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*Banking on the sustainable blue economy –  
How to accelerate impact-oriented investments in Blue Growth*

30.01.2019, 16:30-19:00  
European Parliament Brussels  
Room PHS 5B001

The blue economy is changing rapidly. Traditional activities such as transport, fishing and shipbuilding still employ over 5 million people but the fastest growth is in activities and value chains that did not exist ten years ago – renewable energy, biotechnology, biorefinery etc.

Coming from small businesses, accelerators and research spin-offs, these ventures create new jobs, boost local economies and drive the transition to high-value added activities, while helping to meet EU goals such as emissions reduction, circular economy, energy transition or food security.

Many firms and start-ups active in such high potential but risky activities have received EU financial support for their research, including from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. Nevertheless, they often find it difficult to obtain sufficient private investment funding to move towards commercialisation or to scale up their business operations.

The session will provide an overview on investment gaps and opportunities in the blue economy and financial sources available, with a particular focus on financial instruments. It will also present a new DG MARE initiative ('BlueInvest platform') to facilitate access to investment readiness support and investment to blue growth SMEs and start-ups.

*Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible on [www.searica.eu](http://www.searica.eu) in order to guaranty and organise the access to the EP. The day of the conference, participants are kindly requested to present themselves at **16:00** in order to avoid delays.*

**16:30 - 16:40 Welcome**

**Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (Searica)

**16:40 -- 17:00 Setting the Scene**

Introduced by **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, President of the Searica Intergroup

**16:40 - 16:50 Towards an EU investment platform for the Blue Economy**

**Mr Bernhard FRIESS**, Director Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, DG MARE

**16:50 – 17:00 Financing needs and opportunities in the Blue Economy**

**Mr Martin POULSEN**, Managing Director, Acacia Sustainable Business Advisors

# INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



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## **17:00 - 18:00 Banking on the sustainable Blue Economy**

Moderated by **Deirdre CLUNE**, MEP, Member of the Searica Intergroup

### **17:00 – 17:10 Entrepreneur view: Example of a blue growth start-up**

**Mr Guillaume LE GRAND**, CEO, TansOceanic Wind Transport

### **17:10:-17:20 Innovator view: Example of environmental research and innovation**

**Ms Marcella HANSCH and Mr Tilman FLÖHR**, Pacific Garbage Screening

### **17:20 – 17:40 Investor view**

**Shiblee ALAM**, Managing Director, 8F Investment Partners

**Mr Andrew SMITH**, Associate, Greenbackers Investment Capital

### **17:40 – 17:50 EMFF Managing Authority view**

**Mr Eduard KOITMAA**, Ministry of Rural Affairs, Estonia

### **17:50 – 18:00 Regional View**

**Mr Christophe CLERGEAU**, Rapporteur on “A new European agenda to speed up the development of maritime industries, Committee of the Regions

## **18:00 - 18:50 How to accelerate impact-oriented investments in Blue Growth - open debate**

Introduced and moderated by **Claudia MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR**, MEP, Member of the Searica Intergroup

## **18:50 - 19:00 Conclusion**

**Mr Tonino PICULA**, MEP, Searica Vice-President in charge of Islands