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To:	Delegations
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Subject:	List of commitments to be presented by the European Union at the 'Our Ocean Conference' (Palau, 7-8 December 2020)

Delegations will find herewith the above-mentioned list of commitments to be presented by the European Union at the 'Our Ocean Conference' (Palau, 7-8 December 2020), as adopted by the Council by the means of written procedure on 15 October 2020.

List of commitments to be presented by the European Union at the 'Our Ocean Conference'
(Palau, 7-8 December 2020)

Climate change

1. The European Union announces a contribution of EUR 28.72 million to strengthen marine environmental monitoring and monitoring of climate change, through its satellite-monitoring programme (Copernicus) and Wekeo service that allows the international research community to access through a one-stop-shop all products describing the past, present and future of the earth system together with online tools for environmental science on cloud computing facilities. This activity will contribute to the implementation of SDG 14.A and the monitoring of the corresponding indicator.
2. The European Union announces the launch of the Kiwa Initiative - nature based solutions for climate resilience. This Programme aims at tackling climate change adaptation by protecting, developing and restoring terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the Pacific Region - both in Island States and in the OCTs. The Initiative is an innovative and ambitious partnership that brings together Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and the EU. The total EU contribution is EUR 13.9 million and the total budget allocated to the initiative is EUR 35 million.
3. The European Union announces that, at the end of 2020, the satellite Sentinel6A, the third Copernicus satellite dedicated to ocean observations, built in cooperation with the United States for a value of EUR 255 million will be launched. This is the unique satellite allowing the calculation of sea level rise over decades with sub-millimetric accuracy. In 2020, a budget of EUR 10.56 million will be allocated to cover the costs of the satellite operations.

Marine pollution – a clean ocean

4. The European Union announces a contribution of EUR 4 million to RECI - Restauration des Ecosystèmes Insulaires de l'Océan Indien. This initiative will contribute to the ecological restoration of threatened island ecosystems and in particular the fight against invasive exotic species, which have a significant negative impact on endemic flora and fauna and in particular bird populations.
5. The European Union commits to the implementation of a new circular economy action plan, published in 2020, which will help modernise the EU's economy and draw benefit from the opportunities of the circular economy domestically and globally. A key aim of the new policy framework will be to stimulate the development of lead markets for climate neutral and circular products, in the EU and beyond. Timely implementation of the new Directive on Single Use Plastic Products and fishing gear to address the problem of marine plastic pollution while safeguarding the single market, will be crucial, in particular in regard to: harmonised interpretation of the labelling of relevant products such as tobacco, beverage cups and wet wipes and ensuring the introduction of tethered caps for bottles to prevent littering; developing for the first time rules on measuring recycled content in products.
6. The European Union commits to prevent pollution from being generated, as well as to the measures to clean and remedy it with zero-pollution ambition. The European Union commits to protect Europe's citizens and ecosystems, to better monitor, report, prevent and remedy pollution from air, water, soil, noise and consumer products to contribute towards a toxic free environment. This will be reinforced by the actions that will be elaborated in the 2021 Zero Pollution Action Plan, and which will include and build upon, in particular, the pollution related actions in the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy.
7. The European Union commits to support the ongoing efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the development of a proposal for a submission at IMO level in 2022, for the designation of a sulphur emission control area across the Mediterranean Sea basin as a whole. This aims to minimize shipping emissions and achieve significant health and environmental benefits.

