



# The EU's Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

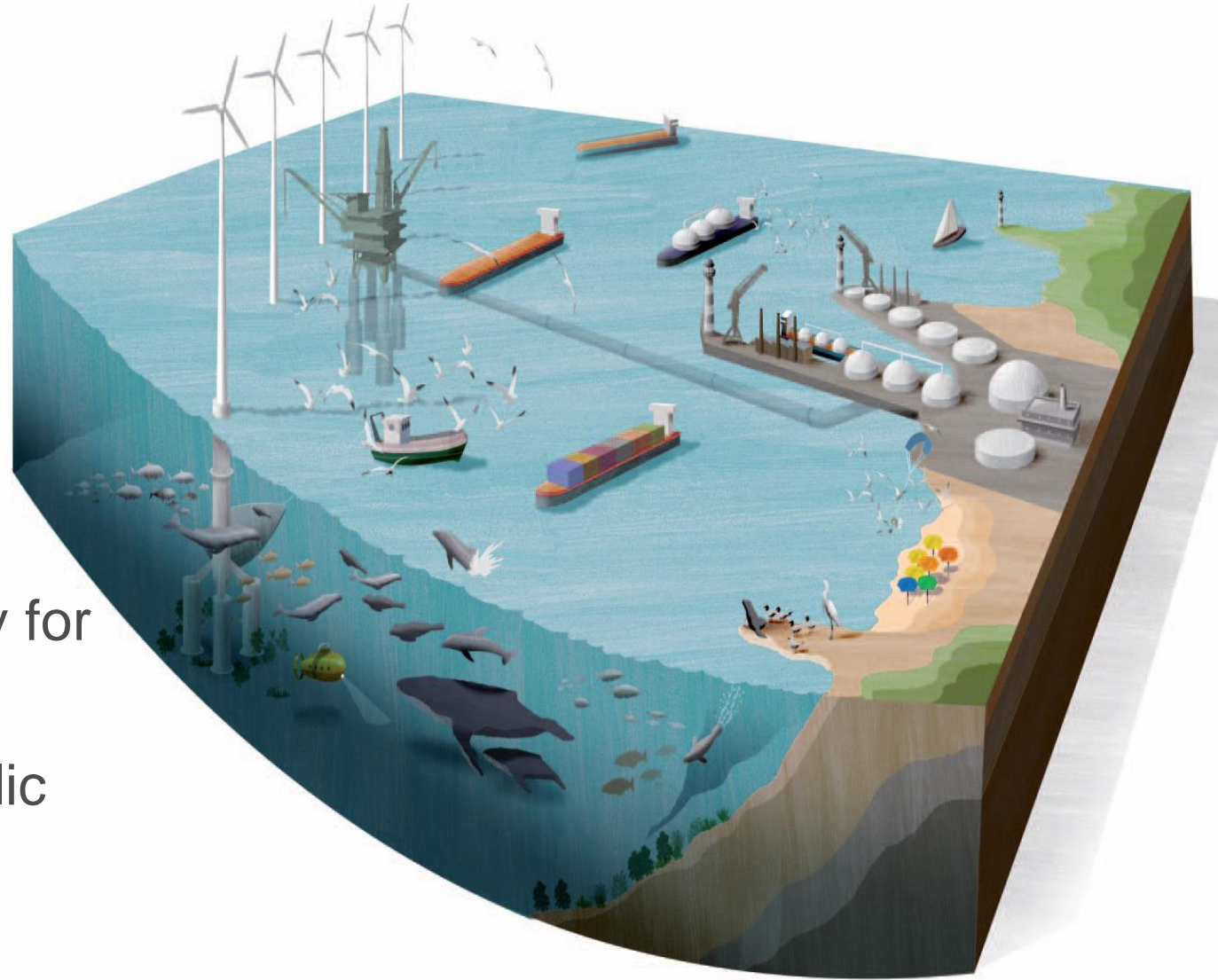
NSAC Workshop on “MSP and stakeholder engagement in the North Sea”  
Brussels, 3 May 2023



*Juan RONCO, DG MARE, European Commission*

# Why Maritime Spatial Planning?

- ✓ Anticipate future uses
- ✓ Reduce conflicts on access to the maritime space
- ✓ Preserve and protect the marine ecosystem
- ✓ Improve certainty and predictability for private investments
- ✓ Reduce coordination costs for public authorities





