



# 1st Meeting of the Outermost Regions Forum for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

**26 June 2018 09:30 – 17:30**

**Venue:**

**Centre Borschette, salle 3.A,  
Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels, Belgium**

## ***Agenda***

**09.00 – 09.30**      **Welcome Coffee and Registration**

**09:30 - 10:00**      Welcome and opening remarks

**Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

**10.00 - 12.30**      **Workshop 1: “Addressing the knowledge gaps on Marine Ecosystems”**

The EU Strategy for Outermost regions proposed by the European Commission identified the Outermost regions’ biodiversity as one of their main assets that needs to be well managed, and highlighted the importance of research and innovation for long term sustainable growth. This is especially relevant for marine biodiversity and blue growth.

However, the Outermost regions do not seem to possess extensive long term research on their marine resources, including fishing stocks. This hampers a good understanding of the local ecosystems, and has detrimental effects on their capacity to sustainably manage their marine resources and activities. Bottlenecks may be lack of financing for research, lack of specialised expertise, insufficient coordination of research activities across technical and research bodies, insufficient gathering or dissemination of data, etc.

This workshop aims to identify the needs and gaps in knowledge of the Outermost regions' ecosystems with a view to exploring potential remedial actions at regional, national and European level.

*Moderator:* **Hélène Clark**, Director DG Mare, Directorate C: Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions.

*Welcome remarks and scene setter* by **Hélène Clark**, Director DG Mare

*Presentation by panellists:* **Mrs Catalina Perales Raya (IEO Canary Islands) Mr Olivier Guyader (IFREMER, Brest), Mr Sylvain Bonhommeau (IFREMER Réunion)**

- 1. Applying the Data Collection Framework (DCF) to Fisheries systems in the ORs: State of Play and Challenges.**
- 2. Stock Assessment Small-scale Fisheries in the ORs: How to overcome the limitations of Traditional Approaches?**
- 3. Oceanographic Research and Fisheries Science: How to support researchers in the outermost regions?**

Followed by panel discussion and interactive Q&A session

**12.30 - 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 - 16.30 Workshop 2: Realising the potential of Outermost Regions for sustainable blue growth**

DG MARE has commissioned an independent study titled 'Realising the potential of the Outermost Regions for sustainable Blue Growth' last year with the aim to contribute to the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy in the nine Outermost Regions of the European Union. The study showed that, while there are certain commonalities, each sea basin and each Outermost Region has its own specificities that need to be addressed by specific public and private interventions. Furthermore, the study identified the following key bottlenecks and gaps that need to be addressed in order to unlock the Outermost Regions' potential for sustainable blue growth:

- a) There is a limited availability of adequately qualified and trained staff and the absence of links between the education systems in the Outermost Regions and businesses involved in the blue economy.
- b) Renewable energy and blue biotechnology have been identified as emerging sectors at a pre-development stage currently in Outermost Regions. There is a need to unlock the growth potential in these emerging sectors.
- c) Access to finance has been identified as a bottleneck in the maritime sectors.

This workshop aims to facilitate a discussion addressing the above findings with a view to exploring potential actions at regional, national and EU level, to remedy the identified bottlenecks and unlocking the potential of Outermost Regions for sustainable blue growth.

*Moderator:* **Bernhard Friess**, Director DG Mare, Directorate A: Maritime Policy and Blue Economy

*Welcome remarks and scene setter* by **Bernhard Friess**, Director DG Mare

*Presentation by panelists:*

1. **Pedro Ortega, Regional Minister for Economy, Industry, Trade & Knowledge (Government of Canary Islands, Spain): Presentation of the Blue Growth Strategy in the Canary Islands**
2. **Rosa Fernandez (CETMAR, Spain): EU initiative on Blueprint for Skills Development in Maritime Technology (Mates project) & Dr. Filipe Porteiro (Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs for the Region of Açores)**
3. **Alain Kauffmann, Financial Instruments Advisor, EIB: Presenting an on-going feasibility study for Investment Platforms in the Outermost Regions**
4. **Wioletta Dunin-Majewska, DG ENER: Presentation about the 'Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative'**

**16.30 - 17.00**      **Coffee Break**

**17.00 - 17.30**      **Closing session**

**The way forward and concluding remarks** by **João Aguiar Machado**, Director-General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries