to highlight a number of issues e.g. human trafficking, slave labour, poor welfare standards, vulnerable coastal communities that need to be addressed at global level. He emphasized the need for multi-lateral governance at local and regional levels. He stated that the conference addresses the common heritage of the human family, and that we cannot ignore the problems of ocean pollution, esp. from plastics that enter the food chain and affect humans and non-humans alike. He concluded by saying that he had the honour of conveying the blessing of His Holiness for the success of the Conference.

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2017

## WELCOME

**Karmenu Vella**, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries welcomed participants back to the second and final day of the conference. He reviewed the various commitments made the previous day, stating that the bar for the second day was set very high, which he was confident would be met. He discussed the importance of innovation in addressing oceanic issues, and then announced that the EU would (i) make millions of euros available for marine spatial planning, (ii) put aside funds for wave and tidal platforms with the environment impact assessment in mind and (iii) make available EUR 10 M for start-up grants for innovation in small companies.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**His Serene Highness Prince Albert II**, Sovereign Prince of Monaco opened by thanking the organisers for their hospitality and for the EU in driving forward the dialogue on ocean governance. He said that Monaco had been supporting MPA development since 1977, and that they are key in tackling climate change and ocean acidification, promoting better carbon storage by flora, and keeping a healthy trophic structure. He considered that the 10 % MPA target was not going far enough and that 30 % coverage was needed. He considered the high seas to be the main challenge – they are half the world’s surface, but are beyond national jurisdiction. He said there is a need for a coherent network of MPAs that are resilient and adaptive, with local participatory decision-making. HSH stated that a land-based environmental policy needs to be integrated into ocean conservation, and particularly highlighted the Beyond Plastic Med Initiative which launched a call for small-scale projects in 2017, and have a EUR 200,000 budget for small projects over 2018. He believed that it is important to involve the private sector in MPA development, as sustainable practises will drive sustainable growth. If 30 % of the sea is to be MPAs, this could generate billions of dollars’ worth of benefits and thousands of jobs, thus encouraging further investment. With France and Tunisia, he had set up a trust fund for MPAs developing in the Mediterranean and that in 2018 there is a EUR 250,000 budget for further projects.

## PANEL SESSION: BUILDING THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY OF TOMORROW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short video stating that the blue economy is worth 1.3 trillion euros, due to double by 2030 (OECD).

Scene setter: **Hans Bruyninckx**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency. Opened stating that the blue economy has great potential, but warned that we must not unleash an ‘offshore goldrush’ and must learn from the oldest blue economy, fisheries. Fisheries has suffered extensively from many issues, such as the lack of enforced legislation and a subsidies system has been a major driver for non-sustainability. But we now see that good policies and enforceable legislation have allowed fisheries to bounce back. He then said that we need to recognise that the economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is different to the 20<sup>th</sup> century – it must be an ecosystems-based, low carbon circular economy, based upon financial, natural, social & cultural and human capital. Finance is often over-valued, with others under-valued. He then announced that the EEA was launching the ‘Wise Marine Information System for Europe’ to assist decision-makers build a sustainable blue economy.

**Moderator: Pascal Lamy**, Former Member of the European Commission, Former Director General of the WTO, Former Global Ocean Commissioner and President Emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute started by reminding us that the WWF had published a study that concluded that oceans should sit at the G20 table and that this is a good starting vision. There are five main areas of environmental impact: tourism, fisheries, energy, minerals and biotechnology development. He reflected that innovation is important to provide new data and scientific solutions. Finance is also essential, esp. for global infrastructure, systems and partnerships. He concluded by emphasising the need to establish the right conditions for sustainable blue economic growth.

**Neven Mimica**, Member of the European Commission, responsible for International Cooperation and Development opened by saying the doubling of the blue economy by 2030 is threatened by climate change and marine pollution. SDG 14 and the Paris Agreement both recognise the importance of sustainable development, and the EU is committed to honouring these global agreements. The EU has been supporting the fight against IUU fishing, building capacity at both country and international levels and that yesterday Mr. Mimica had signed a new Pacific Europe Marine Project worth EUR 45 M, supporting fisheries, climate change and marine biodiversity conservation. He added that EUR 8.5 M is being pledged to the Caribbean basin, EUR 20 M for MPAs in ACP countries and EUR 23 M to support the Copernicus satellite-based oceanic monitoring. He concluded by saying that the EU was teaming up with the IMO in a EUR 10 M project setting up five marine cooperation centres. These initiatives add up to over 100 million euros and demonstrate our commitment to sustainable blue economic development and meeting the SDG 14 goals

**Laura Tuck**, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank announced a total of EUR 296 M over the next six years to advance the sustainable oceans and Blue Economy agenda in developing countries. This includes EUR 102 M to improve the management of fisheries in the South West Indian Ocean region (Madagascar, Seychelles, Maldives and the Indian Ocean Commission), with co-financing from the Global Environment Facility and Japan; EUR 34 M to innovate fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Peru; EUR 126 M for Vietnam to enhance coastal resilience; EUR 20 M for the Marshall Islands to strengthen early warning systems, support climate resilient investments in shoreline protection, and assist with crisis and emergency responses; EUR 15 M to improve solid waste management in the Maldives; and technical assistance (with financial support from Denmark) to help Indonesia develop an action plan to reduce marine plastic pollution.

