

DRAFT AGENDA WORKSHOP FRANCE – NOVEMBER 21, BORDEAUX

09.00 – 09.15 Registration

09.15 – 09.45 **Welcoming Remarks**

Speakers:

- Vincent Bouvier; Secrétaire général de la mer
- Isabelle Boudineau, VP chargée de l'Europe et de L'International

09.45 – 11.00 **Blue Economy in France / Atlantic Action Plan – Mid-term review and update on past Consultation workshops**

Presentation: DG MARE & **TBD**

A presentation of the assistance mechanism and national hub of France, followed by a presentation on the main findings of the mid-term review of the AAP including an update on the findings of the previous workshops as well as a discussion of the lessons learnt from the mid-term review, the past and future role of the governance mechanism and the involvement of regional and local policy makers in it.

(open discussion and Q&A with all participants)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.15 **Breakout session 1: Ports as regional development hubs**

Parallel sessions

Ports are the gateway to the blue economy, with many industries such as aquaculture, tourism and Marine Renewable Energy relying on their infrastructure. Having to manage a wide range of stakeholders, ports can use this to act as key actors in the development of a region. Especially smaller Atlantic ports can play a key role, focussing beyond traditional logistical issues.

Points of discussion:

- ▶ Ports and Marine Spatial Planning
- ▶ Ports as promoters of blue innovation
- ▶ Ports and hinterland connectivity

Breakout session 2: Increasing the attractiveness of blue economy jobs

Most students still do not choose to follow a career in the blue economy. This is in part due to the lack of information available on the possibilities as well as the fact that there still exists a skills gap between the needs of the industry and the offers of educational institutions. The Atlantic area is home to many innovative blue industries such as Marine Renewable Energy and would benefit from a joint effort of mobilisation.

Points of discussion:

- ▶ Closing the skills gap
- ▶ Promoting the 'marinisation' of traditional careers
- ▶ Raising awareness for blue careers
- ▶ Added value of cooperation

13.15 – 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 16.00 **Breakout session 3: Ports and marine exploration**

Parallel sessions

The seabed of the Atlantic still remains largely unexplored, while it hosts deep-sea resources that bear huge potential for innovation. Atlantic ports can, due to their smaller size and diversity, play a key role in facilitating marine exploration by providing the necessary infrastructure for the construction and deployment of specialized naval vehicles.

Collaboration and cooperation could lead to Atlantic ports becoming pioneers in scientific infrastructure and key partners of research institutions.

Points of discussion:

- ▶ Ports promoting marine exploration
- ▶ Ports as scientific hubs
- ▶ Added value of cooperation

Breakout session 4: Environmental solutions and green infrastructure

The marine environment is a precious resource that needs to be protected. The Atlantic area faces a number of common environmental challenges, most notably coastal erosion. Ensuring a good ecological state along the Atlantic coastline will require investments into green infrastructure, both in ports and outside, as well as coordinated marine spatial planning activities.

- ▶ Joint actions on coastal erosion
- ▶ Developing green infrastructure and green ports
- ▶ Environmental action of ports

16.00 – 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 – 17.00 **Panel discussion on the findings of the breakout session and closing remarks**

Moderation: DG MARE & EY

Speakers: Mathieu Bergé, Délégué Coopération transfrontalière et Eurorégion