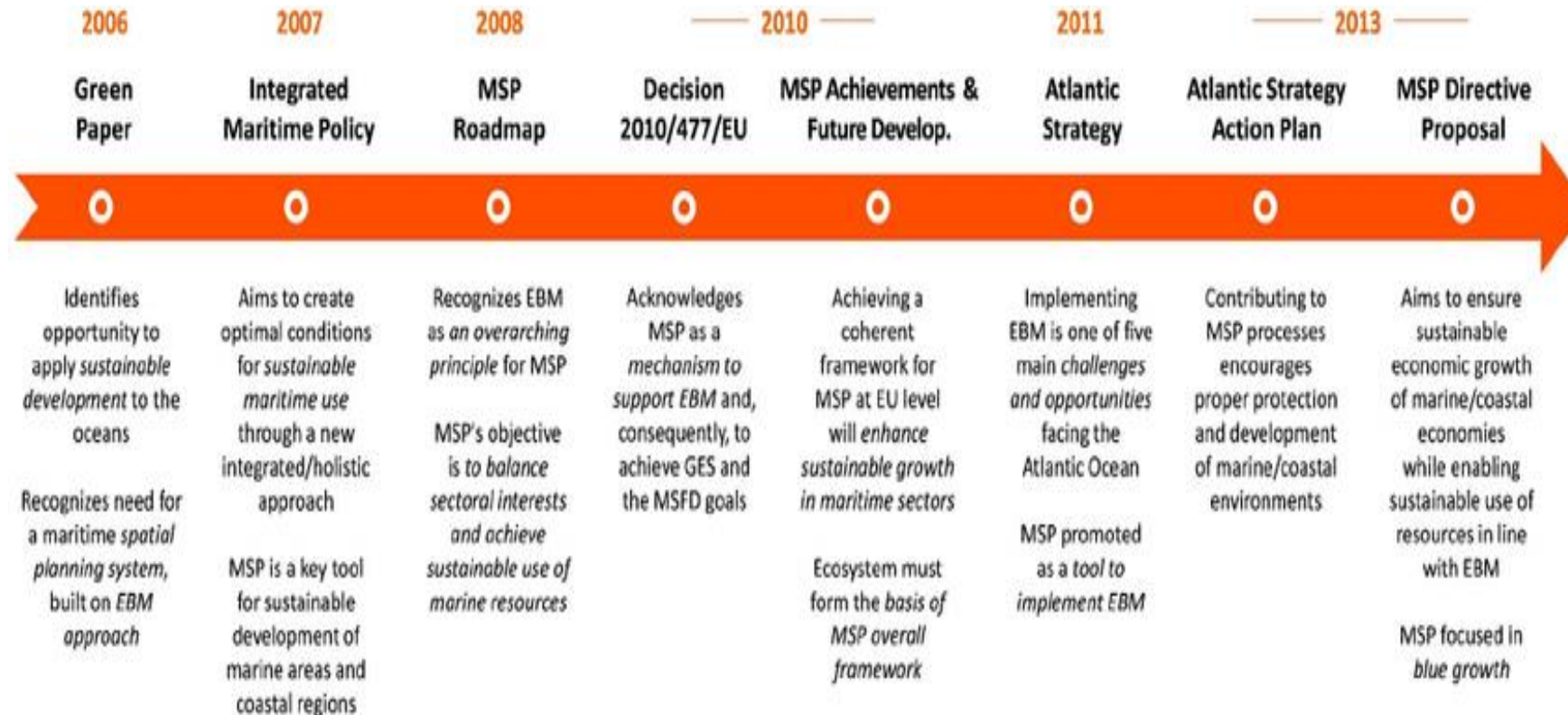
# Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU



## EU MSP Directive

All EU countries must have  
adopted plans by  
31st March 2021

## Timeline of major European policy initiatives addressing maritime spatial planning (MSP)





**EU MSP Directive**  
All EU countries must have  
adopted plans by  
31st March 2021

## DIRECTIVES

### **DIRECTIVE 2014/89/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 43(2), 100(2), 192(1), and 194(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>(2)</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure <sup>(3)</sup>,



# Timing





# MSP Directive

## Geographical coverage

*MSPD applies to marine waters:*

*(1) Waters, seabed and subsoil as defines in point (1)(a) of Article 3 Marine Strategy Framework Directive*

