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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	List of commitments to be presented by the European Union at the Our Ocean Conference 2026 (Kenya, June 16-18) - Approval

1. On 25 March 2026 the members of the Working Party on Maritime Issues – Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) examined a draft list of voluntary commitments to be presented by the European Union at the “Our Ocean Conference” 2026 (Kenya, June 16-18)¹. The Presidency invited the delegations to submit their written comments on the draft list.
2. Based on the written comments received from the Member States, the Presidency prepared a revised draft list of the voluntary commitments², which was submitted to an informal written consultation, that ended on 7 April 2026 without objections from delegations.

¹ WK 3923/26

² WK 4876/26

3. The draft commitment marked with a footnote is understood to become part of the EU's commitments for this edition of the Our Ocean Conference subject to the Commission taking the respective decision before the conference.
 4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the abovementioned draft list of voluntary EU commitments, as set out in the Annex to this note, and to forward it to the Council for approval as an 'A' item at one of its upcoming meetings.
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List of commitments to be presented by the European Union at the 'Our Ocean Conference'
Kenya, 16-18 June 2026

Sustainable Fisheries

1. The European Union will finance actions to support Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and relevant International Agreements in the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic and Antarctic Oceans and the Mediterranean and Black Seas, through voluntary contributions under the European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) amounting to EUR 8.45 million for 2026. The actions will include support to scientific research and data collection to underpin science-based management decisions in those organisations, support to improved monitoring of fishing activities and compliance with rules, the fight against IUU fishing, the undertaking of performance reviews and supporting the effective participation of developing Coastal States in the proceedings of these organisations.
2. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 14 million to advance basic knowledge including life history parameters and anthropogenic impacts and developing tools for the conservation and sustainable management of key migratory fish species.
3. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 32 million to enable adaptive co-management approaches to align fisheries with the environmental sustainability, ensuring the long-term viability of both marine and/or freshwater ecosystems and local livelihoods. This will contribute to increased sustainability of fishing practices, measurable improvements in the status of ecosystems, measurable socio-economic benefits for local community, enhanced governance in the co-management of ecosystems and improved cross-border coordination in fish movement data collection.

Climate change

4. Under the European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), the European Union commits EUR 1 million to deliver on the UNOC3 Political Declaration i.e. to support a strong science-policy interface to provide timely, credible and salient scientific and socioeconomic information to inform policies and actions. Building on phase I, this action will support the test phase of the 'International Platform for Ocean Sustainability' (IPOS) endorsed as a contribution to the UN Decade for Ocean Science and build on existing structures particularly the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the World Ocean Assessment (WOA).
5. The European Union provides a EUR 3 million contribution to the World Bank PROBLUE Trust Fund to support the development of integrated, sustainable and healthy marine and coastal resources. The Multi-donor Trust Fund's activities are divided into four main pillars (fisheries and aquaculture, marine pollution, oceanic sectors and seascape management) and special attention is given to the climate and marine biodiversity aspects.
6. The European Union will continue to support the development of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance through actions addressing resilient coastal communities, and ocean observing and modelling in support of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 4.5 million to support an overarching All-Atlantic Intergenerational Cooperation Programme with an integrated platform and network serving as a one-stop hub for early-career ocean professionals (ECOPs) and supporting an Atlantic network complementing the Our Shared Ocean Initiative and benefiting Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

7. The European Union will issue through its Copernicus marine service the 10th edition of the Copernicus Ocean State Report (OSR10), which provides a state-of-the-art reference on ocean variability, change, and state, integrating new methods and tools, the latest scientific knowledge, and analyses of recent unusual events, delivering key scientific inputs in support of major EU and international policies and initiatives.

Marine Protected Areas

8. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 18 million to enhance deep-sea biodiversity knowledge (habitats, species, ecosystems) and contribute to the implementation of area-based management tools, such as protection targets and adaptive management approaches for deep-sea regions under the Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
9. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 32 million to map at large scale the conditions of marine habitats needed for implementing the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directive and for supporting the objectives of the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters.

Marine pollution

10. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 10 million to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of continuous and impulsive underwater noise levels on marine organisms and ecosystems, and the related ecosystem services they provide by improving scientific knowledge, enhancing monitoring and assessment through advanced methods to track noise impacts, and exploring mitigation measures.

11. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 12 million to bioremediate and decontaminate aquatic (marine and freshwater, including groundwater) pollution and improve the resilience of aquatic ecosystems to climate change and biodiversity decline and enhance monitoring and management tools for the protection of ecosystems against contaminants of emerging concern especially antimicrobial substances and microplastics.
12. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 32 million to demonstrate nature-positive solutions to remediate and reduce pollution from nutrients, chemicals, plastics and microplastics from source to sea, while protecting and restoring the capacity of ecosystems to provide services and adapt to climate change impacts.
13. Under the Copernicus Programme and specifically the Copernicus Marine Service, the EU commits EUR 2 million in 2026 to integrate marine ecosystem products in Copernicus Marine catalogue, to enable an entry into service of operational products in 2027; to develop proof of concept of multi-model ensemble ecosystem products assorted with uncertainty quantifications for specific applications; and consolidate marine ecosystem, pollution and pressure use cases with stakeholders.

Sustainable blue economy

14. The European Union commits EUR 2.4 million to further advancing the development of a sustainable blue economy in Africa, with the organisation of match-making events between investors and entrepreneurs, fostering investment-ready collaborations between African and European stakeholders and scaling-up high-impact blue economy projects during the period 2025-2028. This amount will also be used to set-up a “BlueInvest Africa platform” aiming at accelerating innovation and investment opportunities in Africa’s sustainable blue economy, with a range of services provided to African startups and SMEs, investors in the EU and Africa, as well as to EU businesses looking for new markets and partnerships.

15. Building on the achievements of the Western and Central Africa Port Security (WECAPS) project, the European Union announces an engagement of EUR 12 million for the Securing corridors, Ports and Exchanges in Western and Central Africa project (SCOPE Africa). This project aims to improve the security and safety of ten ports in West and Central Africa, enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of the regional transport system. The project will focus on: (i) strengthening the capacity of ports to manage crisis situations; (ii) improving cyber security; (iii) promoting regional cooperation and coordination; (iv) and supporting the implementation of the Single Maritime Window, a digital platform for facilitating trade and transport.
16. The European Union commits EUR 5 million to support the [Future-Ready Shipping in Africa project](#). In line with the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) resolutions, this project will support the African continent's transition toward a sustainable, decarbonised, and digitally advanced maritime sector. By focusing on maritime governance reforms, national action plans for addressing greenhouse gas emissions, and green fuel supply chains, the project will catalyse the transition to a low-carbon maritime sector in Africa and create an enabling environment for green fuel production and supply.
17. The European Union commits EUR 2 million to support the International Maritime Organisation's [Safe Horizons](#) project to establish foundational measures that will help the maritime sector prevent and address any form of violence and harassment for seafarers. By targeting one pilot State in each region, the project lays the foundation for a global zero-tolerance framework, encouraging further actions by flag and port States.

18. The European Union commits EUR 22 million to support additional activities under the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) aiming at promoting Blue Economy Innovations, contributing to the development of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS), for instance by facilitating and promoting coordination of cross-border ocean and coastal observations programmes, at increasing the availability of data for environmental, climate and blue economy purposes, at exploiting the opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies, including for sustainable food production practices, such as aquaculture.
19. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 9 million to support the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the European Commission's roadmap for Cooperation on the UN Decade of Ocean Science namely the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance.
20. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 10 million to harness the unique properties of marine organisms to deliver sustainable blue bio-based products that contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing environmental impact and can compete with and eventually replace traditional models. For instance, the current use of hazardous chemicals in various industries requires the development of more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives

21. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 50 million to operationalise the *Ocean Eye* and strengthen Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), coordinated by IOC-UNESCO. This action aims at stabilising and expanding GOOS networks (OneArgo, Ship-based networks, Animal borne sensors - AniBOS, Buoys networks, OceanGliders, etc) and at strengthening the global strategic coordination biodiversity and ecosystem observing efforts.
22. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 12 million to support EMODnet for Global. This will establish permanent collaboration and links between the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the International Data and Information Exchange (IODE), ensure the work continuation and sustainability of Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) data products of international importance and increase global interoperability.
23. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 3 million to establishing a coordinated European network of ocean technology testing sites to accelerate the innovation cycles of marine technologies and support companies in the transition from laboratory to market-ready solutions.
24. Under Horizon Europe, the European Union commits EUR 20 million to develop regional sea-basin components of the EU Digital Twin Ocean (EDITO) to provide digital modelling, real-time monitoring, and decision-making tools for ocean management. For each sea-basin, the objective is to integrate existing regional data and make them available through EDITO, develop regional digital twin services and foster regional stakeholder engagement.

Maritime security

25. *Building on the achievements of the first phase of the programme, the European Union announces an engagement of EUR 16 million for the second phase of Enhancing maritime security and safety of navigation in the Southern Red Sea, Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden region (Red Sea-HoA Programme II). The programme has the overall objective of enhancing maritime security and safety of navigation in selected countries in the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region. Contributing to the implementation of the EU's policy and priorities under its maritime security strategies, the Strategic Compass, and the Global Gateway, the Action will contribute to: (i) strengthening national maritime law enforcement agencies to efficiently prevent, repress and respond to maritime threats and related hybrid menaces; (ii) enhancing capacities and capabilities of maritime affairs and port authorities in terms of port security and safety of navigation standards; (iii) strengthening intra and inter-regional maritime domain awareness (MDA); and (iv) reinforcing national judicial capacities to establish or improve the legal finish mechanism.³*

Ocean finance

26. The European Union announces EUR 6 million to support the second round of the Blue Champions Pilot Advisory Programme of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the EU Mission "Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030". Future Blue Champion will receive advisory support from the EIB to grow their business contributing to either restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, eliminating pollution, or decarbonising the blue economy.

³ Subject to Commission decision