



**OUR OCEAN**

GREECE - APRIL 15-17, 2024

**N OCEAN OF POTENTIAL**

# SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges:  
Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

16 April 2024, 17:00 – 18:00

‘Alternative stage’ theatre room



Lead: European Commission; Environmental Defense Fund, BlueMissionMed project  
Co-organizers: Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

*This side event will highlight initiatives and actions under the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 that address some of the greatest challenges faced by marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity. The Mission is an innovative initiative with a strategic framework for action that aims to improve the coherence of relevant policies, and to create synergies between public, private, and civil society initiatives and investments in support of SDG 14 (Life below water).*

*As an example of the latter, the event will announce a first-of-its kind commitment involving the Mission Ocean and Waters and the philanthropic funders collaborative Oceans 5, in support of the Mission, the growing need to better align public and private funding, and restoring islands globally. The alignment of public and philanthropic funding will strengthen national and local outcomes and support the transition agenda in European islands. The event will highlight projects in Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain; opportunities in the Caribbean; and call on relevant organizations and stakeholders to join us within Europe and in support of islands globally, in the lead up to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France.*

*The event will close with the award ceremony for "[Blue Ports and Destinations](#)", curated by BlueMissionMed with the support of MedCruise and in cooperation with the European Commission.*



# SIDE EVENT AGENDA

**Facilitator: Christina Deligianni, Institute for Sustainable Development, EPL0**

<p><b>17h00– 17h05</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome</b> <i>Aris Karageorgis</i>, Director-Institute of Oceanography, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research</p>
<p><b>17h05–17h15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote speakers</b> <i>Charlina Vitcheva</i>, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC <i>Pascal Lamy</i>, Chair of the Mission Board, Mission Ocean and Waters, EC</p>
<p><b>17h15 – 17h45</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aligning philanthropic and public investments for island transitions</b> <i>Mara Antoniadis</i>, Mandated Regional Councilor &amp; President of the Development Agency of the South Aegean Region READ S.A <i>Chuck Fox</i>, Executive Director, Oceans 5 <i>Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda</i>, Government of Jamaica and GLISPA Collaborator <i>Kate Bonzon</i>, Vice President – Fisheries &amp; Oceans, Environmental Defense Fund</p>
<p><b>17h45– 17h55</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blue Ports and Destination Awards</b> by <i>BlueMissionMed</i> and <b>Presentation of the Manifesto for the Mission</b> by <i>Geneviève Pons</i>, Director General and Vice President of Europe – Jacques Delors</p>
<p><b>17h55-18h00</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conclusions</b> <i>John Bell</i>, Deputy Mission Manager and Director Healthy Planet, DG RTD, EC</p>