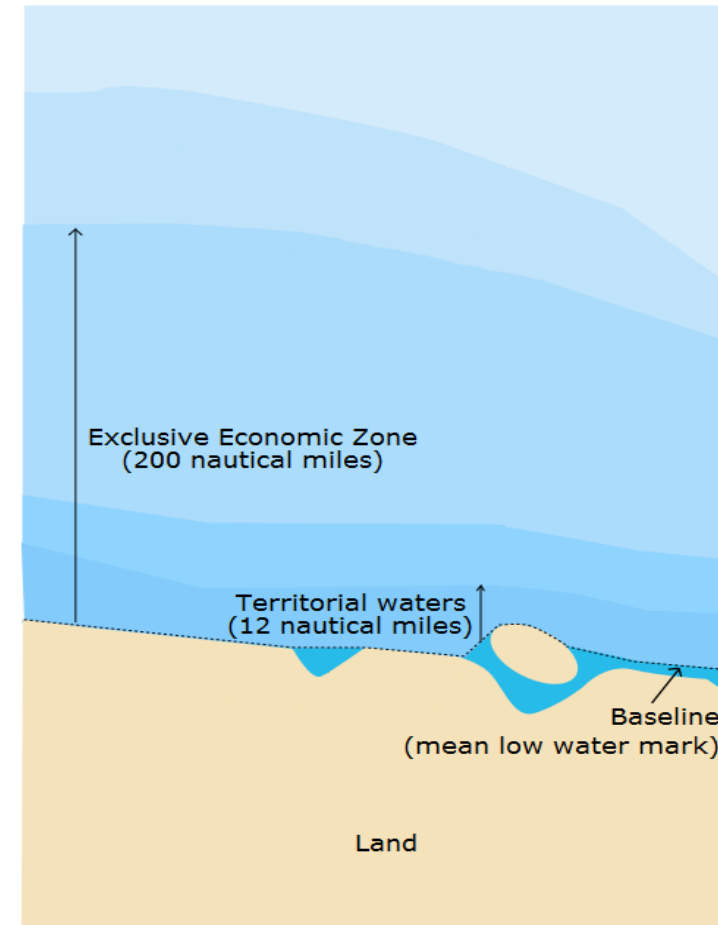
*and*

*(2) Coastal waters as defined point 7 of Article 2 of*

*Water Framework Directive*

*In practice:*

*MSPD covers coastal waters, territorial waters and EEZ of 22 coastal EU Member States, does not cover overseas countries and territories of Annex II of the Treaty and French overseas Departments and Collectivities.*





