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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: List of EU voluntary commitments to be presented at the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 27/06/2022 to 01/07/2022)

The list of EU voluntary commitments to be presented at the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 27/06/2022 to 01/07/2022) has been adopted by the Council on 13/06/2022.

**List of commitments to be presented by the European Union
at the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 27 June – 1 July 2022)**

1. The European Union announces that, via the Horizon Europe programme, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, Invest EU and other EU programmes, it will provide around EUR 500 million in seed funding during the period 2021-23 for the Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030". With its systemic approach, the Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. It will help achieve the EU objectives of protecting 30% of the EU Member States' sea area as well as restoring marine eco-systems and 25.000 km of free flowing rivers, prevent and eliminate pollution by reducing plastic litter at sea, nutrient losses and use of chemical pesticides by 50% and make the blue economy climate-neutral and circular with net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. The European Union commits to support innovative projects and effective measures that contribute to the sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of aquatic and maritime resources as well as to food security through the supply of seafood products, to the growth of a sustainable blue economy and to healthy, safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans and seas through the 2021-2027 European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, with a total budget of EUR 6.108 billion.

CLIMATE CHANGE

3. The European Union announces a contribution of EUR 55.17 million over two years to strengthen marine environmental monitoring and monitoring of climate change, through its satellite based earth observation programme (Copernicus) and Wekeo service that allows the international research community to access through a one-stop-shop all products describing the past, present and future of the earth system together with online tools for environmental science on cloud computing facilities. This activity will contribute to the implementation of SDG 14.a and the monitoring of the corresponding indicator.
4. The European Union commits to renew the operations of the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service for another 7 years until 2027. A budget of EUR 220 million has been allocated to this end. In 2022, it has allocated EUR 29 million to this service, notably to improve services in coastal areas and the Arctic.

5. The European Union launched the Kiwa Initiative - nature based solutions for climate resilience. This initiative aims at tackling climate change adaptation by protecting, developing and restoring terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the Pacific Region - both in Island States and in the Union's oversea territories. The initiative is an innovative partnership that brings together Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and the EU. The EU contribution is EUR 13.9 million out of a total budget of EUR 35 million.
6. The European Union commits to design the next generation of Sentinel-3 satellites that will fly by 2030. This activity will be carried out with the European Space Agency and will support Copernicus open and free global ocean forecasting.
7. The European Union commits to Ocean-Climate Research by allocating EUR 30 million of funding, in the 2021-2022 Work Programme of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, on the ocean carbon cycle and on key oceanic and polar processes driving regional and global climate change.
8. The European Union announces it has committed EUR 10 million for a research and innovation action for the assessment and prediction of the cumulative impact of direct and indirect stressors, including Climate change and acidification, on coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystems and their services.
9. The European Union commits to explore the feasibility of a possible transdisciplinary science-policy interface for ocean sustainability, an Intergovernmental Panel for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS), taking into account existing relevant expertise, inter alia ocean related work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

MARINE POLLUTION – A CLEAN OCEAN

10. Through its 2021 Zero Pollution Action Plan the EU commits to substantially improve its coastal and marine environment, also for the benefit of its neighbours. In particular, by 2030, the EU aims to reduce by 50% nutrient losses, chemical pesticides and antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture; by 50% plastic litter at sea; by 30% microplastics released into the environment. The EU also commits to significantly reduce total waste generation and by 50% residual municipal waste.

11. The European Union commits to support the ongoing efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to submit a formal proposal at the International Maritime Organization in 2022, for the designation of a sulphur emission control area across the Mediterranean Sea as a whole and the preparation of its entry into force as soon as possible. This aims to minimise shipping emissions and achieve significant health and environmental benefits.
12. The European Union commits to support the scaling up of the "Plastic Pirates — Go Europe!" initiative, an international citizen science campaign launched by Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, targeting young people and pupils to investigate plastic pollution of rivers and coastal areas and raising citizen awareness.
13. The European Union commits to improve the availability and use of adequate port reception facilities for the delivery of ship-generated waste by efficiently implementing the Directive on Port Reception Facilities. The Directive, adopted in 2019, aims to protect the marine environment. In particular, it encourages bringing passively fished waste and used fishing gear to port taking advantage of the fact that no additional waste fee will be charged for it.
14. The European Union commits to decrease discharges of polluting substances into the marine environment, including by taking measures targeting polluters through proposing a new Directive on ship-source pollution in 2023.
15. Through the EU Research and Innovation Programme 'Horizon Europe' and its Work Programme 2021-2022, the EU has committed EUR 14 million for developing a monitoring and supervising system for the deep sea.
16. The European Union commits to tackle the issue of conventional, chemical and explosive munitions dumped at sea, by supporting efforts in the context of HELCOM and its Baltic Sea Action Plan adopted in October 2021, in particular the action related to hazardous substances and litter segment, aiming at a Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter; as well as by strengthening cooperation in the region, including through partnerships with competent organisations, by raising awareness of the risks associated with such munitions, mapping the affected areas, monitoring the state of corrosion of the munitions and developing emergency response measures.

