

AGENDA

NAVIGATING THE RFMO-BBNJ INTERFACE - DIALOGUE ON COOPERATION AND COHERENCE

A high level conference

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EESC)**



ROOM JDE 62
RUE BELLIARD 99-101, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2026
09H00 - 17H30

ORGANISED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



AGENDA OUTLINE

09:00 - 09:45

OPENING REMARKS

- **Javier Garat**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Despina Symons**, Director, European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
- **Costas Kadis**, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans
- **MEP Carmen Crespo Díaz**, Chair, Committee on Fisheries (PECH), European Parliament

09:45 - 10:30

KEYNOTE INTERVENTIONS AND Q&A SESSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

- **Charlotte Salpin**, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), United Nations Secretariat
- **Vera Agostini**, Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

10:30 - 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:15

SESSION #1

'Biodiversity outcomes being delivered by RFMOs in areas beyond national jurisdiction - how can these be better recognised by the BBNJ processes?'

Moderated by Mark Dickey Collas, Chair, IUCN-CEM Fisheries Expert Group

Keynote intervention: Francisco Millán Mon, MEP EPP

- **Darius Campbell**, Coordinator, Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariats Network (RSN) & Executive Secretary, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
- **Paul de Bruyn**, Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (*online*)
- **Brittany Croll**, Officer for Ocean Governance, The Pew Charitable Trusts

AGENDA OUTLINE

12:15 - 13:30

SESSION #2

“Supporting effective cooperation between RFMOs and the BBNJ, including within public authorities”

Moderated by Sophie Mirgaux, Special Envoy for the Ocean, Belgium

Keynote intervention: Sophie Mirgaux, Special Envoy for the Ocean, Belgium

- **Miguel Bernal**, Executive Secretary, General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) (*video message*)
- **Camille Manel**, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- **Abdennaji Laamrich**, Head of Cooperation & Information Systems, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l’Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT)
- **Marco Valletta**, Deputy Head of Unit, MARE B.2 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, European Commission

13:30 - 14:30

LUNCH BREAK

14:30 - 15:45

SESSION #3

“Data, science and technical expertise - sharing it between RFMOs and the BBNJ”

Moderated by Michal Wiezik, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

- **Aaron Nighswander**, Finance and Administration Manager, Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
- **Neil Holdsworth**, Head of Data and Information, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) (*online*)
- **Mark Dickey-Collas**, Chair, IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group (FEG)
- **Guillermo Ortuño Crespo**, Co-lead, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) High Seas Specialist Group (*online*)

AGENDA OUTLINE

15:45 - 16:05

COFFEE BREAK

16:05 - 17:20

SESSION #4

'Strengthening trust for shared understanding and effective cooperation'

Moderated by Mark Dickey-Collas, Chair, IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group (FEG)

- **Elsa Tudal**, Director of European and International Affairs Office, Directorate general for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, France
- **Laura Sánchez Hernández**, Deputy Director of Legal Affairs and International Governance, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain
- **Lucie Debaere**, Policy Officer for Marine Environmental Policy, Ministry of Environment, Belgium
- **Joseph Appiott**, Coordinator for Marine, Coastal and Island Biodiversity, Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (*online*)
- **Iván López**, President, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations

17:20 - 17:30

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Mark Dickey-Collas**, Chair, IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group (FEG)

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR CONFERENCE



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