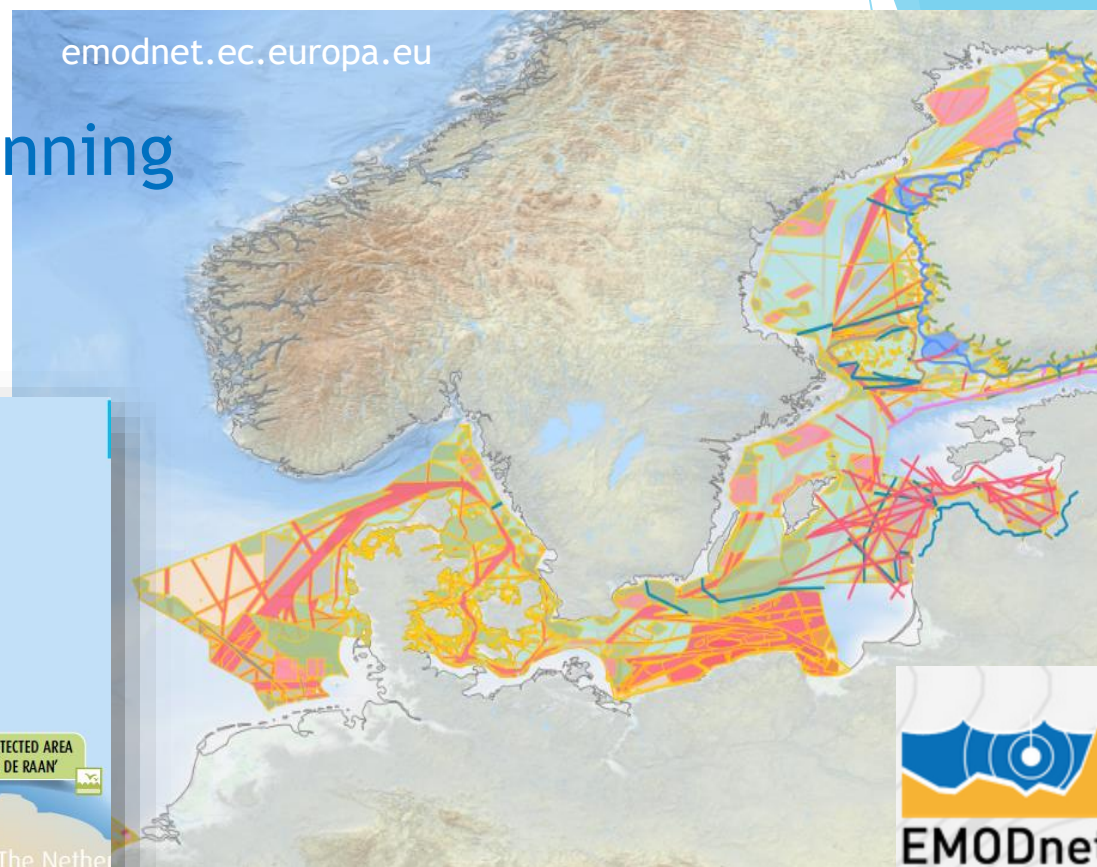
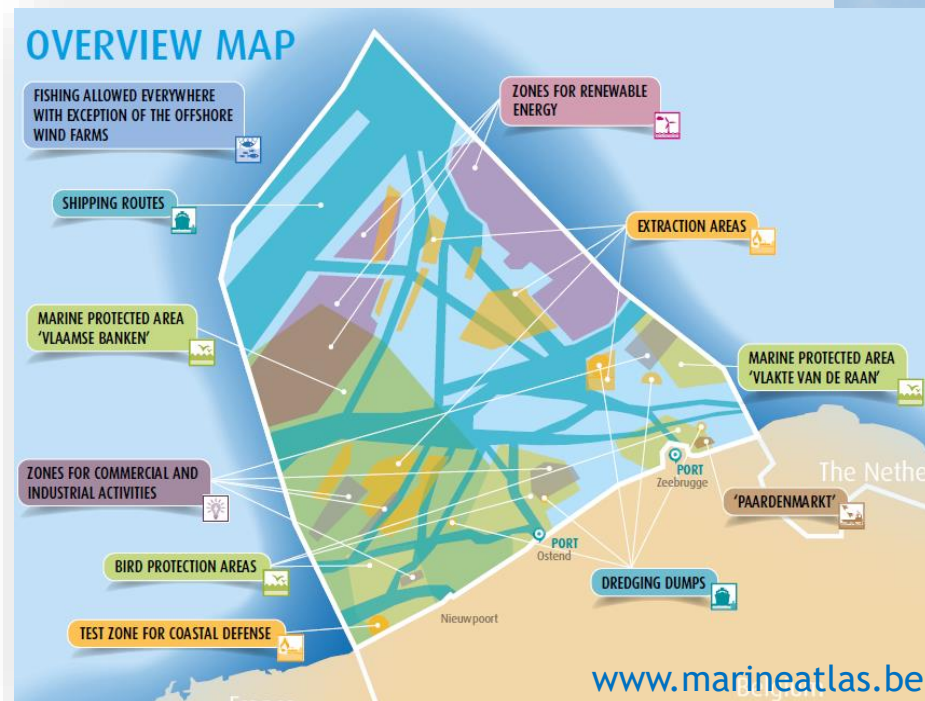
## MSP Directive's Requirements:

- *To Establish a Maritime Spatial Plan*
- *Apply an ecosystem-based approach*
- *Promote coherence*
- *Take land-sea interactions into account*
- *Spatial and temporal distribution of activities*
- *Involve stakeholders*
- *Use best available data*
- *Cooperate with bordering Member States and non-EU countries*

However:

- Member States in charge of actual planning.
- MSPD lists the possible activities to be included, however it is mainly to MS to decide on the inclusion and on the content.
- MSPD does not determine whether the Plan has to be « legally binding ».

