

Water is coming: the EU Strategy on climate adaptation – focus on coastal erosion and sea level rise

Co-organised with [Surfrider Foundation Europe](#) and the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#)

Monday 29 March 2021 from 14:30 to 16:30 (CET)

Climate change is already here: the past six years have been the warmest on record and the [UN predicts that the temperature may increase by 1.5°C](#) above pre-industrial era temperatures in the next 15 years¹. This will only exacerbate the frequency and severity of climate and extreme weather events of which maritime regions and their communities are at the forefront.

It is, therefore, crucial that the EU keeps up and ramps up its mitigation efforts. However, this will not prevent the climate impacts that are already occurring. Hence, the need to build a resilient Europe that is fully adapted to the challenges of climate change.

More than 200 million EU citizens live near the coastline and are increasingly confronted with sea-level rise, coastal erosion, or coastal floods. It is essential for European citizens to be aware of and prepared for such inevitable climate change effects. Each year, [72 000 of them are exposed to the risks of coastal flooding](#)². If no action is undertaken, by 2100 at least 3 million Europeans will be impacted by it³. This without mentioning the overreaching environmental, social, and economic adverse impacts. Thus, maritime regions and their communities need tailor-made solutions and support to their action and endogenous vulnerability.

The [SEArICA Intergroup](#) in cooperation with [Surfrider Foundation Europe](#) and the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#) will host an online event to discuss the [new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) published by the European Commission on the 24th of February.

The event aims at highlighting the importance of adaptation of coastal regions. It will be an opportunity for MEPs, the European Commission, civil society, and coastal regions representatives to outline their vision on coastal adaptation, discuss challenges and share examples of local solutions and best practices for a resilient Europe.

1

UN Environment Programme “Alarming rise in global temperatures”. February 2021. URL: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/alarming-rise-global-temperatures>

² European Commission “The EU Blue Economy Report”, 2020. URL:

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/sites/maritimeaffairs/files/2020_06_blueeconomy-2020-ld_final.pdf

³ Idem.

Draft Agenda

Moderation by Renaud Layadi, Senior Policy Officer, Brittany region

14:30-14:55 Opening remarks by MEP **Petros Kokkalis** SEArice Vice-Chair for Blue Economy, Maritime Industries and Ports and **Cees Loggen**, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

14:55-15:10 Keynote speech by **Elena Višnar Malinovská**, Head of the Adaptation Unit, DG CLIMA

15:10-15:25 Remarks/Interventions by SEArice MEPs

- MEP **Nils Torvalds**, SEArice Vice-Chair for the Baltic Sea
- MEP **Cyrus Engerer**, SEArice member

15:25-15:35 Reaction by **Elena Višnar Malinovská**, Head of the Adaptation Unit, DG CLIMA

15:35-16:00 Remarks/Interventions by

- **Yohana Cabaret** and **Nicolas Rocle**, AcclimaTerra, Nouvelle Aquitaine Region
- **Katarzyna Marini**, Science Officer, Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)
- **Yana Prokofyeva**, European Outreach Officer, Surfrider Foundation Europe

16:00-16:10 Reaction by **Elena Višnar Malinovská**, Head of the Adaptation Unit, DG CLIMA

16:10-16:25 Debate

Concluding remarks: MEP **Stéphane Bijoux**, SEArice member



with the support of



CPMR
CRPM