**Jonathan Taylor**, Vice President, European Investment Bank said that the EIB lends around 80 billion euros, with 20 % of funds to climate change and the marine environment. He announced the EIB's three commitments as (i) a EUR 110 M loan to the Caribbean Development Bank for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, (ii) EUR 16.7 M in the Sustainable Ocean Fund (SOF) with an initial portfolio on Latin America Africa and Asia and (iii) EUR 30 M for research and development loan to Amadeite via the European Fund for Strategic Investment for biotechnology development.

**Adam Goldstein**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Caribbean Cruises said that half their ships are flagged in Malta. RCC announced a new partnership with WWF that would commit that by 2020, RCC will reduce by 35 % its greenhouse gas emissions from a 2005 baseline; increase the procurement of sustainable seafood certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (to 65 % by 2020) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (to 75 % by 2020); offer education to its 60,000 crew members and five million guests on ocean conservation; and offer 1,000 tours certified to the Global Sustainable Tourism Council standard to consumers visiting RCC's 500 worldwide ports of call. He finished by saying that the WWF will verify these commitments by 2020, so please keep tuned.

**Julien Marshal**, Vice President, Naval Energies believes marine renewable energies will decarbonise the blue economy. With energy demand rising by 30 % by 2030, this will need to include tidal, wind and ocean

temperature energy conversion. Naval Energy committed to (i) continue developing sustainable ocean energy solutions for SIDS, (ii) developing OTEC technologies in French Overseas territories, (iii) developing tidal energy in big tidal areas of France and Canada and (iv) build a tidal turbine factory with 40 jobs, and capable of constructing 25 turbines a year and commit to delivering 35 tidal turbines by 2020 in Canada, France, Ireland and the UK with 70 MW capacity.

**Maria Damanaki**, Global Managing Director for Oceans, The Nature Conservancy gave a presentation entitled 'The seen and unseen value'. She emphasised the need to be solution, not problem focused. Her vision is to have a 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean'. She emphasised the need to give a value to marine environmental assets by mapping ocean wealth, stating that corals reefs can contribute USD 36 billion per year to economies and can reduce wave energy down by 97 %. She said there was a need to leverage money via innovative financial tools such as Blue Bonds. These efforts would target more than 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> of new MPAs and upwards of USD 200 M in funding for their management and adaptation to climate change. She concluded by stating that the way forward is to mainstream the blue economy through engagement at Ministerial level.

#### **Commitments from Island Stages**

**Malta** committed to establish and maintain a new government body by Jan 2018 with the remit of studying, protecting, preserving, managing and educating on the country's rich underwater cultural heritage with a budget of EUR 1.6 million over 3 years.

**Belgium** announced two commitments, to (i) adopt a federal action plan to combat marine litter by end of 2017, inc. beach clean-ups, awareness raising and (ii) align the 2014 Marine Spatial Plan with the SDG 14 targets by 2019.

The **EU** committed EUR 215 M to fund marine research under Horizon 2020, EUR 40 M to support water basin management, EUR 12 M to combat marine litter, EUR 50 M for a resilient Mediterranean and EUR 60 M to enhance cooperation with Brazil and other Atlantic coastal states. The EU also committed the enhancing knowledge transfer via a Blue Science Cloud.

**France:** has set to double its blue economy by 2030, and will develop by 2020 a global approach for planning marine spaces through strategic development through combining implementation of the national strategy and the framework directive. France also announced it would ratify the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) by 2019. This is part of France's commitment to improve working conditions and training in the shipping and fisheries sectors

**Greece** has over 18,400 km of coastline and commits to expanding MPAs coverage from six per cent to more than 20 % by 2020 in territorial waters, as well as expanding their Natura 2000 network.

**Ireland** stated it was pleased to allocate EUR 6 M for seabed mapping. Ireland also committed to reducing marine litter and announced a roll out of marine environment education for all Irish schools from 2017 onwards and will continue to fund the Clean Coast programme over 2017 with EUR 320,000. Ireland announced the extension of their Fishing for Litter campaign to 2 more ports.

The **UK** announced EUR 9.1 M between 2017 and 2018 to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to preserve their marine environments and tap into maritime resources to catalyse economic development in a sustainable way across Commonwealth countries.

**USA:** USAID announced a partnership with the Walton Family Foundation to jointly support long-term conservation work in the biologically-rich Bird's Head Seascape area of the West Papua and Papua provinces of Indonesia through a EUR 4.2 M three year grant to the Blue Abadi Fund.

The 43 country **Union for the Mediterranean** announced their agreement to set up by February 2018 a Task Force on Environment in order to facilitate the implementation, among others, of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean, which is joining efforts of all committed stakeholders in addressing the 80 % of the sources of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by the year 2020. They also announced the launch of the Virtual Knowledge Centre (VKC) on Blue Economy as a regional networking platform on maritime affairs by the end of 2018.

**UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** and **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** reaffirmed that during 2017-2018 they will hold a series of capacity building events on Blue Economy in the Pacific which will further explore and highlight the potential contribution of the deep-sea mining industry to support national and regional development priorities.

**Althelia Ecoscope** and partners announced scalable approaches to support the development of a sustainable blue economy. This would include putting USD 50 M into a portfolio of projects, including sustainable seafood and supply chains, and coastal infrastructure for pollution control.

**Calysta:** reaffirmed that production of their fishmeal substitute FeedKind would reach 20,000 tonnes by 2019 and 200,000 tonnes by 2024 without negatively impacting agricultural or water resources on land.

**Conservation International** announced that together with the **Natural Capital Coalition**, they are (i) developing natural capital protocols for oceans, (ii) developing a multi-million dollar Blue Accelerator Fund and (iii) are working with Costa Rica to use satellite monitoring for potential IUU detection.

**Federazione Imprese & CONFALIS** announced the launch of the Foundation CSMARE in July 2017 as a specifically purpose-designed tool of private origin and public partnership. EUR 15 M has been committed by 2022 to seek alternative marine fuels.

**The Grimaldi Group** announced a program to build a new generation of hybrid ro-ro vessels, costing two billion euros over four years. These will have 100 % increase in cargo capacity, with high levels of green technology, inc. air lubrication systems and large lithium battery packs, leading to a reduction in emissions of 50 % per sea cargo on short-sea route between North Italy and Spain by 2020.

**The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO** committed that (i) IOC member states develop projects for scientific advances in oceanic conservation and management, (ii) with the support of Sweden, dedicate EUR 211,975 by 2018 to develop an ocean school programme to foster ocean literacy; and (iii) with the EU, launch a global road map by 2030 for Marine Spatial Planning.

The **North Adriatic Sea Port Authority (NASPA)** announced its commitment to promote the renewal and expansion of the Venice Blue Flag Agreement in 2018 and 2019; to reduce particular matter cruise emissions of more than 40 % at a local scale by using MDO/MGO fuel.

**Sea Europe:** committed EUR 500 M of investment to deploy, demonstrate and promote on-board and on-shore ballast water treatment solutions.

**Australia** committed to three areas of support, (i) EUR 1.3 M for the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Project, (ii) EUR 2.8 M for a four-year investment to increase capacity in Pacific island countries (PICs) to combat IUU fishing and (iii) support to fisheries management across the Pacific.

## PANEL SESSION: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short video introduction.

Opening address: **Steven Adolf**, Author and Researcher stating that tuna are iconic fish, with an annual catch of five million tonnes, worth USD 42 billion. New market-led partnerships have improved sustainability, and good stock management has led to the recovery of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean.

Scene setter: **Dr. Sloans Kalumba Chimatiro**, Focal Country Director, WorldFish spoke on the need for a human-centred approach, and that one euro's worth of fish landed produced three euros in income down the value chain. He said fish also has an essential food security role, and it is more cost-effective to manage fisheries and oceans than replace lost incomes with alternative livelihoods. He concluded that we need policies to support the role of small-scale fishers to act as stewards for coastal waters.

Moderator: **Steve Trent**, Executive Director, Environmental Justice Foundation said the oceans absorb 30 % of global CO<sub>2</sub> and produces more O<sub>2</sub> than all the world's forests together. But 90 % of fish stocks are overfished, with IUU fishing taking one in every four fish and is often associated with other crimes. We need to eradicate flags of convenience, have an open vessel registry and introduce VMS to all boats. He said we have technology, logistics and the finance, but need the political will which is why this conference is so important. Action today can save our oceans for tomorrow.

**Premdut Koonjoo**, Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Republic of Mauritius said there is a strong need to protect the oceans from the effects of climate change, over-fishing and marine pollution. The Paris Agreement and adoption of SDG 14 shows international commitment to address global issues. He said there is a need to reduce our vulnerability to exogenous shocks, and that by harnessing ocean resources, the issue of poverty, unemployment and ecological imbalances can be tackled. Ocean-based industries are likely to increase in importance in future, esp. offshore aquaculture, renewable energy and biotechnology, but these must be used in a sustainable way, and this conference will provide a platform for addressing these key challenges. Mauritius has five commitments to the ocean economy, (i) it will launch in 2018 an assessment of all the fishing vessels operating in the waters of the IOC States to study their identity, history, ownership and activities, (ii) will establish up of 20 coral nurseries over 2018-22, (iii) will develop a Marine Spatial Plan by 2021, (iv) launch an ocean data management project to improve data accessibility in 2018 and (v) announced to increase research on the possible link of contaminated seafood consumption with the rise in diseases such as cancer.

**Ana Paula Vitorino**, Minister of Sea, Portuguese Republic started with saying that we have to be aware there is no 'Plan B' for the ocean or the planet. Portugal, as an EU member, gives high priority to the sustainability of fishing stocks and is committed to achieving MSY by 2020, fighting IUU fishing and ensuring catch documentation and traceability (CDT). This has been supported by two approaches, co-management with Producer Organisations and the creation of MPAs, with an aim to develop 14 MPAs by 2020. Portugal is committing to: (i) by 2020 to introduce new legislation for restricting the introduction of non-indigenous species, (ii) increasing the funding of deep sea scientific research and (iii) putting EUR 3 M for information and communication technology upgrades.