# Maritime Spatial Planning



Example Belgium: brochure  
"Something is moving at sea"

## Establishing maritime spatial plans: overview of progress

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT | 3 May 2022 | Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

### European Commission report on implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning Directive: good progress but more work needed

COM/2022/185 final of 3 May 2022

- (1) early starters and already had plans (BE,NL,DE,MT,LT)*
- (2) succeeded within the deadline fixed by the directive or later (FI,LV,PL,DK,FR,IE,SI,SE,EE,PT(except Azores) ES, LT and HR).*
- (3) Still 5 MS (CY,IT,RO,EL,BG) with no MSPs. Infringement procedures ongoing. "Reasoned opinions" sent on 19.04.2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> stage in the procedure).*







## Member State Expert Group on MSP

*Member States Expert Group E01682/2- Maritime Spatial Planning is a Sub-Group of for Maritime Policy Member State Experts Group.*

### **Mission:**

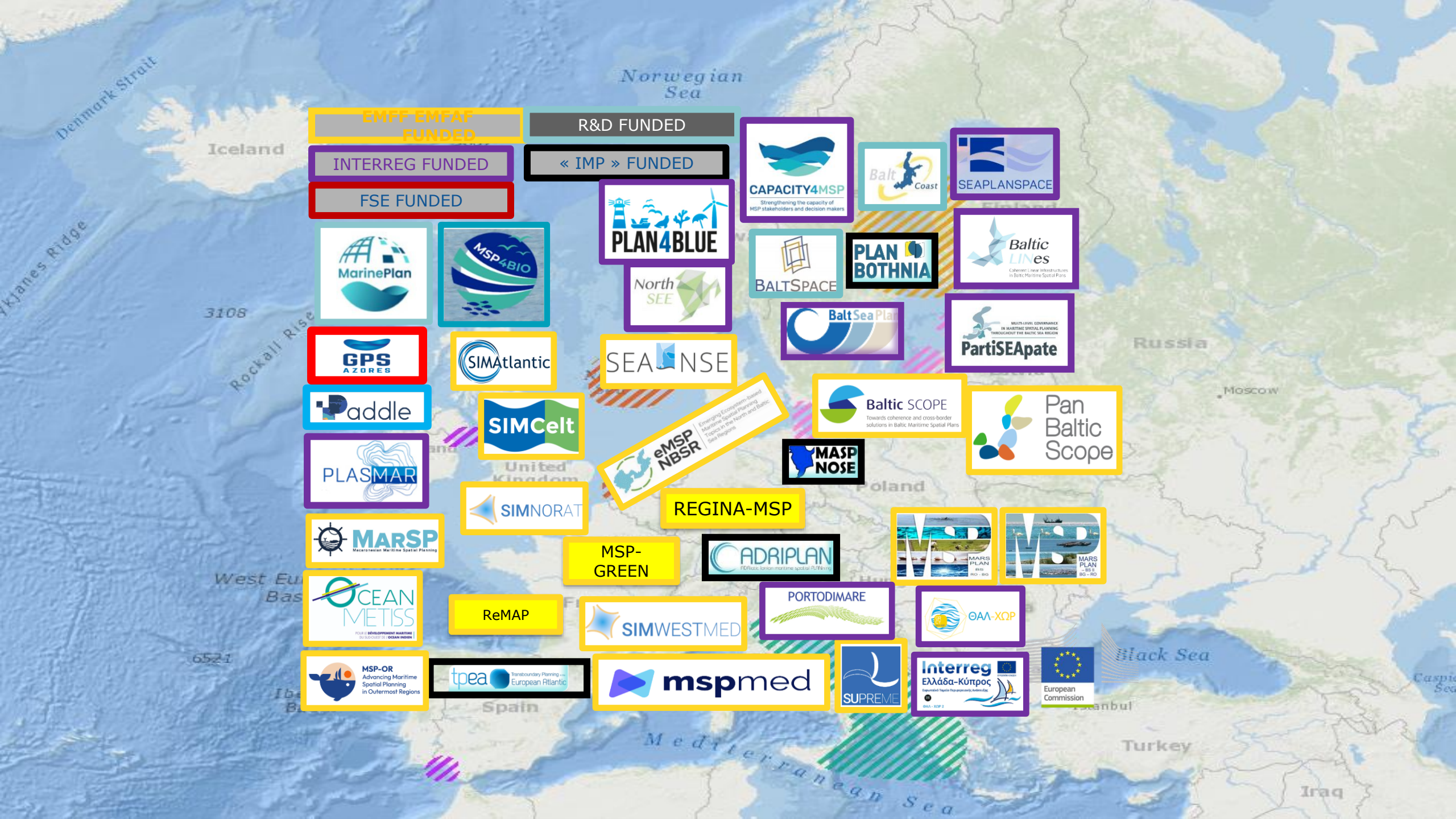
- (a) to serve as an informal forum of national experts on implementation of MSP Directive.*
- (b) to establish cooperation/coordination between the COM and MS or stakeholders on questions relating to policies in the field of MSP.*
- (c) exchange of experience and good practice in the field of MSP.*