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMIES

17. The European Union will contribute EUR 1 million to the UNESCO's international engagements on Ocean Literacy.
18. The European Union commits to promote ocean literacy and an ocean literate society by granting support to the continuation of the EU4Ocean Coalition. An amount of EUR 2.505 million under the 2021-2027 European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, has been allocated to that purpose for the 2022-2025 period.
19. The European Union announces that it will support sustainable blue economy in the European Union through a EUR 22.86 million investment initiative. The Blue Economy Window will support market realisation of new business models, products and services with a particular focus on the sustainable use of marine resources and improved livelihoods and jobs.
20. The European Union will invest around EUR 2.2 million for the creation of an Observatory on the Blue Economy which will enable a more comprehensive and integrated approach to data collection and foster the expansion of a sustainable blue economy and to complement the Union initiatives to up- and reskill the blue economy workforce.
21. The European Union will contribute EUR 2.437 million to develop the BlueInvest platform which assists in helping small enterprises to put innovative products and services from the blue economy on the market and increase investment in the sustainable blue economy.
22. The European Union announces that it will continue supporting the WestMed assistance mechanism. In 2017, with 10 countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Spain, Portugal and Tunisia), it launched the initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMed). This initiative has built bridges between Southern Europe and North Africa to achieve a safer and more secure maritime space, promoting a smart and resilient blue economy and improving governance at sea. WestMed has generated 15 innovative projects worth about EUR 24 million.
23. The European Union announces the launch of the Go Blue Kenya programme, with an EU contribution of EUR 25 million. This programme will contribute to coastal economic development in an inclusive, integrated, participatory and sustainable manner through strengthening inclusive and sustainable blue economy value chains; ensuring an integrated

approach to sea-land planning and management in a participatory and inclusive manner, especially for women and young people; and strengthening the effectiveness and integration of maritime law enforcement.

24. Through the EU Research and Innovation Programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027), the EU has committed for 2021-22 EUR 36 million in support to a thriving European blue bioeconomy and EUR 100 million for innovative governance (including a partnership between the EU and its Member States for a climate neutral sustainable and productive blue economy in line with and in support of the European Green Deal). These activities will be carried out together with our international partners in the frame of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the BLUEMED Initiative, and the ongoing work in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. All this will also fully support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
25. The European Union commits to develop a Digital Twin Ocean to deliver data and ocean knowledge as a public good, building on the ocean modelling capacities developed by the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service. To this aim, it has committed EUR 17 million under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme to fund a pilot-project (ILIAD). It has also committed EUR 20 million under the new "Mission Restore Our Oceans and Waters by 2030" to develop the core infrastructure.
26. The European Union announces that it will continue to support and enhance the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. Under the development of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Forum, the European Union has launched a second cohort of All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors for the period 2020-2022. In addition, the European Commission will further enhance marine research and innovation cooperation with Morocco, and Small Island Developing States.
27. The European Union commits to paying particular attention to the EU's outermost regions, mindful of their vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters and their unique biodiversity and rich renewable energy sources. Hence, the EU will continue to support its Outermost Regions in seizing the opportunities offered by their large exclusive economic zones, protecting their exceptionally diverse ecosystems, developing their own sustainable blue economy strategies and exchanging best practices to address their common climate adaptation challenges, in line with its 2017 Communication. The European Commission intends to adopt a Communication on a strategic approach towards the Outermost Regions in 2022, in which blue economy features prominently. Specific opportunities for the Outermost

regions will be provided under the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, building on the work programme 2022-23, which includes a specific theme on blue economy strategies in these regions.