**José Graziano da Silva**, D-G, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said millions of people, mostly in small-scale fisheries (SSF), rely on fish for a living and risk being further marginalised by the failures in management. FAO announced to invest more than EUR 422,000 through the Blue Hope Project that will initially involve three coastal countries along the Mediterranean. Mr. da Silva reiterated his support for the FAO Port States Agreement (PSMA) and said that in addition to the EU, 47 countries have now ratified the agreement. At the first meeting of PSMA signatories in May 2017, FAO committed USD 25 M to support PSMA roll-out. He made three pledges to the conference (i) to continue supporting the adoption of the PSMA, (ii) to increase the resilience of small scale fisheries; and (iii) redouble efforts to work with ILO to support workers in fisheries and aquaculture.

**Guy Ryder**, D-G, International Labour Organization said that 350 million people depend upon the ocean for their livelihoods, but that there are significant issues still in maritime working conditions, ranging from long hours, hazardous conditions, forced labour, child labour to trafficking, damaging both individuals and the reputation of the sector. ILO therefore committed to (i) supporting the Work in Fishing Convention, No. 188 entering into force in Nov 2017, (ii) expand upon its activities for the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention which now covers 90 % of mariners, (iii) will support the rights of migrant fishers and (iv) announced EUR 1.5 M in 2018 to implementing projects to combat unacceptable forms of work and human trafficking in the fishing and seafood industry.

**Arthur Min**, Vice President, Vulcan said that advanced technology can allow government to access real-time information for the identification of IUU fishing activities. Vulcan has committed USD 40 M into the development of Sky Light, a technology platform to support fisheries governance and research programmes and will leverage science, media, and technology to deliver this programme. Working initially with Gabon, Vulcan's strategy is to scale up impact through Sky Light, opening it up to other partners in 2018.

**Lasse Gustavsson**, Senior Vice President and Executive Director, Oceana Europe said that there are 7.6 billion people on earth, with 815 million people going hungry. IUU fishing steal fish from legitimate users and destroys habitats and Oceana is delighted to announce that global insurance industry leaders including Allianz AGCS, AXA, Hanseatic Underwriters, Generali, and The Shipowners' Club have signed a statement committing to not insure or facilitate the insuring of IUU fishing vessels. This will reduce the risk of laundering money through fraudulent insurance claims.

#### **Commitments from Island Stages:**

**Korea:** announced EUR 85 M between 2017 and 2027 for the establishment of the World Fisheries University and reaffirmed its commitment to invest EUR 4.5 M to support the establishment and operation of a Marine Acidification Monitoring system over 2017 and 2021.

The **Philippines** has overhauled of its fisheries law, with all fisheries to have science-based management plans by 2022. In 2017 the government appropriated USD 12.3 M for the expansion of their VMS, covering 35 % registered vessels by 2022. The Philippines will also ratify the PSMA and commit to addressing marine pollution to reduce pollution by 50 %.

**Spain** announced it will join France and Malta in the Marine Charter and will achieve by 2020 its 10 % MPA target. Spain will focus on multi-disciplinary approach to capacity-building in marine environmental issues and commit to stop plastic bags use by 2020. Spain will combat IUU fishing via ISO 9000 certification and have subscribed to the ILO Convention for their high seas tuna fleet.

**Thailand** will also ratify ILO Convention for improving working standards at sea. They will integrate the SDGs goals into national policy, look at CDT for preventing IUU fishing and commit to target of 10 % MPA coverage by 2030.

The **USA** announced a partnership with the Walton Family Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to jointly launch a Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability (SALT) with USAID awarding an EUR 4.4 M five-year cooperative agreement.

**The African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organisations** committed to supporting gender equality and plan to implement the FAO commitments to sustainable SSF.

**Bolton Alimentari** and **WWF** announced a new partnership to supply 100 % of Bolton Alimentari seafood from sustainable sources by 2024. This partnership will support well-managed fisheries, foster transparency along the seafood supply chain and increase consumer's awareness on the importance of sustainable seafood. The partnership entails a financial commitment made by Bolton Alimentari of EUR 1.6 M from 2017-2020.

**Carrefour** will stop using free plastic bags in their stores and in partnership with WWF will sell 50 % of its fish as sustainable by 2022.

**EcoHub** use technology to support value-chain development. They provide CDT solutions via mFISH, using low bandwidth 2 G cellular networks. EcoHub commits launching in seven new markets in Asia in local languages, and is currently designing a block gear mechanism called FishCoin.

**GFCM** announced EUR 19.6 M by 2020 under its mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries to help implement SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda.

**GEF** announced a EUR 19 M investment in fisheries, with projects in the Caribbean (with WB & FAO) and in West Africa (with the WB).

**International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)** which represents 75 % of tuna supply announced that (i) in order to combat IUU, companies must trace all products to species and area of capture and (ii) that all fish aggregating devices (FADs) must be ecological and non-entangling.