*Meets twice a year.*



# **Funding MSP cross- border projects**

Producing data, tools,  
methodologies



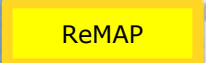
EMFF/EMFAR  
FUNDED

INTERREG  
FUNDED

FSE  
FUNDED

R&D  
FUNDED

«IMP»  
FUNDED





# EU support to cross-border projects

- **Obligation** for MSs to cooperate (Art. 11 of MSPD)
- **Min. 2 EU MSs**, but non-EU countries can be involved
- Support the work of MS for **cross-border planning**
- Develop a **vision by sea basin**: future uses, needs and development options
- Ensure effective **engagement of stakeholders** in design and implementation of MSP
- Supported through **EMFAF**, but also **Horizon Europe, Interreg, LIFE** and national funding







# EU MSP Platform - <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>



[MSP in the EU](#) [MSP Resources](#) [Stay Informed](#) [About & Contact](#)

## The European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform

A service for Member States to share relevant knowledge and experiences on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

### Get involved

#### MSP Resources

We invite you to search for MSP implementation experiences in the [Practices Database](#). The MSP [Sectors and Conflicts](#) pages contain extensive information about 9 key maritime sectors. You can also explore the extensive [FAQ](#) page.

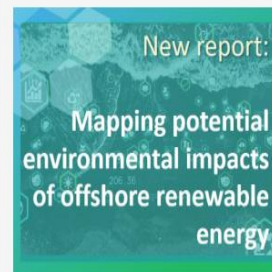
#### Open calls

Harnessing preparedness and response to marine pollution in the Black Sea (deadline 31.01.2023). [Found here more information](#).

[All funding programmes](#)

>

### Featured



### News

Events | 07 Dec 2022

[Release of Infographic on Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU](#)

Events | 01 Dec 2022

[PLASMAR + Project releases Comics and a video to support its communication on MSP in Macaronesia](#)

Events | 23 Nov 2022

[Lunch of the Outermost Region's Ocean Governance Hub](#)

The Outermost Region's (OR) Ocean Governance Hub was launched on the 22nd of November 2022 at the

[All news >](#)

### Events

Events | 02 Feb 2023

[The Baltic Sea Region – a key Region for European energy resilience in a challenging geopolitical context](#)

Events | 15 Mar 2023

[Paddle Final International Conference](#)

From 4 to 6 April 2023, the Paddle project will hold its final international conference...

Events | 15 Mar 2023

[PADDLE Project Final Conference](#)

The aim of the PADDLE project is to improve knowledge exchange on marine spatial planni...

[All events >](#)

### Twitter feed



Only few days left to apply to pitch for the [#BlueInvest](#) Awards at the BlueInvest Day! This is the main [#BlueEconomy](#) matchmaking event in [#EU](#), bringing together entrepreneurs & investors Don't miss the chance to become one of the finalists [blueinvest-community.converve.io/blueinvestday2...](#) [#EMFAF](#) [pic.twitter.com/2Y6w1ekaRf](#)

Retweeted by EU MSP Platform



15h



[Newsletter](#) [Contact](#) [Data Protection Notice](#) [Language policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Legal notice](#)



Joint Partnership The European MSP Platform is financed by the European Commission under the EMFF. The European MSP Platform is a result of the 'MSP Assistance Mechanism' implemented by CINEA on behalf of DG MARE.

