



EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity
and Sustainable Development

EVENT REPORT

International Ocean Governance

SOI GLOBAL DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL
SEAS ORGANIZATIONS & REGIONAL
FISHERY BODIES

Hosted by **MEP Catherine Chabaud**

Moderated by **Ilias Grampas, Deputy-Director, EBCD**



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries

The Speakers



MEP CATHERINE CHABAUD

Vice-Chair of the EP Intergroup Working Group on Ocean Governance



JOE APPIOTT

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



CHARLOTTE SALPIN

UN Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea



STEFAN ASMUNDSSEN

Co-chair of the SOI Global Dialogue



RÜDIGER STEMPEL

Executive Secretary, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)



MIGUEL BERNAL

Executive Secretary, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (GFCM)



DARIUS CAMPBELL

Secretary, Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)



AURORE MAILLET

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Head of Unit for 'Marine Environment and Clean Water Services' (C.2),
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ROBY BIWER

(LU/PES), Member of the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

The Event

On Wednesday 20 March 2024, the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development, together with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNEP, and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, organised the hybrid event “**International Ocean Governance - SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations & Regional Fishery Bodies.**”

Hosted by **MEP Catherine Chabaud**, the event revolved around the **crucial role of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue in bringing together regional stakeholders** in the context of the global policy landscape for marine biodiversity and ocean governance.

Established at the margins of COP10 in Nagoya, Japan by CBD, in partnership with UNEP, FAO, and various other partners, **the SOI Global Dialogue is a global platform that aims at building cross-sectoral linkages on fisheries, biodiversity and the environment.**



MEP CATHERINE CHABAUD

Vice-Chair of the EP Intergroup Working Group on Ocean Governance



*At the European level, we have already translated the ambition of the new **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** to the regional level and strengthened the Framework for Biodiversity with the adoption of the **Nature Restoration Law**. And then, at the international level there's the adoption of the **BBNJ Treaty** with its signature in September 2023 and its progressive ratifications by the parties. The challenge now is to ensure that these commitments are properly implemented and articulated at regional and national levels through discussion and links with existing regional frameworks. **The SOI is an excellent example of a platform for cooperation and exchange of best practices and knowledge on the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.***



Key Takeaways



LESS SILOS, MORE DIALOGUE FOR A HOLISTIC STRATEGY

To effectively implement the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and achieve its ambitious targets**, the sectorial approach that has so far prevented cooperation between diverse institutions and policy areas must be substituted by **a comprehensive approach**, as highlighted by Joe Appiott. Encouraging **dialogue between cross-sectoral organizations** is a crucial step toward building a **holistic, cohesive strategy** that takes into account the interconnected nature of global challenges related to climate change and biodiversity loss. As Stefan Asmundssen outlined, **the SOI Global Dialogue** has worked to facilitate **cross-sectoral dialogue between historically siloed sectors** such as the fisheries world and environmental organizations. Since its establishment in 2010, the SOI Global Dialogue has achieved significant results in fostering cooperation among regional organizations and integrating biodiversity conservation into their agendas.



CLOSE COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ACTORS IS KEY

As an inherently international field, ocean conservation requires the continuous, cohesive collaboration of all stakeholder groups across multiple scales, with a special focus on regional and subregional bodies. As explained by Joe Appiott, **Regional Sea Organisations play a critical role in ocean governance and management**, by, on the one hand, translating global commitments into practical responses and facilitating implementation, and, on the other, by reporting back on progress and challenges and exerting influence at international fora. However, the crucial role of regional bodies is still under-recognized. Against this background, **the SOI Global Dialogue brings together Regional Sea Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies** from diverse regions and with diverse mandates to help them share knowledge and experiences, find opportunities for collaboration, and identify key roles in the international context, as Stefan Asmundssen highlighted in his intervention.



REGIONAL SYNERGIES TOWARDS GLOBAL GOALS

While ocean protection goals are set and shared globally, the required actions towards these goals may differ from region to region, because of different environmental and socioeconomic conditions. **Building strong regional synergies between subregional actors** is therefore crucial in order to optimize efforts, avoid duplication, and address challenges more coherently with the right tools, as Miguel Bernal's intervention clarified. In this regard, Darius Campbell and Rüdiger Stempel explained that Regional Sea Organisations are increasingly adopting **ecosystem knowledge** in developing tailored management strategies and **area-based management tools**, such as MPAs and OECMs, to promote sustainable use of resources and biodiversity conservation.



THE EU CAN PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Acknowledging the ecological connectivity of oceans, the **2023 UN BBNJ Agreement** is underpinned by the importance of improving international cooperation, as underlined by Charlotte Salpin. Set to ratify the BBNJ Agreement before the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, as Aurore Maillet emphasised, **the EU has the opportunity to strengthen its leadership in ocean governance by steering international ambition**, assisting with capacity building, and transferring knowledge and technology. To this end, according to Silvia Bartolini, the EU first needs to **improve cooperation between its green and blue sectors** in order to achieve its ambitious goals and improve its credibility on the international scene. Roby Biver also emphasised the need to foster multiscalar coordination, and, in particular, recognize the role of **EU subnational authorities** in implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.



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