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EU4OCEAN COALITION

The EU4Ocean Coalition: The EU4Ocean coalition: what, what for, how?

24 September 2020, 09:30-10:30 CEST

Speaker Profiles



Economics and in Maritime and Aviation Law, both from the University of Brussels.

Christos Economou is Acting Director with responsibility for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy and Head of Unit with responsibility for sea-basin strategies, maritime regional cooperation and maritime security at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). He joined the Commission in 2000 where he worked in various positions at the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) dealing with maritime transport, land transport and lastly with innovation in railways, from the position of Interim Executive Director for the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. Prior to 2000, he worked for the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) in Brussels. He studied Business Administration in the University of Athens, and holds Master's degrees in European



Francesca Santoro is currently Programme Specialist of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO where she is in charge of the ocean literacy activities. She was previously the Technical Secretary of the North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and connected seas Tsunami Warning System. She was previously lecturer at a PhD Programme on Climate Change at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. She holds a PhD in Analysis and Governance for Sustainable Development, and an MSc in Environmental Sciences.



Tonino Picula is Member of the European Parliament since 2013. He chairs the EP Intergroup for Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas, is coordinator of the Socialists and Democrats Group (S&D) at the EP Foreign Affairs Committee and chairs the Working Group on the Western Balkans under the EP Committee on Foreign Policy (AFET). Prior to becoming Member of the European Parliament, Tonino Picula was representative in the Croatian Parliament, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and mayor of Velika Gorica.





Ricardo Serrão Santos was born in 1954. He lived most of his life in the Azores. He is Doctor in Biology and Animal Ecology and Principal Researcher at the University of the Azores, Pro-Rector of the University of the Azores and President of IMAR - Institute of Marine Research. He was Director of the Department Oceanography and Fisheries of University of Azores. Ricardo Serrão Santos has been dedicated to the study of marine biodiversity and ocean ecosystems and has more than 400 hundred published works of which more

than 200 papers in SCI journals included in the Web of Knowledge. He is co-editor of a book on "Seamounts: Ecology, Fisheries and Conservation", and co-author of a Virtual Centre of Marine Interpretation (CIMV). During his academic career coordinated and chaired several scientific organizations of the European Union, Portugal and the Azores. He holds positions in several scientific advisory bodies and committees among which the Oceanographic Institute of Paris. He is Specialty Chief Editor of *Frontiers in Marine Science/ Deep-Sea Environments and Ecology*. Ricardo Serrão Santos is member of the Portuguese Academy of Sciences and Emeritus Member of the Portuguese Navy Academy. He has received several honourable mentions and awards, among which a «Gift to the Earth» by WWF in 2002, the "Insígnia Autonomica de Reconhecimento" awarded by the Legislative Parliament of the Azores and the Azores Government in 2012, commended "Chevalier de l'Ordre de Saint Charles" by SAS Prince Albert II of Monaco in 2013, awarded the Prize "Excellence Mare" awarded by PwC Portugal in 2017. He was Member of the European Parliament between 2014 and 2019.



Elisa Baldrighi is a member of Ocean Literacy Italia (OLI). She graduated in Marine Biology in 2007, with a PhD in Marine Biology and Ecology (2013). She has a broad experience in deep-sea benthic ecology, biology, biodiversity, assessment of water quality and benthic environmental status. In the period 2014-2016, she worked as a post-doc at CNR (Ancona, Italy) and she was also responsible for Communication and Dissemination. In 2016-2018, she worked as post-doc at the University of Brittany and Ifremer, France, where she was involved in ocean literacy activities with students and citizens. At

present, she works as post-doc at CNR-IRBIM (Ancona). Since 2020, Elisa is part of the OLI Steering Committee. She coordinates the project of Citizen Science '[Walking on the sea traces](#)'. Ocean Literacy Italia is a founding member of the EU4Ocean Platform, and Elisa is the Chair of EU4Ocean Platform Working Group Healthy and Clean Ocean.