28. The European Union announces that it will invest further EUR 6.5 million to ensure open access to harmonise marine data and observation through EMODnet, the European Marine Observation and Data network. In the next phase of its implementation, EMODnet will support all marine sectors by the provision of more integrated data, in an uninhibited and easy to access manner. The European Union also commits to support the further development of international collaboration regarding marine observation and data through EMODnet.
29. The European Union will continue to support a level-playing field based on decent work and social sustainability in the Blue Economy by promoting the International Labour Organization (ILO) Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the relevant international conventions, such as the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, No. 188, internally, in its contribution to regional fisheries management organisations and in its bilateral agreements and cooperation with partner countries. This includes a EUR 10 million contribution to a project promoting decent work for migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industry in South East Asia, in close cooperation with the ILO and with the support of the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Development Program.
30. Through its International Ocean Governance Agenda and Common Fisheries Policy, the European Union commits to promote decent work in fisheries in line with the objectives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and in cooperation with partner countries. The EU will continue promoting the ratification and effective implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention C 188, and other relevant international standards. To this aim, it will use the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, in particular through the implementation of a coherent set of social provisions, and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations where appropriate. In bilateral dialogues and in regional and international fora, the EU will address forced labour and other forms of work that violate human rights in the area of fisheries, including when detected in the context of the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Communication on decent work worldwide adopted on 23 February 2022 reinforces the EU strategy on promoting decent work at global level, identifying key instruments through EU policies.

31. The European Union commits to implement the revised Atlantic Action Plan that aims for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the EU Member States Atlantic area, covering France, Portugal and Spain — including their outermost regions in the Atlantic Ocean and Ireland. The revamped action plan will give new impetus to the Atlantic maritime strategy and will promote a socially inclusive sustainable model of regional development and job creation that safeguard marine and coastal environments and secure a healthy ocean. Concrete actions will address the following challenges: 1) the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the development of renewable energy by supporting research and investment in marine renewable energy; 2) the fight against marine pollution by promoting sustainable shipping and coordinating actions against marine litter; 3) the creation of new jobs by addressing the skills gaps in the blue economy sectors and by supporting cooperation between EU training centres and businesses; 4) the adaptation to climate change by improving coastal observation and designing and promoting cost effective coastal protection measures.
32. In line with the EU strategy on offshore renewable energy, the European Union and its Member States commit to support the development of offshore wind and ocean energies in the EU for a capacity of 60 GW of offshore wind and 1 GW of ocean energy by 2030, and 300 GW and 40 GW respectively by 2050, mobilising both public and private investments. The EU also commits to support offshore wind energy across the world, in particular with several partners in Asia and Africa (India, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, South Africa) through exchanges on technologies and support to market development.
33. The European Union commits to support the acceleration of Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). IOC/UNESCO and the European Commission will develop their "Joint Roadmap" that outlines a vision and a role for Maritime Spatial Planning in implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDG14 in particular, in a comprehensive, consistent and holistic way, both within the EU and at international level. In 2023, the EU will commit EUR 1 million to the implementation of the roadmap.
34. The European Union commits to continue supporting the development of a sustainable blue economy at regional and sea-basin levels, notably in the Mediterranean Sea through the implementation of the Declaration adopted in February 2021 by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). It will support the drafting of a roadmap to guide the UfM countries in advancing the Declaration priorities as well as the development of a monitoring system to

assess the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration. The support will be part of the grant awarded to the UfM (EUR 800 000 for 2023-2024).

35. The European Union commits to set up a unique assistance mechanism for the implementation of the EU sea-basin strategies covering the Atlantic, the Black Sea and the Western Mediterranean. This mechanism will upscale best practices and lessons learnt and optimise some common activities by facilitating synergies between sea-basins, identifying consistent policy feedback and promoting informed planning of future actions. It will also allow better coordination of common tasks like communication activities, organisation of regional and national events, functioning of the maritime data hub and project data collection as well as an enhanced complementarity with other projects like BlueInvest or the Maritime Spatial Planning Assistance Mechanism supported by the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. This unique assistance mechanism has been allocated a budget of EUR 3 million for 2022-2023.
36. The European Union commits to support the development of sustainable blue economies at sea-basin level, through the identification of flagship projects that will focus on innovative multi-use activities combining offshore renewable energies with other activities and / or nature protection in the Atlantic, blue economy investment and innovation capacity building in the Black Sea and resilient coastal and maritime tourism in the Western Mediterranean. To this end, in 2022, a budget of EUR 5.5 million has been earmarked in the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY

37. The European Union strongly commits to reaching, in 2022, an ambitious, effective, inclusive, fair, balanced and future-proofed international legally binding instrument on marine biodiversity on areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), in line with the commitments made jointly by the parties to the High Ambition Coalition on BBNJ, “Protecting the ocean: Time for action”.
38. In her "State of the Union" of 15 September 2021, the President of the Commission has announced that the EU will double its external funding for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries. This commitment covers both terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

39. The European Union announces a contribution of EUR 4 million to RECI - Restauration des Ecosystèmes Insulaires de l'Océan Indien. This initiative will contribute to the ecological restoration of threatened island ecosystems and in particular the fight against invasive exotic species, which have a significant negative impact on endemic flora and fauna and in particular bird populations.
40. The European Union announces that it will support biodiversity Actions for Mozambique with a contribution of EUR 13 million. These actions aim at protecting biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of rural communities through sustainable management of natural resources in 3 target areas of Mozambique, among which Ilhas Primeiras e Segundas (APAIPS - one of Africa's largest protected marine zone) and its adjacent coastal areas.
41. The European Union and its Member States commit to continue to use their diplomatic strength and economic clout to broker agreement on the designation of new Marine Protected Areas in Antarctica, including in East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea, to achieve the objective of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to establish a representative system of Marine Protected Areas in the waters around Antarctica.
42. The European Union will support the protection of the Arctic marine environment through the implementation of international commitments, including the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) work with Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
43. The European Union announces that a new initiative to support the sustainable development of Pacific island States and the coastal countries will be launched. This initiative will support the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management and will also promote urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems. The initiative, which has a budget of EUR 12 million, will be implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
44. The European Union announces EUR 23 million in research and innovation for the exploration, better understanding and valuing of coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystems processes and services, and for the improved science-based identification of future protected areas for achieving the targets of the EU biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and for maritime spatial planning based on holistic ecosystem approach.

45. The European Union announces EUR 10 million for a large demonstration of measures and management for coastal and marine ecosystems restoration and resilience in simple socioecological systems, typically insular, and recommendation for upscaling to more complex socio-ecological systems.
46. The European Union announces the establishment of an EU-wide 'Blue Parks' initiative to provide new restoration and conservation opportunities, as well as expand networks of marine protected areas under the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters. This initiative will help the European Union achieve its objective of protecting at least 30% of its seas.
47. The European Union commits to a contribution of EUR 500 000 to support the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SsKi) seeks to fill the gaps in knowledge of seabed ecosystems, their connectivity and the interrelation between endemism of species and conglomeration of seabed minerals.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

48. Through its work programme for 2021, the European Union committed about EUR 13 million in voluntary contributions to international organisations and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to, amongst others, strengthen data collection, scientific research and science-based decisions, the monitoring of fishing activities, improving the performance of those organisations, the undertaking of regular performance reviews and contributing to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
49. The European Union has committed EUR 60 million in the 2021-2022 Work Programme of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation on fair, healthy and environmentally friendly sea food systems, from primary production to consumption. Furthermore, it allocated EUR 57 million for research and innovation on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
50. The European Union announces a contribution of EUR 12 million to FISHGOV.2. The objective is to improve food security, livelihoods and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, aligned with African Union's 2063 Agenda, through evidence-based African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies, coherence and coordination of fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) and other priorities of the African Union and adequate representation and

participation of Africa in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and other relevant global instruments.

51. The European Union will contribute EUR 2.4 million to develop scientific advice for fisheries beyond the EU Member States waters and develop and implement of the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring for High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.
52. The European Union commits to promoting the ratification and entry into force of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement which seeks to establish a global standard for fishing vessel safety and will facilitate combating illegal, un-reported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and forced labour, as well as reducing pollution from fishing vessels, including marine debris, and can thus make a significant contribution to improved ocean governance and the achievement of SDG 14.
