

Implementing the Circular Economy Action Plan in coastal and island regions: challenges and opportunities

Organised with the support of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#)

Friday 1 April 2022 – 10h45-12h30 Brussels time

Online: Microsoft Teams - More info & registration: [HERE](#)

The EU's transition to a Circular Economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target, to halt biodiversity loss and to create sustainable jobs. Analyses by the World Economic Forum and by the McArthur Foundation have shown that almost half of the total GhG we emit results from the creation of new products, and Circular Economy systems could help achieve up to 85% of climate goals.

The European Commission adopted the new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) in March 2020 (the first one was adopted in 2015). The new action plan announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products. It targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and aims to ensure that waste is prevented, and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. It introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.

For maritime sectors, such as fisheries and aquaculture, port activities, shipbuilding/repair and coastal tourism, a huge sustainability potential lies within circularity. Coastal regions are pushing for the implementation of circular solutions and can provide great input on the regional best practices developed so far and on the difficulties and loopholes encountered.

Hosted by SEARica Vice-Chair for SMEs and Digitalization MEP **Josianne Cutajar**, the event will have the following objectives:

- Stock-taking of the concrete implementation of the circular economy action plan in maritime sectors
- Identification of concrete actions to be put in place to help maritime and coastal regions implement the circular action plan
- Assessing the state of the play of the EC's Action Plan, how can the EU Parliament contribute to the reflection?

AGENDA

Moderation by CPMR

10h45-10h55 Opening remarks by SEARica Vice-Chair for SMEs and Digitalization MEP **Josianne Cutajar**

10h55-11h30 Input from EU sea basins:

- Ms **Saara Nuotio-Coulon**, Head of Turku-Southwest Finland EU Office and Mr **Jarkko Laanti**, Quality and Environmental Manager, Turun seudun puhdistamo Oy (Kakolanmäki Wastewater Treatment Plant), Member of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission
- Mr **Valentin Moldoveanu**, Tulcea County Councillor, on behalf of the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission Presidency
- Ms **Zita Pels**, Regional Minister from Noord-Holland (The Netherlands), Member of the CPMR North Sea Commission

11h30-11h40 Feedback from the Commission by Mr **Federico Porrà**, Policy Officer, Circular Economy, Sustainable Production & Consumption, DG Environment, EU Commission

11h40-12h00 Input from EU projects:

- Presentation of the Report on Circular Blue Economy co-developed by the Interreg MED Blue Growth Community and [SwitchMed](#) projects by Mr **Emmanuel Maniscalco**, Senior EU Programme Officer at CPMR
- Concrete examples from the [BLUEfasma](#) project by Mr **George Alexakis**, Regional Councillor of **Crete**, in charge of European & International Affairs, CPMR Vice-President for Maritime Affairs

12h00-12h10 Feedback from the Commission by Mr **Federico Porrà**, Policy Officer, Circular Economy, Sustainable Production & Consumption, DG Environment, EU Commission

12h10-12h20 Q&A

12h20-12h30 Concluding remarks by SEARica Vice-Chair for SMEs and Digitalization MEP **Josianne Cutajar**

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