# Blue Forum

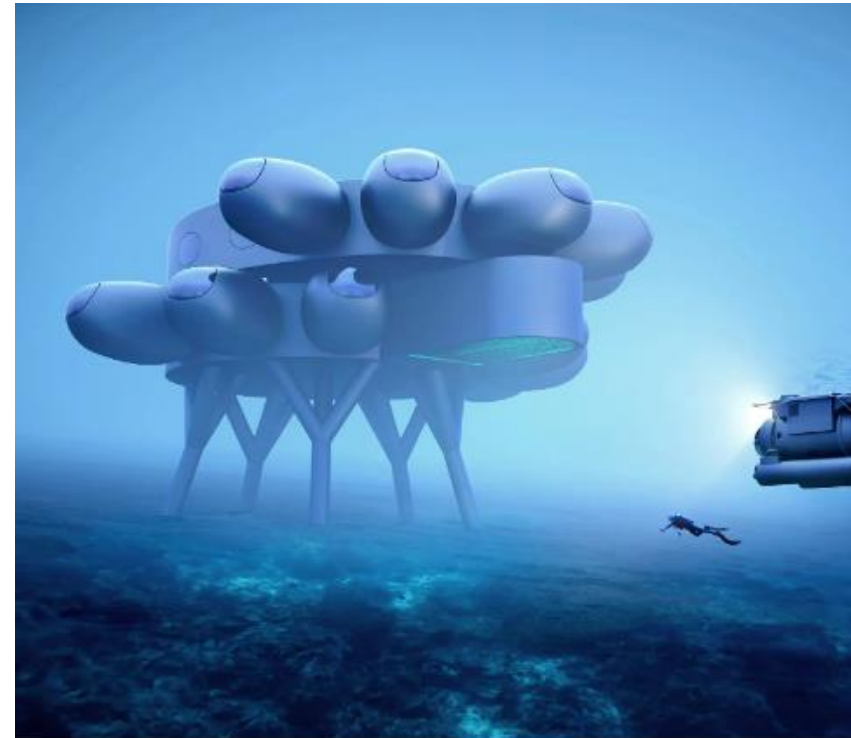
**Why?** In the Sustainable Blue Economy Communication (May 2021) « *A Blue Forum for users of the sea to coordinate dialogue* »

**What For?** Management of changes happening at Sea

- What is the Ocean we want?
- Using science for policy and creating an educational community
- Help realising the Sustainable Blue Economy **with** all stakeholders

**How ?** MSP & Blue Forum Assistance Mechanism

**When?** Launch Event in Brest in parallel to the EMD **26 May 2023** + several events and scoping papers



A rendering of Fabien Cousteau's Proteus research station, which upon completion will allow scientists to live and work for extended periods of time under the ocean. Concept design by Yves Béhar and fuseproject. Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center

# EUROPEAN BLUE FORUM

Building Europe's Blue Community

## The European Blue Forum

[Join the European Blue Forum >](#)

[Launch Event Registration >](#)

### Introduction

The seas are the foundation of all life on our planet and play a vital role in safeguarding some of our most basic needs. They provide us with essential resources and ecosystem services, such as oxygen, food, water, energy, connectivity, temperature regulation and biodiversity. However, marine ecosystems are complex and fragile. Caring for the health and productivity of our seas and oceans is a herculean task, demanding concerted efforts and consistent action at all levels.<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>

At the same time, our seas have a key role to play in contributing to the economic prosperity of nations. A healthy marine environment not only supports economic resilience, improved livelihoods, social inclusion and wellbeing, but it is also vital in tackling the global climate and biodi-





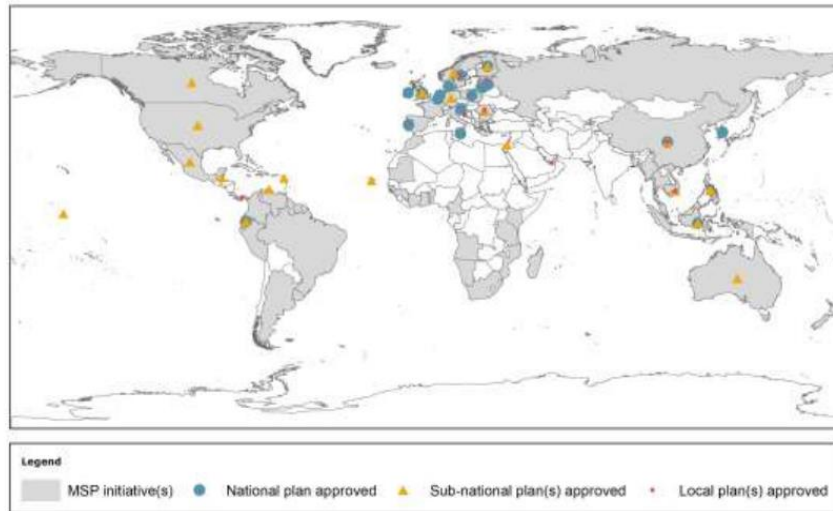


## **International MSP**

Best international practices,  
transboundary pilot projects,  
international workshops

