



**HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE  
FISHERIES AND OCEANS DIALOGUE  
HELPING DESIGN THE EUROPEAN OCEANS PACT**

**BRUSSELS, 21 FEBRUARY 2025, 9-13 H**

With global competition extending to the ocean as a stage for influence and a pool of resources, there is a need to elevate the ocean on the strategic agenda, because of its importance in terms of sustainability, competitiveness, and climate change, all intrinsically linked to global welfare.

Despite previous efforts, the EU's ocean-related policies remain rather fragmented and thus not as effective as they could – and should – be. This is why we need to address the broader maritime and ocean policies with a holistic approach.

As announced in President von der Leyen's [political guidelines](#), a European Oceans Pact will focus on ensuring the good governance and sustainability of our ocean in all of their dimensions, on boosting the sustainable blue economy and on extending the marine knowledge framework. The Pact will show the importance of the ocean on the EU's political agenda.

The European Oceans Pact will include both internal and external policies. It will be a single and coherent reference framework for all ocean related policy actions.

The Oceans Pact should look at our interactions with the ocean and the opportunities that stem from the sustainable use of its resources. It will be crucial to ensure concerted policy actions for the health, resilience, and productivity of the ocean and coastal areas.

The European Oceans Pact aims to promote a holistic and coherent approach to all ocean related policies, from ocean governance, to encompassing actions towards a healthy and productive ocean by protecting biodiversity, boosting the EU sustainable blue economy and resilient coastal communities, and consolidating and extending the EU marine knowledge framework.

The High-level roundtable is the starting point for the “Fisheries and Oceans Dialogues”, organised to help design the European Oceans Pact in a collaborative and inclusive way and to listen to the views of all stakeholders. It should at least reflect on the following questions:

- The key challenges facing the EU's ocean governance model, and the priorities for addressing these challenges;

- The key measures needed to protect biodiversity and promote ecosystem-based management of the ocean, to sustain its climate function, health and productivity;
- The opportunities for sustainable growth and job creation in the EU's blue economy, and the role that the European Oceans Pact can play in promoting these opportunities;
- An effective marine knowledge value chain that supports EU competitiveness in ocean technologies and solutions, translated into market innovation;
- The priorities for supporting the resilience and sustainability of coastal communities in the various sea basins of the EU.

### **Draft Programme**

8:45-9:00	Welcome coffee
9:00-9:15	Welcome and opening by Commissioner Kadis
9:15-9:45	Ministers from the Trio Presidencies PL, DK, CY
9:45-10:15	Chairs of the EP Committees (PECH, ENV, TRAN, ITRE)
10:15-11:15	First stakeholder round
11:15-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-12:45	Second stakeholder round
12:45-13:00	Closing remarks by Commissioner Kadis