

Commissioner Joe Borg
Directorate for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
European Commission
Berlaymont-11
1049 - Brussels
BELGIUM

Lisbon, 29 January 2007

Dear Commissioner ~~Joe~~ Borg,

Dear Commissioner Joe Borg,

I have great pleasure in providing you with a contribution of EurOcean to the Green Paper on a Future European Maritime Policy and entitled "Enhancing the Role of Information Management in Marine Science and Technology as a Key Component of a European Maritime Policy".

This contribution of EurOcean fits in the continuity of the fruitful collaboration which have developed with the DG on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs since the meeting of a EurOcean delegation with you on 1st February 2005 and then through various initiatives engaged with the Task Force.

EurOcean welcomes the views expressed in the Green Paper, in particular the creation of a European Marine Data and Observatory Network. EurOcean stresses in its Position Paper the importance of devoting more attention to marine information management and suggests that a **European Marine Information Network**, of which marine science and technology would be a key component, should be thoughtfully considered in the perspective of an operational supporting service to a future European Maritime Policy.

Regarding the suggestion in the Green Paper that "The establishment of a single European Internet Portal for research related projects to replace the fragmented webpages that currently exist could be envisaged.", I am very pleased to inform you that the inventory of the FP6 marine projects is now available on line in the Internet portal of EurOcean and that EurOcean has carried out a preliminary statistical analysis of these projects which enclosed. Furthermore, EurOcean has now extended its inventory of the European marine

research projects to other funding mechanisms including: Interreg III, LIFE, COST, EUREKA and ESF.

Should you consider that EurOcean could be of any help regarding the on-going initiatives for the preparation of a European Maritime Policy, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mário Ruivo

President, Steering Committee of EurOcean

Enclosures: - Contribution from EurOcean to the Green Paper on a European Maritime Policy
- Marine Science and Technology Projects Funded under the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission - A Statistical Overview -

Cc: - Per Nieuwejaar, Vice-President, EurOcean
- Laurent d'Ozouville, Executive Director, EurOcean

- facilitating the access to valuable information related to research activities and technological development on key aspects addressed by the Green Paper for a European Maritime Strategy;
- stimulating the development of quantitative indicators, including common standards, on marine science and technology and related to environment and socio-economics;
- contributing towards improved cooperation and coordination between the European organizations through sharing information;
- enhancing public outreach and education activities.

Addressing these issues is a challenging task but, today, thanks to the opportunities offered by the developments of information technology, there are no technological constraints to successfully implement the appropriate tools to tailor the information as required by the end-users.

Managing Information on Marine Science and Technology Affairs in Europe


With the objective of sharing information to help creating synergy among all the various actors and institutions involved in Ocean Affairs in Europe - at the national, regional and European levels - and building up on the experience gained by EurOcean since its creation in 2002, enhancing management of information on marine science and technology in Europe, as an operational service, would require:

- a sharing network through which owners and end-users of information may benefit from an active exchange of information, of other experiences and of know-how in the maritime regions;
- the provision of dedicated support services aiming at providing users with an array of products on key topics;
- the consultation with and the participation of all interested partners in the development and the management of information systems in order to be responsive to the societal needs and to be able to rapidly react to complex demands in an easy and accessible form.

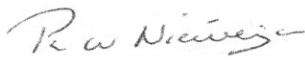
Such a strategy should rely on two pillars:

- a dynamic, innovative and flexible network of existing European institutions working on different aspects of marine science and technology and related issues that can provide key information, knowledge and experience to the network;
- a permanent mechanism acting as a focal point and supported by the European Commission with the tasks of: i) integrating inputs; ii) providing quality control; iii) disseminating outputs through efficient tools; iv) maintaining the coherence and insuring the long term continuity of the services required by information management.

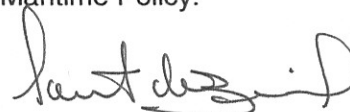
Taking into account the large diversity of the marine stakeholder community and its interrelated requirements for information, a comprehensive strategic approach to information management on Ocean Affairs through a **European Marine Information Network**, of which marine science and technology would be a key component, should be thoughtfully considered in the perspective of a European Maritime Policy.



Mário Ruivo,
President



Per Nieuwejaar
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Laurent d'Ozouville
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