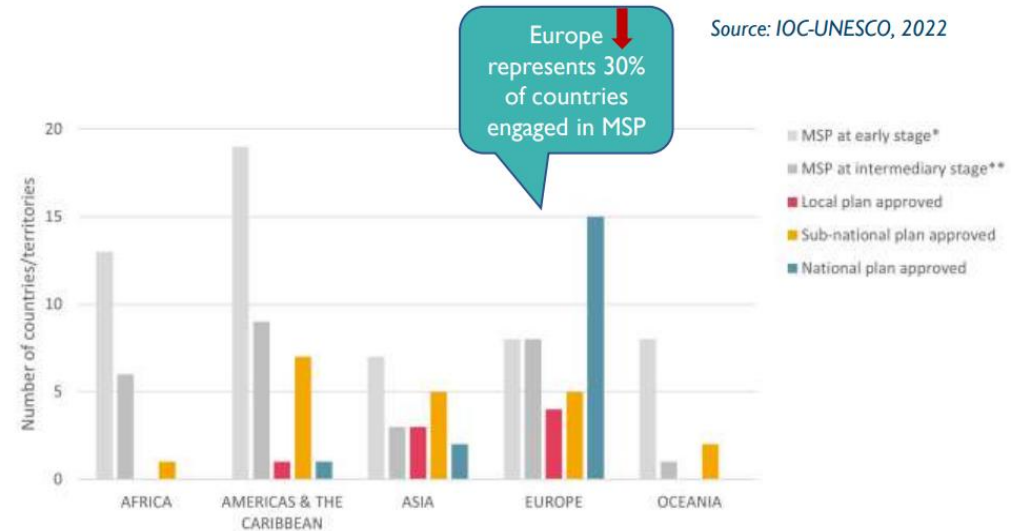
# EU Leader in MSP in the world

MSP status around the world by April 2022:



Disclaimer: The illustrative map does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

© IOC-UNESCO, 2022



\*Whenever a country/territory has only pilots, it was considered at early stage independent of the level of development of the project.

\*\*For at least part of the maritime area.



## Cooperation with IOC UNESCO

*Past: MSPGlobal - 1,4 Million Euros - 3 years (2018-2020)*

*Main work streams : 1) Develop guidance on Cross-border MSP*

*2) 2 Pilot projects in the South East Pacific and in Mediterranean*

*In addition: International MSP Forum was established (5 editions)*

*Future (in preparation): MSPGlobal 2.0 - 1 Million (from EMFAF WP 2022-2023) - 1,5-2 years (2023-2025)*

*Project in preparation (implementation of Guidance, again 2 Pilot projects planned, MSPforum(s))*

## Joint Roadmaps on MSP (DG MARE/IOC UNESCO)

- *March 2017 DG MARE and the IOC-UNESCO adopted a “Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide”. This MSProadmap (2017-2021) included ten actions divided into five priority areas.*
- ***November 2022 during the International MSP Conference in Barcelona Updated Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning processes worldwide - MSProadmap (2022-2027). It covers a set of six priority areas divided into cross-cutting and thematic pillars:***

### *Cross-cutting*

1. Knowledge support
2. Capacity development and awareness
3. Transboundary cooperation

### *Thematic*

1. Climate-smart MSP
2. Marine protection and restoration
3. Sustainable blue economy







## Useful Links:

- [Report on MSP implementation:](#)

[https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2022\)185&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2022)185&lang=en)

- [European Commission site on MSP:](#)

[https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/maritime-spatial-planning\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/maritime-spatial-planning_en)

- [The European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform](#)

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>

- [MSPGlobal:](#)

<https://www.mspglobal2030.org/>



An aerial photograph of a sandy beach with several colorful boats (yellow, blue, orange) pulled up onto the shore. The water is dark and calm. The sand is light brown and textured. The boats are arranged in a small cluster near the water's edge.

*[More background information at:](#)*

*[https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/home\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/home_en)*

Juan RONCO [juan.ronco@ec.europa.eu](mailto:juan.ronco@ec.europa.eu)

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries