

SEArICA Conference on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): Focus on Blue Growth

Organised with the support of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#), the Balkan and Black Sea Commission, DG MARE and DG REGIO

Friday 4 February 2022 – 11.00-13.00 Brussels time

Online: *Microsoft Teams*

Registrations: [click here](#)

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is one of the four EU macro-regional strategies. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and stakeholders, which agreed to work together on the areas of common interest for the benefit of each country and the whole region. The EUSAIR covers nine countries: four EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and five non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia).

The strategy addresses four pillars: Blue Growth (1), Connecting the Region (2), Environmental Quality (3) and Sustainable Tourism (4). This SEArICA conference will concentrate on the state of play on implementation of Pillar 1 and on its specific objectives: to promote research and innovation in blue economy sectors, to adapt to sustainable seafood production/consumption and to improve sea basin governance.

AGENDA

- **Opening remarks** by SEArICA Chair MEP **Tonino Picula**

11:00-12:00 IMPLEMENTING EUSAIR: MAIN RESULTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Moderation by Stavros Kalognomos, Executive Secretary of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission, CPMR

- Introduction by Mr **Ilir Melo**, Director for the Region and Neighbouring Countries at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, **Albanian Presidency** of EUSAIR
- Keynote speech by Mr **Jean-Pierre Halkin**, Head of Unit for Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement (Unit D1), DG REGIO
- Ms **Milena Krasic**, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, EUSAIR Pillar 1 Coordinator **Montenegro**
- CPMR Adriatic-Ionian Task Force:
 - Dr **Konstantinos Kapodistrias**, Deputy Governor of Ionian Islands Region (Greece), 1st Vice-president of the Balkan & Black Sea Commission of the CPMR
 - Mr **Guido Castelli**, Regional Councillor of **Marche**, CPMR region

- MEP **Maria Spyra**ki, SEARica member, Friends of the EUSAIR: making the link with the Green Deal

12:00-13:00 THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY APPROACH WITHIN EUSAIR

Moderation by Eleni Hatziyanni, Policy Officer, DG MARE

- Keynote speech by Mr **Christos Economou**, Acting Director for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy and Head of Unit for Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, DG MARE
- Dr **Irene Tzouramani**, Ministry of Rural Development and Food – Agriculture Economics Research Institute, EUSAIR Pillar 1 Coordinator **Greece**
- **CPMR regions** on regional best practices and political questions for the MEPs: how can the European Parliament support the EU Commission in pushing further the sustainable blue economy approach within EUSAIR?
 - Mr **George Alexakis**, Regional Councillor of **Crete**, in charge of European & International Affairs, CPMR Vice-President for Maritime Affairs
 - Ms **Stefania Leoni**, Coordination of EU Policies, Planning, Cooperation and Evaluation Unit, **Emilia Romagna**, CPMR region
 - Mr **Enrico Segantin**, Project Manager for EU Interreg Projects, Technology Transfer Innovation department, **Veneto**, CPMR region
 - Mr **Fokion Zaimis**, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship, Research and Innovation **Western Greece**, IMC Vice-President, BBSC member
- Ms **Elisabetta Reja**, Central Department for Labour, Training, Education and Family, **Friuli Venezia Giulia**: Towards a Pact for Blue Skills in the Adriatic and Ionian Region
- MEP **Brando Benifei**, SEARica member

Questions and answers

Concluding remarks by **Giuseppe di Paola**, Policy Coordinator for EU Policies, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement (REGIO.D.1), DG REGIO

With the support of