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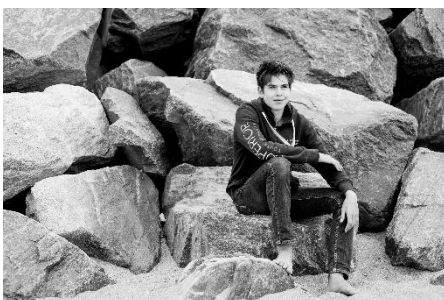
Nicola Bridge is a Conservation Biologist, currently employed as Head of Conservation Education and Communications at the Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT). She has over 14 years' experience in the field of conservation, environmental education and ocean literacy. She is responsible for developing and evaluating the formal and informal conservation learning programmes for the Trust. The programme is delivered across the UK and at the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) in Plymouth, with an audience of hundreds of thousands of people, both physically and virtually. As well as this, she is responsible for the Marketing and Communications strategy for both the OCT and NMA.

Additionally, Nicola is the president of EMSEA, an organisation that has a mission to act as a hub for the European marine education community, promoting Ocean literacy across society and working with scientists, teachers, policy makers and the public. She has a passion for working with the community to help people to learn about, love and protect our Ocean.



James Nikitine is the Director of Manaia Productions. James is a French and British marine scientist, filmmaker and consultant, originally from the French Alps near Geneva. He holds a MSc in Marine Systems and Policies from the University of Edinburgh and a Bachelor of Arts in Film from the University of Exeter. For nearly a decade, he has worked globally as a consultant in ocean science and policy communications, on issues of high seas governance, microplastics pollution, climate change impacts on the ocean, deep reef research, ocean risk and marine protected area management. He is the co-founder and CEO of Manaia Productions, a strategic communications and film production agency specialized in nature conservation, science and livelihoods. James has been working for several years as project manager and producer with the International Union for Conservation

of Nature, and has worked with WWF, Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy, the Ocean Acidification Alliance and the UK government. In 2019, he worked as Media Advisor for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable Development. Since 2015 he has been a member of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, contributing to its marine task force. He lives in Christchurch, New Zealand and is a Fellow with the Edmund Hillary Fellowship. Recently he founded Blue Cradle, a non-profit working in New Zealand promoting ocean conservation and literacy. Manaia Productions is a founding member of the EU4Ocean Platform and James Nikitine is a Chair of the EU4Ocean Platform.



Thomas Lesage, 16 years old, is the founder of the NGO «Children for the Oceans» created in June 2018. In September 2018, he started a worldwide sailing tour for the protection of the oceans during which he gave awareness sessions to more than 400 kids worldwide. Thomas works within the NGO which aims at increasing the awareness of children on the protection of the oceans. Today, Children for the Oceans counts 10 ocean ambassadors worldwide.





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Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment in the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, is responsible for promoting innovative and emerging technologies and solutions, and ensuring broad dissemination of marine knowledge and research. The Unit fosters innovation and provides policy input to Horizon 2020, future Horizon Europe and to smart specialisation strategies and it aims to create a better understanding of the ocean resources and advocate their sustainable use. It is also in the lead for providing policy input to the investments strategies for the blue economy. Prior to this position, Ms. Strachinescu was Head of Unit responsible for New Energy Technologies and Innovation in the Directorate General for Energy, European Commission, in charge with the development of policy and actions on non-nuclear energy research and innovation.



and science-policy interface.

Pierre Strosser, head of ACTeon, research and consultancy, committed to ecological transition. Supporting *inter alia* the development, implementation and evaluation of marine/ocean policies, strategies and initiatives at different scales – from local to international with particular attention to Europe and to the Mediterranean sea-basin. Key areas of interest: MSFD, MSP, adaptative management, ocean literacy (coordination of the EU4Ocean coalition), behaviour change, ecosystem services, socio-economics, stakeholder mobilisation, policy coherence



Olga Mashkina is a coordinator of the EU4Ocean consortium, a senior environmental economist and policy expert in ACTeon in the fields of water and marine economics and policy, governance, stakeholders' engagement, knowledge systems and behavioural change. Prior to working in ACTeon Olga has been part of SYKE's (Finnish Environment institute) 'environmental policy' team. In the last 5 years, Olga has been in particular involved in the area of marine policy and ocean literacy, while coordinating the H2020 project ResponSEable, which focused on developing European ocean literacy and knowledge systems to support effective governance (www.responseable.eu).