The **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** announced its commitment to engage 20 % of global marine catch in its program by 2020, supporting productivity and resilience in globally important marine ecosystems. This will be achieved by expanding the number of key Large Marine Ecosystems in which more than 20 % of the marine catch is MSC certified, and growing the number of key commercial species, and fisheries in the Global South, engaged in the MSC program.

**Nofima**, the Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries & Aquaculture Research announced investment of EUR 1.5 M over 2018-2020 to improve socially and economically sustainable seafood production.

The **Organization of Associated Producers of Large Tuna Freezers (OPAGAC)** announced that it will apply the AENOR standard for responsible tuna fishing and apply social conditions on board fishing vessels in line with the 2007 Work in Fishing Convention of the ILO and (ii) in partnership with WWF, is looking toward MSC certification by 2021 for all OPAGAC catches.

**Partnership for Sharks and Rays** has committed USD eight million to projects in different countries in order to limit the trade in CITES listed species.

**Rare** commits to mobilize EUR 84.7 M by 2021 and capitalise a EUR 15.3 M Impact Fund by October 2017 in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries. Rare commits to building the capacity of local communities and partners, supporting national policy and value chain improvements to reduce the threat from overfishing in more than 320,000 km<sup>2</sup> hectares of coastal waters and engage more than one million fishers in sustainable fishing practices in at least ten countries globally.

**Thai Union** announced a strategy to ensure 100 % of all of its tuna brands (including John West, Genova, Chicken of the Sea, MareBlu, Petit Navire and SEAELECT) are to be sustainably sourced with a commitment of achieving a minimum of 75 % by 2020. Thai Union will invest EUR 77 M in initiatives to achieve this objective and allied with a number of partners including WWF, MSC, Legambiente and the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative. In agreement with Greenpeace, Thai Union also agreed to a comprehensive package of reforms to improve tuna traceability and reduce bycatch.

**WWF** committed to promote SSF in the Mediterranean, working with other NGOs and GFCM in eight countries to fill data gaps, develop co-management schemes and increase market access.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan.** Her Majesty said she was encouraged by the progress made by the conference so far, and congratulated Commissioner Vella on its organisation. She acknowledged her passion for marine conservation and shared her experience from the Middle East, a region much affected by climate change and other issues. She emphasised that ocean health is a matter of national and global security, with vulnerable groups being disproportionately affected by climate change and other impacts. Environmental issues are having dangerous effects right now, with Arab countries having over 30,000 km of coastline threatened by coastal development, overfishing and marine pollution. Jordan has played a long and proud role in environmental management, and associated socio-economic development, where empowering communities has been key to increasing resilience and multi-stakeholder engagement is critical to leverage efforts. HM Queen Noor said that she had faith that together we can make a difference. The Islamic Statement on Climate Change is also an important turning point in the Arab World, moving towards a greener (and blue) economy. She also reflected on similar statements from other religions, emphasising a united global will to promote sustainable living. She concluded by saying that we have not yet fully capitalised on the leverage of our faith leaders around the world for both the short and long term good.

## PANEL SESSION: CLIMATE-RELATED IMPACTS ON THE OCEAN AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short introductory video.

**Scene setter: Ove Hoegh-Guldberg,** Director of the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland opened by saying that we have long regarded the ocean to be a massive global sink, but we now know this not to be true. With 49 % of the Great Barrier Reef over two years and the recent storms in the Caribbean, this is truly a catastrophic time. Business as usual has failed, so there is a need for new business models and strong action on global emissions. This will require hard decisions e.g. leaving 95 % of fossil fuels in the ground, together with a shift to renewable energy sources, with carbon being priced fairly. We also need to build social and economic resilience to climate change and allow conditions for unfettered innovation. In summary there is a need to move beyond finger pointing, so everyone work together, with everyone committing not to destroy the future of our children.

**Moderator: José María Figueres**, Former President of Costa Rica, former Co-Chair of the Global Ocean Commission, co-founder of Ocean Unite and President of the Carbon War Room opened with saying that 'maths does not lie' - having reached 400 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> the world has a major problem that needs to be addressed urgently, as oceans produce 50 % of oxygen, fix 25 % of CO<sub>2</sub> and has absorbed 93 % of global heating since 2015. This is resulting in global warming, with five per cent of the global population vulnerable, we have lost 50 % of coral reefs since 1970, there will be ice free areas by 2025 and seas are warming, dramatically affecting climate. Essentially, the world is becoming uninsurable, in personal, business and global economy levels. He said we need to decouple emissions from development and move from a low carbon economy to a blue economy. He concluded by saying he was an optimist, and that we can mitigate the effects of climate change, and create new opportunities through blue development.

**David Dingle**, Chairman, Carnival UK said that they have pioneered the use of liquid natural gas in the cruise industry, with lower sulphur emissions, >95 % reduction in particulates, an 85 % reduction in nitrous oxides and 25 % reduction in carbon emissions. Carnival started using LNG in ports in 2015, and have introduced dual fuel engines. The next step is the launching of seven cruise ships fully powered by LNG being delivered over 2018 – 2022. This will not be simple or cheap, as there are a number of technical challenges, but he looked forward to the prospect of an emission-free industry.

**Thorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir**, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Iceland stated that the "ocean gives, and the ocean takes". She said that Iceland is highly dependent upon the ocean for its existence, and whilst climate change has impacted on the distribution of fish stocks, it was possible to adapt and thrive. She said that sea temperature rise, ocean pollution and acidification are deeply troubling and there is a need for science-based solutions from a combination of academia, private sector and innovators at a global level. She concluded by saying Iceland has a 30 year project to map all its EEZ, and is developing precautionary harvest control rules for Icelandic fisheries. She finished by saying that we need to collaborate, so "*all hands on deck*".

**Simon Stiell**, Minister of Blue Economy and Education, Grenada. The Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise below 2° C and if possible below 1.5° C gave us small islanders hope but sadly we are no nearer to achieving these goals. With 2020 just around the corner, this commitment has lost its vigour. Over USD 100 billion damage has resulted from the recent hurricanes and the war has come to small islands, even if the SIDS did not start it. He stated that climate change is reality and that SIDS are particularly vulnerable, resulting in a need for a quantum shift in behaviour, especially by the larger countries. He went on to say that Grenada is pursuing a blue growth pathway, including establishing a Blue Innovation institution, and Blue Coastal Master Plan, and is working with funding agencies to develop new funding instruments. He concluded by saying that let's not waste another two decades before acting and then challenged the world to act now.

**John Frank**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Microsoft committed to make their artificial intelligence and cloud technologies available to ocean sciences, as much modern technology is unaffordable and inaccessible to many scientists. Microsoft have committed EUR 1.7 M in the form of grants to artificial intelligence (AI) and data science tools and associated training packages. The "AI for Earth EU Oceans Award" will allocate some of these funds exclusively to work on oceans with EU-based research institutions and is intended to attract innovators from around Europe.

**José Soares dos Santos**, Chairman, Oceano Azul Foundation said there is a growing momentum to address global oceanic issues, but there is a need for business to come forward to act. With 1.5 million visits to the Oceanário de Lisboa, reaching 150,000 children, the aquarium is a privileged window to the environment. The Foundation has committed EUR 81 M to date, including the purchase of the aquarium, and has also committed

EUR 0.5 M for the next five years in order to empower local fishing communities to cooperatively manage their fisheries.

**France** announced that, in accordance with the Paris Agreement objectives on climate change, that it will ban hydrocarbon production on its territory by the 2040's. France also stated it was carrying out impact assessment of EUR 0.25 M for setting up a large region with low CO<sub>2</sub> and sulphur emissions in the Mediterranean. France made a number of other commitments, including EUR 0.8 M to support eight research projects to advance scientific understanding of ocean acidification, and its impacts on marine biodiversity; a EUR 1.5 M commitment to protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems in the Northern Mozambique Channel; and EUR 1.2 M to a marine restoration project in Costa Rica.

The **UK** spokesperson said the BBC Blue Planet 2 has shown the impact of climate change on wildlife, and that ocean acidification is a fundamental threat to the oceanic food web, affecting cold water corals. The UK therefore commits one million pounds to address this issue. The UK also announced EUR 5.8 M for marine projects through the Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus competitive grant schemes in developing countries and the UK Overseas Territories in 2017.

**The USA:** a NOAA spokesperson announced four commitments: (i) an Arctic Observing Network initiative, (ii) will expand the Pier-2-Peer scientific mentorship program from 49 to 60 active pairs of scientists by the 2018 Our Ocean conference, (iii) allocated EUR 0.36 M through the International Atomic Energy Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative to the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center (OA-ICC) and (iv) designation of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve in Hawaii for long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship.

The **International Chamber of Shipping** announced to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to mitigate increases in ocean temperatures and prevent acidification by: (i) maintaining international shipping's annual total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions below 2008 levels; and (ii) reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne-km by at least 20 % by 2022, compared to 2008.

**The BNP Paribas Foundation** committed EUR 1.5 M to two research projects to enhance scientific knowledge on climate change impact on two major ecosystems: coral reefs and polar systems.

**The Clean Arctic Alliance** commented about the risks of using heavy marine oil in Arctic and looked to broaden support for a worldwide ban for the use of heavy oil in the Arctic.

**Conservation International** considers mangroves as a 'super ecosystem' and announced the formation of the Global Mangrove Alliance with an ambitious goal to halt mangrove loss and increase mangrove coverage by 20 % by 2030.

**Coral Vita:** reaffirmed its commitment to transplant 5,000 climate change resilient corals by 2020 from its Caribbean pilot coral farm. It announced that it will launch the first large-scale farm by 2021.

**GEF:** announced EUR 17.8 investments to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities in coastal areas vulnerable to climate change in Mozambique, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and the Mediterranean.

**HAROPA:** committed to improve its waste management and circular economy strategy by 2020, by removing all floating wastes from its ports and establishing a fluvial platform in the Port of Paris.

**The International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification** now have 48 members, supporting ocean acidification action plans, and commit to grow membership to over 60 in 2018 and produce two Action Plans in 2019.

**Aker Biomarine** announced EUR 0.83 M over the next five years to the Antarctic Wildlife Research Fund to further its work on promoting and facilitating research on the Antarctic ecosystem.

**MAN Diesel and Turbo** pledged EUR 2 M to 10 LNG-retrofits to improve environmental efficiency & footprint of existing vessels.

**The Ocean Foundation** announced a EUR 1.05 M initiative for the ocean acidification capacity building for 2017 and 2018, particularly for developing nations.

**The Surfrider Foundation Europe** announced three commitments: (i) the launch of the #ResetyourHabit campaign to creating awareness on the impact of single-use water plastic bottles, (ii) it will work in partnership with ship-owners and key maritime stakeholders to reduce shipping emissions through the promotion of a label for sustainable shipping in France by 2025; and (iii) with a number of partners, announced the launch of the LIFE LEMA marine litter project.

**The Wildlife Conservation Society** announced (i) the development of working groups to support marine conservation with the Science for Nature and People (SNAP) partnership and (ii) with a number of partners, reaffirmed their commitment to develop noise reduction targets in ocean areas.

**The World Economic Forum** is further developing its partnership for enabling the end to end traceability of tuna by 2020, including opening an office in San Francisco.

**XL Catlin** announced its commitment to spend between EUR 2.1 and EUR 2.5 M over 2017-2018 on its Ocean Risk Initiative, as well as continue funding the XL Catlin Oceans Education program, which aims to increase ocean literacy by reaching 10 million children by 2020.

## REPORT FROM THE YOUTH EVENT.

**Daniela Fernandez**, Founder and CEO, Sustainable Oceans Alliance reported back on the Youth Event saying there were three main takeaways (i) young people feel excluded from the important discussions that matter to our future, (ii) that the next generation understand that multi-sectoral cooperation is essential and (iii) that young people need access to funding to ensure their visions come to life. She concluded by saying how excited she was to announce that the Sustainable Oceans Alliance will be launching the @SOAlliance Ocean Solutions Accelerator to give access to expertise and other resources worldwide.

## OUR OCEAN LEADERSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scene setter: **Kristina Maria Gjerde**, Senior High Seas Advisor to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Global Marine and Polar Programme focused on areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), saying a new strategy to promote global law, scientific research and new resources was needed to build the capacity for this agenda. She said that the Census for Marine Life reminded us to the inter-connectedness of the oceans and the need for urgent action through a joint strategy to address issues such as ocean acidification and marine pollution. A new globally binding agreement for the ocean ABNJ was needed, including MPAs and environmental impact assessments to reduce degradation and build resilience. She said the time is now for the identification of ocean sustainability funds, possibly through a 'World Bank for the oceans'. She concluded by saying that there is a need to forge alliances amongst governments to move forward so we don't miss this opportunity to start addressing key issues in ocean governance and conservation.



**Moderator: His Excellency John Kerry**, Visiting Distinguished Statesman, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former US Secretary of State, United States of America started by declaring that results of the last four years of 'Our Ocean' events shows it can make a difference, with 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of additional MPAs declared this year alone. But he pleaded that these commitments are met, and a structure is developed to guarantee forward motion. He said that these commitments are based on common sense, as well as science and the marshalling of facts. The challenge is now whether we will move fast enough or not? The growing instability of the eastern ice sheet in the Antarctic is a sign that this situation is critical. People in power have to make hard decisions and every day counts. Paris was a 'first' in that 195 nations agreed a course and is already leveraging some effects. He went on to say that good energy policies are the key to the climate crisis, with renewables becoming more efficient and cost-effective. He noted that USD 12 trillion is sitting in net negative interest funds waiting to be used. He said that this Conference should be the start of a multi-lateral political movement like the Earth Day, progressing holistic decisions to address multiple problems, such as IUU fisheries. He finished by saying he believed that the tide is turning, but want to remind of what Rachel Carson wrote 70 years ago in that it is "*A curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself*".

**His Excellency Tommy Remengesau**, President, Republic of Palau opened by saying that the success of the conferences can be measured in two ways: commitments levels are one of them, but the second is the number of sustained partnerships developed. He went on to say that the ocean is sick and will die if we don't cure it, and that fully protected MPAs are a proven path to healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. However, he emphasised, there must be a move to protect areas in the high seas and called upon the international community to take responsible actions – for instance whilst Palau has an MPA the size of France and banned shark fishing, there is still a need to protect areas outside their borders. He concluded by saying he was proud to announce that the 2020 venue for the 'Our Ocean' conference would be Palau.

**Her Excellency Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ghana thanked the EU for supporting the 2017 Our Ocean conference. She said that Ghana's President is committed to addressing the changes of marine pollution, and that the sensitive Ghanaian coasts are threatened by pollution, and must be addressed by a holistic approach to sustainable development. Ghana passed the Marine Pollution Act in 2016 and wants to reduce plastic pollution and to designate the first Ghana MPA by 2025. As an oil producing nation, Ghana needs to balance economic development and environmental management. This is a transboundary issue, so Ghana has established a number of coordination mechanisms in the Gulf of Guinea. New and innovative mechanisms, such as PPPs, and civil society empowerment, are essential to reverse this cycle of decline. She concluded by saying that establishing goals does not guarantee a result - you need strategies and action to achieve results, and the time to act is now.

