

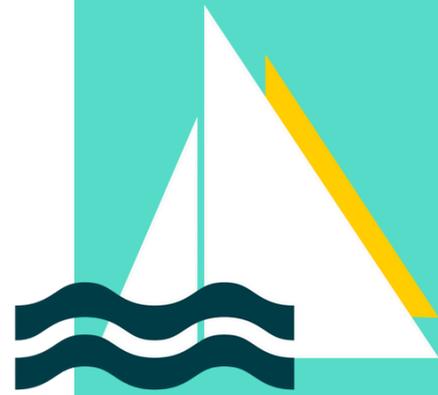


## 2026 SYMPOSIUM

# Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy

11 February 2026

Radisson Blu Bucharest, Romania



The Drop: Setting the Scene		
9:00 9:30	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC)</li> <li>• Victor Negrescu, Member of the European Parliament, Romania (video message)</li> <li>• Andrei Alexandru, President of Romania's National Research Authority</li> <li>• Fabio Fava, Advisor to the Italian Minister of Universities and Research</li> </ul>
9:30 9:50	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>
9:50 10:00	<b>Strengthening Cooperation across Sea Basins: a European Approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission</li> </ul>
First Ring: Political & Regional Context		
10:05 10:40	<b>Panel 1 – Navigating Uncertainty: Policy, Geopolitics and the Black Sea Dimension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandra Bogdan, Romanian National Coordinator for the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• Irina Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission</li> <li>• Mihai Sebastian Chihaiia, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre</li> </ul>
10:40 11:30	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	

Expanding Ripples: Impact & Uptake		
11:30 12:15	<b>Panel 2 – From Research to Ripple Effect: Early Results from our Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mihai Datcu (Romania), Coordinator DIVE</li> <li>• Alexander Micallef (Malta), Coordinator OCEAN-H2</li> <li>• Lena Bergström (Sweden), Coordinator MSP4MORE</li> <li>• Lionel Camus (Norway), Coordinator <a href="#">CliN-BluFeed</a></li> <li>• Marta Martínez (Spain), Coordinator <a href="#">SEAFOODTURE</a></li> <li>• Alice Affatati (Italy), Coordinator MARVEL</li> </ul>
12:15 12:30	<b>Inspirational Talk on R&amp;I in the Black Sea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilge Durgut, Middle East Technical University</li> </ul>
12:30 13:30	Lunch & Networking	
13:30 14:05	<b>Panel 3 – The Market Uptake Challenge: Engaging Industry and Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer Fietzek, Senior Business Development Manager, Kongsberg Discovery</li> <li>• Ingeborg Frøysnes, Special Advisor Scale-ups and AI, Innovation Norway</li> <li>• Christelle Sapata, Senior Manager, PwC</li> </ul>
14:05 14:30	<b>Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL Arts</b>	
14:30 15:05	<b>Panel 4 – Beyond the Horizon: Shaping Global Impact Together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre for the Sustainable Ocean Economy</li> <li>• Oriana Romano, Head of Unit Water Governance, Blue and Circular Economy, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities</li> </ul>
15:05 15:50	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	
Propagating Waves: Closing Session		
15:50 16:30	<b>Concluding Roundtable: Future Opportunities &amp; Looking Ahead</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiebke Pankauke, Deputy Head of Unit Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG RTD, European Commission</li> <li>• Peter Haugan, Policy Director, Institute of Marine Research of Norway; Chair of JPI Oceans</li> <li>• Viorel Vulturescu, Director, National Authority for Scientific Research of Romania</li> </ul>
16:30 17:00	<b>Wrap-Up &amp; Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eva Falleth, Executive Director Sustainable Development, Research Council of Norway; Chair of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's General Assembly</li> <li>• Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership</li> </ul>
Evening Reception		