



Député au Parlement Européen

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President of the European Commission

European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

June 15th 2015,

Dear President,

The blue economy is a significant opportunity for the European Union, which has shown a political leadership in this area. The blue economy covers various public policy areas: employment and vocational training, fisheries, energy, transport, industry, research and development, information technology, regional policy, environment, climate, food safety, neighbourhood policy and also home affairs (migration issues, fight against trafficking).

This non-exhaustive list illustrates the complexity of interactions between the various public policies affecting the sea. It also reveals the multitude of actors involved in the governance of the blue economy. Indeed, 23 Member States have a coastline and, in the European Parliament, several committees work on these issues (PECH, TRAN, ENVI, ITRE, EMPL, REGI, AFET, DEV, LIBE, PETI...). The Parliament also created an intergroup "Seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas" whose aim is to discuss the various aspects of the blue economy.

In addition to DG MARE, many teams and units in the European Commission work on maritime issues, in particular Directorates General CLIMA, BUDG, COMP, DEVCO, EMPL, ENER, ENV, TAXUD, GROW, HOME, MOVE, REGIO, RTD, SANTE and NEAR. Several agencies are also involved in this work.

In the context of this multiplicity of actors, it is necessary to strengthen the coordination of maritime affairs. Very encouraging governance elements do already exist, for example specific measures of the Integrated Maritime Policy, sea basin strategies and the targeted approach of specific activities.

These elements should work together in order to develop policies supporting growth from the seas and the oceans. This is the aim of the action plan for innovation in the blue economy published by the Commission on May 8th 2014 in order to

enable the sustainable use of marine resources and to stimulate growth and employment.

This action plan is an important step to unlock the potential of the blue economy for jobs and growth and to make it a true European public policy.

Consequently, with the aim of achieving these goals and stimulating all the actors of the blue economy, **we would like to ask you to create, within the European Commission, a project team dedicated to blue economy which brings together the relevant Commissioners.** This project team would be a significant step forward towards a better governance of the blue economy and would give the different actors a very encouraging political signal.

Looking forward to receiving feedback from you, we would like to thank you for your attention and kind consideration.

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