

9th Our Ocean Conference Side Event

A nature-positive blue economy Harnessing the power of offshore renewable energy

Time and venue: April 16th, 16.00 – 16.50, Lighthouse, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre

Areas of Action:

- Sustainable Blue Economy
- Climate Change

Lead Organization: World Economic Forum

Lead Organizer Email: Hanh.Nguyen@weforum.org, Ocean Industries Lead

Event Description:

Ocean renewable energy provides an essential pathway to the transition towards a sustainable blue economy, as defined by the Ocean Breakthroughs. As the most mature ocean-based energy technologies, the large-scale expansion of offshore wind is critically needed to combat climate change while responding to development needs. This will lead to a growing use of marine space and an increasing intersection with marine ecosystems.

How can we accelerate the safe roll-out of offshore wind for the clean energy transition at the scale and speed necessary, while ensuring that this transition is positive for ocean health and contributing to global targets on reversing biodiversity loss?

In this session, we will highlight best practices from leading companies to manage the impacts of offshore wind development on marine ecosystems, as well as collaboration on conservation and restoration efforts for net-positive impact. We will also examine how policy and finance enablers can drive the responsible development of offshore wind with nature-positive goals from the onset.

Speakers

Moderator: Alfredo Giron, Head of Ocean Action Agenda, World Economic Forum

Panelists

- **Mr Thanasis Tsantilas**, Chairman & Managing Director, Rokas Renewables (Iberdrola)
- **Ms Marianna Nathanail**, Representative in Greece, European Investment Bank
- **Ms Lizzie McLeod**, Global Ocean Director, The Nature Conservancy
- **Ms Anna-Marie Laura**, Clean Ocean Energy Sector Co-Lead for the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action, Ocean and Coastal Zone
- **Mr Georg Børsting**, Norwegian Sherpa to the Ocean Panel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway (TBC)