

**MARITIME
AFFAIRS**

*The maritime
strategy for the
Atlantic Ocean
area: new
opportunities for
Atlantic coastal
communities*



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**European
Commission**
Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

Political highlights

- Support by: Council (June 2010); EP (March 2011); MS - common vision paper (December 2010) and CPMR/AAC.
- Seeks real EU added value (stakeholder consultation: 2010).
- Promotion of sustainable, smart, inclusive growth through “blue” growth, employment and innovation in maritime sectors according to Atlantic specificities.
- Links to Agenda 2020 and flagship initiatives / Cohesion / IMP objectives.
- No new obligations nor regulatory burdens (no new legislation, no new institutions, no new funding).
- Agreement on implementation → Atlantic Forum + Action Plan (2013).

Challenges

- Improve maritime governance building on existing governance + reducing burdens + promoting co-operation.
- Use EU funds to set-up & implement joint strategies at regional/ sub-regional level.
- Achieve Good Environmental Status + supporting new opportunities in fisheries + aquaculture.
- Prompt competitiveness of sectors in difficulties (through funding & training) and employment creation.
- Promote coastal tourism and improve maritime & hinterland connections (SSS).
- Foster Atlantic marine renewable energies to meet EU international commitments.



Scope

- Strategy is selective: it focuses on particular strengths and opportunities, promoting best use of available tools.
- Seeks to enhance international dimension.
- Pursues more efficient use of EU financial assistance.
- Strands for action:
 - *International dimension*
 - *Sustainable growth*: pilot projects at sea-basin level; sustainable maritime growth (fisheries + aquaculture (clean sources) & MSP; renewable energy; seabed exploration + exploitation (public/private partnerships + Innovation Union); tourism (+ berths), transport & cohesion; safety & security.
 - *Smart growth*: maritime technology; “blue” clustering; better use of funds; better coordination + knowledge to address natural phenomena.
 - *Inclusive growth*: more & better training. Keep attractiveness of maritime professions through training, re-training, cross-border co-operation and mobility geographical and sectoral).

Governance

Methodology:

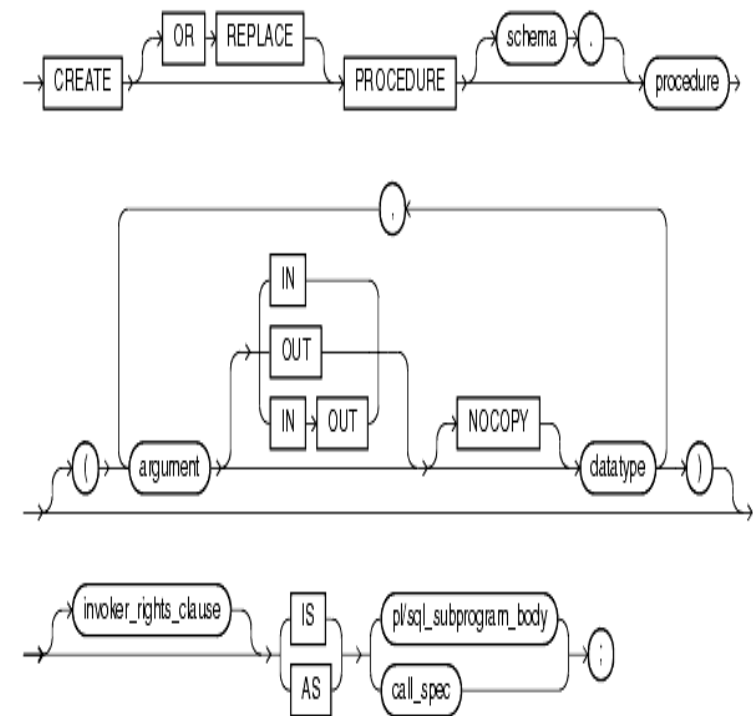
- “Smart governance”: seek for efficiency, removal of administrative red tape, no new legislation nor funding.
- Atlantic Forum - “bottom-up” approach by MS, regions and stakeholders.
- Action Plan by end of 2013.

Tools:

- Increased cooperation (geographical and across sectors).
- Projects in support of IMP and the strategy (MSP, surveillance, data).
- Strategic use of (post-2013) EU funds: new Maritime and Fisheries fund; Regional Fund; RTD fund.

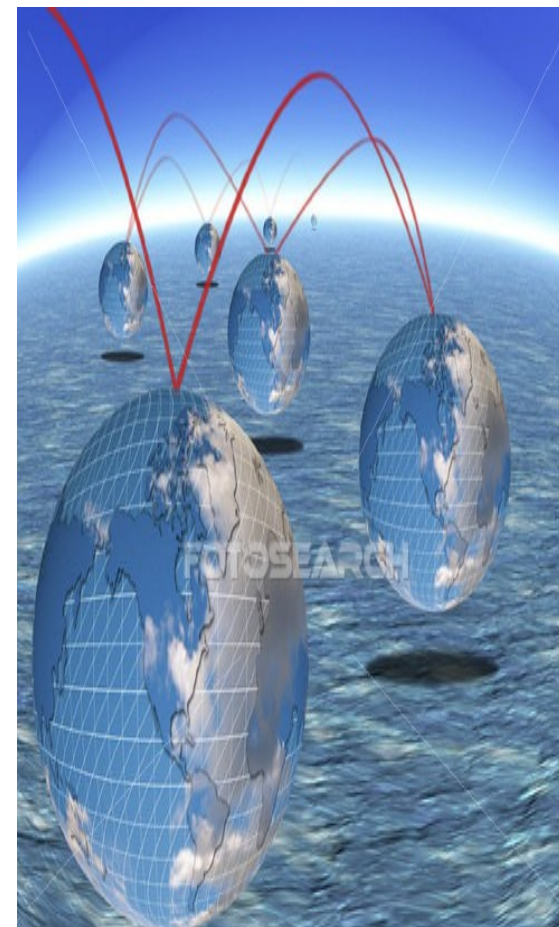
Internal procedure

- Internal procedure finishes end September.
- Adoption: mid-November.
- Launching event: Lisbon, 28-29 November.



International dimension

- Issues:
 - Increase observation and data sharing.
 - Increase cooperation in deep-sea research.
 - Promote surveillance and international arrangements to control illicit and illegal trafficking.
 - Promote joint environmental stewardship to protect marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity & mitigation of climate change impacts.
 - Exchange best practice and pursuing cooperation on maritime monitoring and surveillance.
 - Foster sustainable approaches to the exploitation of marine resources.
 - Promote innovation on the development of marine renewable energies.



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How can EUROBASIN contribute?

- The issue: *science and research need to go hand-in-hand with industry* → EUROBASIN has a say on Atlantic basin (maritime) competitiveness
- It provides in “one shot” the expertise required to deal with shared marine challenges.
- It can be a basis for economies of scale to be developed –project should be geared so that it can have long-lasting effects.
- It can give regular technical input to North Atlantic decision-makers (including international organisations).
- It can make specific links with relevant EU projects and structures (i.e. EMODnet, development of MSP, RTD ocean cross-cutting calls, future Atlantic Forum).

Thank you very much!

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<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/>

<http://www.mare.cec.eu.int/>