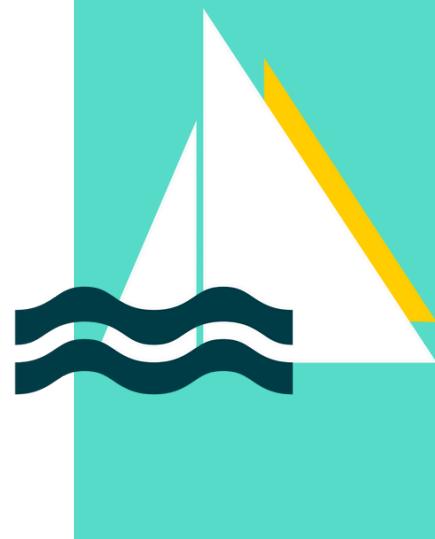




2026 SYMPOSIUM

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	Cooperation across Sea Basins: a European Approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit 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">Alexandru Buicliu, Deputy Director, Business Environment Directorate, Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism of RomaniaIryna 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	Panel 2 – From Research to Ripple Effect: Early Results from our Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Inspirational Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bilge Durgut, Middle East Technical University
12:30	Lunch & Networking	
13:30	Panel 3 – The Market Uptake Challenge: Engaging Industry and Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL ArtS	
14:30	Panel 4 – Beyond the Horizon: Shaping Global Impact Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre 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	Inspirational Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adrian Stanica, General Director, National Institute of Geology and Marine Geoecology of Romania (GeoEcoMar)
15:05	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	
Propagating Waves: Closing Session		
15:50	Concluding Roundtable: Future Opportunities & Looking Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Wrap-Up & Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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		