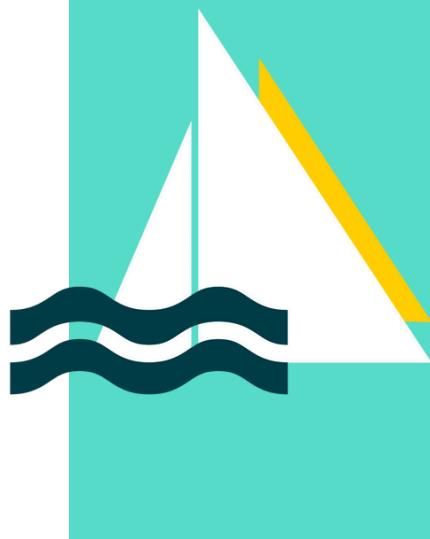




2026 SYMPOSIUM

Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy

11 February 2026
Radisson Blu Bucharest, Romania



The Drop: Setting the Scene

9:00 9:30	Opening and Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC)Victor Negrescu, Member of the European Parliament, Romania (video message)Andrei Alexandru, President of Romania's National Research AuthorityFabio Fava, Advisor to the Italian Minister of Universities and Research
9:30 9:50	Keynote Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Antonio Borriello, Scientific Research Officer, European Commission Joint Research Centre
9:50 10:00	Strengthening Cooperation across Sea Basins: a European Approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission

First Ring: Political & Regional Context

10:05 10:40	Panel 1 – Navigating Uncertainty: Policy, Geopolitics and the Black Sea Dimension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alexandra Bogdan, Romanian National Coordinator for the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, Ministry of Foreign AffairsIrina Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea CommissionMihai Sebastian Chihai, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre
10:40 11:30	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	

Expanding Ripples: Impact & Uptake

11:30 - 12:15 **Panel 2 – From Research to Ripple Effect: Early Results from our Projects**

- Mihai Datcu (Romania), Coordinator DIVE
- Alexander Micallef (Malta), Coordinator OCEAN-H2
- Lena Bergström (Sweden), Coordinator MSP4MORE
- Lionel Camus (Norway), Coordinator CliN-BluFeed
- Marta Martínez (Spain), Coordinator SEAFOODTURE
- Alice Affatati (Italy), Coordinator MARVEL

12:15 - 12:30 **Inspirational Talk on R&I in the Black Sea**

- Bilge Durgut, Middle East Technical University

12:30 - 13:30 **Lunch & Networking**

13:30 - 14:05 **Panel 3 – The Market Uptake Challenge: Engaging Industry and Finance**

- Peer Fietzek, Senior Business Development Manager, Kongsberg Discovery
- Ingeborg Frøysnes, Special Advisor Scale-ups and AI, Innovation Norway
- Christelle Sapata, Senior Manager, PwC

14:05 - 14:30 **Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL ArtS**

14:30 - 14:50 **Panel 4 – Beyond the Horizon: Shaping Global Impact Together**

- Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre for the Sustainable Ocean Economy
- 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

14:50 - 15:05 **Inspirational Talk**

- Adrian Stanica, General Director, National Institute of Geology and Marine Geoecology of Romania (GeoEcoMar)

15:05 - 15:50 **Coffee & Exhibition Walk**

Propagating Waves: Closing Session

15:50 - 16:30 **Concluding Roundtable: Future Opportunities & Looking Ahead**

- Wiebke Pankauke, Deputy Head of Unit Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG RTD, European Commission
- Peter Haugan, Policy Director, Institute of Marine Research of Norway; Chair of JPI Oceans
- Viorel Vulturescu, Director, National Authority for Scientific Research of Romania

16:30 - 17:00 **Wrap-Up & Next Steps**

- Eva Falleth, Executive Director Sustainable Development, Research Council of Norway; Chair of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's General Assembly
- Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Evening Reception