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Background

European Maritime Day is the annual meeting point for Europe's maritime community to network, discuss, and forge joint action. Its ninth edition will take place in Turku, Finland on 18-22 May 2016.

HELCOM Secretariat, jointly with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO), have applied for organizing a workshop under the working title "Cruise industry and blue growth: maritime players together for sustainable and effective solutions in Europe". The main aim of the planned workshop is to provide an overlook on the blue growth and sustainability prospects of cruise industry, bringing in also the latest IMO developments related to enforcement of the new regulations for passenger ships in the Baltic Sea under MARPOL Annex IV by April 2016, but also to stimulate new thoughts to take home with.

Moreover, HELCOM Secretariat will also apply for presence in the Exhibition of the European Maritime Day, to focus e.g. on activities linked to Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

European Maritime Day 2016 – DRAFT PROGRAMME

Investing in competitive blue growth - smart and sustainable solutions

European Maritime Day is the **annual meeting point for Europe's maritime community to network, discuss, and forge joint action**. Its ninth edition will take place in Turku, Finland. Join us for a stimulating conference on 18-19 May 2016 and an attractive lineup of activities for the general public on 20-22 May 2016!

The conference will provide **strong input to shape future policies and the practical steps needed to drive transformational change in the blue economy** and the wider maritime policy agenda.

It will **focus on smart and sustainable solutions** for blue growth, ocean governance, clean energy and maritime skills development and it will look at tools to facilitate joint action. Throughout, there will be a particular focus on specific regional challenges and opportunities.

Wednesday, 18 May

08.00 – 09.00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

09.00 - 10.30 **Thematic Stakeholder workshops (first set: 1-5)**

This session will give stakeholders a chance to organise and run their own workshops. These stakeholder workshops will be selected based on a call for participation launched in November 2015. Workshops will be announced end of February 2016.

10.30 – 11.00 Networking Coffee

11.00 - 12.30 **Thematic Stakeholder workshops (second set: 6-10)**

12.30 – 13.30 Networking Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 **Thematic Stakeholder workshops (second set: 11-15)**

15.00 – 15.30 Networking Coffee

15.30 – 16.00 Welcome and Opening by Moderator and Host City

16.00 – 16.15 Opening remarks: **Karmenu VELLA**, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

16.15 – 16.30 Inspirational talk: Vice Admiral, **Mark Mellett DSM**, Chief of Staff Defence Forces Ireland, Co-founder Irish Maritime Research Cluster

16.30 - 18.00 **Leadership Exchange**

Investing in the blue economy is a great economic opportunity for the EU if it is done right and in a coordinated way. How can we invest not only in blue growth but also in green growth, in solutions for healthy seas and oceans and a circular economy, and what kind of strategies and governance do we need to drive positive change?

Karmenu VELLA, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Kitack LIM, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization

Anne BERNER, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Finland

Gesine Meissner, European Parliament
Bernhard MEYER, Chief Executive Officer, Meyer Werft Shipyard
John Tanzer, Director Marine Programme, WWF International

18.00 Conclusions by Moderator
18.30 "Eat my Turku" networking reception

Thursday, 19 May

08.00 Welcome Coffee

08.30 - 11.00 **Thematic Sessions** (parallel)

These focused, thematic sessions will explore what is needed to drive transformational change in different areas of the integrated maritime agenda. Each stream will feature a panel followed by a structured discussion to identify action points and commitments to take by the EU, governments, business actors and civil society.

Session I: Investing in blue growth

The maritime economy offers significant scope for growth, based on innovation and clusters. The circular economy, digitisation and service innovation, in particular, can boost competitiveness and help transform the blue economy. This session will highlight successful investments in smart and sustainable solutions and explore how to invest in new value chains.

Session II: Improving ocean governance

The international debate on modernizing ocean governance is increasingly gaining momentum. Ocean governance is about having in place mechanisms and practices that allow us to use marine resources sustainably and maximise economic benefits, while keeping our oceans healthy, clean and safe. This session will explore which actions and commitments are needed at different levels: global, European, local.

Session III: Boosting skills development

A modern maritime sector requires an increasingly skilled workforce. Industry in particular is calling for new skills and competences that enable the maritime workforce to apply new technologies, respect new standards and work in international teams across disciplines and sectors. This session will explore the main skills-related issues and challenges across the different blue economy sectors and present related good practice.

Session IV: Harnessing clean energy

Decarbonisation and the support for innovative energy solutions are key priorities of the EU Energy Union agenda. Offshore renewable energy resources such as wind, waves, tides and differences in temperature and salinity offer a huge potential to deliver low-carbon electricity to our homes and create new jobs in the process. However, unlocking this potential requires

significant aligned investments into generation, transmission, port and research infrastructure. This session will discuss where to best focus these investments and how to strengthen coordination.

Session V: Facilitating transnational action

Strategic transnational cooperation, investment roadmaps and demonstration projects are increasingly seen as important tools to catalyse and coordinate actions across borders. In promoting joint action they can create critical mass and scale, accelerate the market uptake of smart and sustainable solutions and strengthen the global competitiveness of clusters. This session will explore how such tools can create synergies, support joint action and harness blue growth business and development opportunities.

11.00 – 11.30 Networking Coffee

11.30 – 12.30 Reporting-back session I (Plenary)

Report back from the thematic sessions: What have we learned? What are recommendations can we make for policy strategy and implementation, for business actors and civil society? Which concrete actions and commitments can we take to drive the blue economy forward? This session will also aim to collect some of the outcomes of the stakeholders' discussions.

12.30 - 13.30 Networking lunch

13.30 -15.00 Leadership Exchange II

What have we learned about how drive change and transformation in the areas discussed? What are practical steps to take this forward?

Joao AGUIAR MACHADO, Director General, DG MARE

Sirpa Pietikainen, Member of European Parliament

Antti PELTOMÄki, Deputy-Director General, DG GROW

Tim CORNELIUS, CEO Atlantis Resources

Lasse GUSTAVSSON, Executive Director Europe, Oceana

15.00 - 15.15 Closing remarks by DG Joao AGUIAR MACHADO

15.15 – 15.30 Conference video and handover (Poole/UK 2017)

15.30 End of conference

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/en/turku-2016>

Language regime: Participants may intervene during the plenary sessions in English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. Interpretation is provided into English, French and German.