

## SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN COASTAL AREAS

April 17, 2024, 12:00-12:50 p.m., Book Castle

Lead: Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy, European Investment Bank

A thriving sustainable blue economy relies on healthy coastal ecosystems and vibrant coastal communities. However, those appear to be hugely exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The scientific evidence is overwhelming. The IPCC's recent reports are warning that islands, coastal communities and habitants, coastal infrastructure, and coastal-dependent economic activities are threatened by the increasing climate-induced sea level rise and coastal degradation. Scientists urge countries and stakeholders to accelerate adaptation action, enhance resilience, and move from incremental to transformational solutions.

The Side Event aims to contribute to the global discussion on how to trigger adaptation investments to best match the actual needs of vulnerable countries and regions, improve climate resilience of coastal areas, support sustainable coastal tourism, and strengthen resilience of coastal infrastructure. It also aims to foster the views, from a global perspective, of both developed and developing countries, as well as financial actors. It pursues to promote the exchange of views on challenges, experiences, tools, and successful solutions for effective coastal adaptation that delivers economic benefits while being nature positive and is based on the protection and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems. Moreover, it is aiming at bringing new perspectives on instruments and means to enhance access to and leverage of public and private finance, at different scales, for coastal adaptation.



## Chairperson/Facilitator of the side event:

*Ms.* Fabrizia Lapecorella, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

12:00-12:05	Welcome remarks
12:05-12:10	Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis, Minister of Environment and Energy of Greece
12:10-12:15	Mr. Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment of Palau
12:15-12:20	Mr. Hassan Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Climate Change, Environment & Energy of Maldives
12:20-12:25	Mr. Kyriakos Kakouris, Vice President of the European Investment Bank
12:25-12:35	Questions & Answers
12:35-12:40	Commitments
12:40-12:50	Wrap up and Closing Remarks



The event is initiated by the integrated project «LIFE-IP AdaptInGR - Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece». The project is coordinated by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy and implemented together with 18 key adaptation stakeholders. The project aims to accelerate the implementation of the national adaptation strategy and regional adaptation action plans, in part thanks to pilot projects developed for Greek regions and municipalities in the priority sectors of coastal areas, cities, water resources, floods, and forest fires. This 'replication pool' of real-world experiences will form part of a knowledge base of resources to guide and support national, regional, and local authorities in the detailed planning and assessment of actions relevant to climate change adaptation.

The project supports coastal adaptation through pilot applications for beach nourishment and erosion monitoring and control in the island of Rhodes, the Ionian Islands, and the summer beach destinations of Western Greece. It engages key stakeholders in coastal adaptation planning through capacity building activities and participatory studies to improve adaptation governance and sectoral mainstreaming.

The project also identifies and leverage suitable EU, national and private funding to upscale successful adaptation solutions.

More information: <u>www.adaptivegreece.gr</u>



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As the EU climate bank, the European Investment Bank is one of the largest lenders for climate action worldwide. In 2021, the EIB became the first Multilateral Development Bank to align our financial activities with the Paris Agreement.

The EIB Group <u>Climate Bank Roadmap</u> operationalises the EIB Group's ambition to support a just transition to low-emission, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development and the objectives of the European Green Deal. The Roadmap contains three high-level commitments: (i) an increase in EIB financing for climate action and environmental sustainability to more than 50% of annual financing by 2025 and beyond; (ii) EIB Group support for  $\leq 1$  trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability in the critical decade to 2030; and (iii) alignment of all new EIB Group operations with the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement by the start of 2021.

The EIB's <u>Adaptation Plan</u> strengthens investment and technical support to protect projects from the impact of more extreme weather and increase climate resilience of existing and new infrastructure. The EIB will significantly increase adaptation financing to support the European Union Adaptation Strategy for smarter, more systemic and faster adaptation, both across Europe and globally.

The EIB is investing in the sustainable blue economy, supporting low-carbon marine solutions, coastal resilience to climate change, the preservation and restoration of the ocean's nature capital, and innovation along with education and public research related to the ocean. For more information <u>Clean oceans and the blue economy Overview 2023 (eib.org)</u>.