**Vidar Helgesen**, Minister of Climate and the Environment, Kingdom of Norway opened by saying that keeping oceans alive is a matter of life itself. The USD 83 billion lost each year due to illegal fishing, rising seawater temperatures and ocean acidification are the three key issues now, demonstrating that the full and swift implementation of the Paris Agreement is now paramount. He said that Norway has a new strategy in ocean economics and two new MPAs have been declared since the last conference. Norway is also prioritising plastic pollution, which he described as "*an outrage*" and that it is "*the modern day sea monster*". A vision for zero plastic waste is needed and Norway has allocated 150 M NOK (c. EUR 16 M) for developing countries in addressing marine litter, and Norway will raise EUR 40 to 50 M annually to reduce plastic packaging and bags. Norway is also supporting efforts against IUU fishing, supporting PSMA roll-out with EUR 1.1 M. Finally, he announced Norway's support to a FAO project to enhance awareness of governments and other stakeholders

at global, regional and national level on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty reduction at a cost of around EUR 2.5 M.

**Arif Havas Oegroseno**, Deputy Minister of the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. Maritime Affairs, Republic of Indonesia said that Indonesia had recently announced their first Ocean Policy with 77 strategic programmes for resource management, MCS and maritime diplomacy. The country has a National Plan of Action (NPOA) on marine debris, aiming to reduce this by 70 % by 2015 and has also just launched an Alliance for Marine Plastic Solutions (AMPS). Indonesia will expand MPA coverage to 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> by 2020. Indonesia is also suffering from sea level rise, and is establishing a forum for archipelagos and SIDS to meet on a regular basis to compact climate change-related issues. **Susi Pudjiastuti**, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia introduced next year's Our Ocean conference in 2018 in Bali, Indonesia and urged a higher attendance of political leaders from around the world.

**Katuska Drouet**, Minister for Aquaculture and Fisheries, Republic of Ecuador said that she wanted to boost the living standard of her people, but in a sustainable manner, as the loss of resources and environmental degradation can lead to the loss of jobs and livelihoods. She said there is a need to combine science, economic and social awareness to change our approach, and Ecuador is developing environmentally-friendly technologies in order to respond to the most demanding markets. The country is determined to combat IUU fishing and marine plastic pollution, as well as establish further MPAs. She concluded by saying that the only way we can repair the damage we have caused is to stand together.

**John Kerry** concluded the session, saying that every speaker spoke about plastic, over-fishing and the need for fisheries enforcement. The overwhelming theme is that there is a need for a robust, holistic management approach, with everyone playing their part as a coordinated global movement.

## CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEECH

**Frans Timmermans**, First Vice President of the European Commission thanked Prime Minister Muscat of Malta for both his presidency of the EU and hosting the conference. He also thanked John Kerry for his conviction and friendship, and mentioned the pivotal role of Sylvia Earle in persuading him of the need for action in the marine environment. He noted the global sense of urgency, and the EU's role in translating into action prior to Bali next year. He said that the impact on oceans is profound, so we have a lot of work to do, with good governance and increased awareness both critical to success. He recognised the need to facilitate behavioural change, as most people want to do the 'right thing', and that the complexity of the situation means we need a holistic, multi-stakeholder approach. The EU has committed EUR 550 M so far this year, including for new MPAs, action on climate change, addressing fisheries management and stimulating the blue economy. He noted that research and science is a key base for this, with EUR 250 M invested every year by Horizon 2020 in R&D. With 400 kg plastic going into the oceans each second, an EU Plastic Strategy is key to move to a more circular model, and that the EU is working on an integrated strategy for microplastics. Single use plastic items are a particular concern, as they are not economically efficient to recycle – the European Commission is committing today to phase out by the end of 2017 all single-use plastic cups in their buildings. Mr Timmermans concluded by stating that the Commission will support a multi-level platform for ocean governance by 2020.

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Karmenu Vella**, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries closed the conference with some final remarks. He first thanked all the participants, especially for the six billion euros of commitments made at that point. He then noted that the conference has resulted in new partnerships between different stakeholders and regions, and that the business community had truly stepped up to the plate. He said that up until this conference more than two billion euros have been invested in ocean management, inc. MPAs, but noted that the credibility of this and future conferences will depend upon the actual implementation of these commitments and announced the EU would set up a fund for tracking the results of these 2017 Our Ocean commitments, so the real work is just beginning.

The Commissioner then thanked the conference partners in making it such a success, with particular thanks to all the audio-visual technicians who put on such a spectacular show. He again thanked the Maltese Government and PM Muscat for their support throughout and also thanked John Kerry for initiating the Our Ocean events. However, he reserved his biggest thanks to all ocean lovers and protectors around the world, and then presented Youth Summit spokesperson Daniela Fernandez and his grandson as the true owners of the ocean. With that, the conference was declared closed.