



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 April 2013

8916/13

PECHE 176

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Council

Subject: Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth
- Information from the Netherlands delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note submitted by the Netherlands delegation as a background document to the agenda point on "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 13-14 May 2013.

Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth

The Government of The Netherlands, in close co-operation with the World Bank and other partners, is proud to announce a Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth. This global Summit will be held from 9 – 13 September 2013 in the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague, The Netherlands and will include a high level session on 12 September.

The Summit will allow global leaders, ocean practitioners, scientists, and representatives of civil society and the private sector to share experiences and demonstrate how combined action in partnerships for healthier and productive oceans can act as a driver of enhanced food security, blue growth and shared prosperity.

The world faces one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century: how to feed 9 billion people by 2050, in the face of climate change, economic and financial crises and the growing competition for natural resources. Meeting this challenge requires an integrated response and an urgent transition in the global economy towards sustainability and resource efficiency. Healthy oceans are essential for global food security, livelihoods and economic growth. The oceans cover some 72 percent of the earth's surface, and are both an engine for global economic growth and a key source of our food security. One billion people depend on fish as their primary source of protein.

The world needs to focus on the vital role oceans play in global food security, climate regulation and the generation of economic activity, especially for some of the poorest people in the world. Healthy, productive oceans are vital to mankind.

The World Bank helped catalyze 'The Global Partnership for Oceans' (GPO), which was formally launched at Rio+20. The GPO is a growing alliance of more than 120 governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and private sector interests committed to addressing the threats to the health, productivity and resilience of the world's oceans. It aims to help close the gap in implementing global, regional and national commitments for healthy and productive oceans.

In support of this, the Netherlands and The World Bank have taken the initiative to organize the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth in close cooperation with partners within and beyond the GPO, including the private sector and organizations from the UN System.

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth brings together an unprecedented coalition ready to announce urgently needed action. The Summit will mobilize significant new and existing resources – including human, financial and institutional capacity - and channel them towards targeted investment packages in priority ocean areas for enhanced food security, sustainable growth and shared prosperity. These programs of actions will be country-led, often at the multi-country scale, with strong collaboration between Governments. The Summit also provides an opportunity for the first formal Annual Meeting of the Partners of the GPO and demonstrate the action taken a year after its launch at Rio+20.

Specifically the Summit will:

- Review action priorities to sustainably generate increased productivity for food security and for growth in the context of healthy oceans in a changing climate;
- Showcase innovative project solutions and action partnerships amongst a wide range of stakeholders on replicable blue growth models for scaling-up action in: sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; watershed, pollution and coastal habitat management; and coastal and maritime industries including tourism;
- Mobilize investments from all sources for scaled-up action and transformational change including through the launch of a new Financial Mechanism;
- Present a prototype Oceans Knowledge Portal to build partnerships and knowledge on solutions for blue growth;
- Mobilize broad support for the optimal positioning of Oceans in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Invitations and details of the program will be sent in the near future. Further information about the Summit will then also be available on www.globaloceansactionsummit.com