Sustainable blue economies

8. The European Union announces that it will invest around EUR 1.26 million in the establishment of an EU-wide Ocean Literacy initiative, in the form of a coalition of engaged parties encompassing civil society, diverse organisations, projects, youth and schools. The initiative will promote the awareness and the engagement of all parties involved on ocean literacy and enhance the understanding of how we influence the ocean and how the ocean influences us, hence contributing to the sustainable management of the ocean.
9. The European Union announces that it will support sustainable blue economy in the European Union through a EUR 22.86 million investment initiative. The Blue Economy Window will support market realisation of new business models, products and services with a particular focus on the sustainable use of marine resources and improved livelihoods and jobs.
10. The European Union announces that it will continue supporting the WestMed assistance mechanism for additional two years. In 2017, with 10 countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Spain, Portugal and Tunisia), it launched the initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMed). This initiative has built bridges between Southern Europe and North Africa to achieve a safer and more secure maritime space, promoting a smart and resilient blue economy and improving governance at sea. WestMed has generated 15 innovative projects worth about EUR 24 million.
11. The European Union announces the launch of the Go Blue Kenya programme, worth EUR 25 million. This programme will contribute to coastal economic development in an inclusive, integrated, participatory and sustainable manner through strengthening inclusive and sustainable blue economy value chains; ensuring an integrated approach to sea-land planning and management in a participatory and inclusive manner, especially for women and young people; and strengthening the effectiveness and integration of maritime law enforcement.

12. The European Union announces that it will continue its research and innovation efforts to increase scientific knowledge on the ocean and to innovate thanks to the new EU Research and Innovation Programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027). These efforts will be worth EUR [...] million.* It will include a moon shot type mission in the area of “Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters”. It will also include a partnership approach between the EU and its Member States for a climate neutral sustainable and productive blue economy in line with and in support of the recently launched European Green Deal. These activities will be carried out together with our international partners in the frame of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the BLUEMED Initiative, and the ongoing work in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. All this will also fully support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

**the exact amount will be included once the budget negotiations are finalised*

13. The European Union has committed EUR 36 million under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme to fund projects addressing ocean observation governance, technologies and a pilot Blue Cloud. This commitment follows on the pledge made at the 2016 G7 Science & Technology meeting of Tsukuba to support the development of an initiative for enhanced global sea and ocean observation and to promote open science and the improvement of the global data-sharing infrastructure.
14. The European Union announces that it will continue to support and enhance the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance with the launch of new projects worth about EUR 32 million under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation to support its implementation activities, with the aim of having over 1,000 scientific teams engaged in Atlantic Ocean research. Under the development of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Forum, the European Union will launch a call for its second cohort of All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors for the period 2020 – 2021. In addition, the European Commission will further enhance marine research and innovation cooperation with Morocco.

15. The European Union commits to continuing its research and innovation efforts to increase scientific knowledge in the Arctic Ocean by allocating EUR 78 million of funding under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in the 2018-2020 Work Programme.
16. The European Union announces that it will allocate EUR 18 million under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation to implement the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea.
17. The European Union announces that it will invest further EUR 6.5 million to ensure open access to harmonise marine data and observation through EMODnet. In the next phase of its implementation, EMODnet, the European Marine Observation and Data network, will support all marine sectors by the provision of more and more integrated data, in an uninhibited and easy to access manner. The European Union also commit to support the further development of international collaboration regarding marine observation and data through EMODnet.
18. The European Union will continue to support a level-playing field based on decent work and social sustainability in the Blue Economy by promoting the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the relevant international conventions, such as the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, No. 188, internally, in its contribution to regional fisheries management organisations and in its bilateral agreements and cooperation with partner countries. This includes a EUR 10 million contribution to a project promoting decent work for migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industry in South East Asia, in close cooperation with the ILO and with the support of the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Development Program.

19. The European Union commits to implement the revised Atlantic Action Plan that aims for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the EU Atlantic area, covering France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The revamped action plan will give new impetus to the Atlantic maritime strategy and will promote a socially inclusive sustainable model of regional development and job creation that safeguard marine and coastal environments and secure a healthy ocean. Concrete actions will address the following challenges: 1) the reduction of CO2 emissions and the development of renewable energy by supporting research and investment in marine renewable energy; 2) the fight against marine pollution by promoting green shipping and coordinating actions against marine litter; 3) the creation of new jobs by addressing the skills gaps in the blue economy sectors and by supporting cooperation between EU training centres and businesses; 4) the adaptation to climate change by improving coastal observation and designing and promoting cost effective coastal protection measures.

Marine protected areas

20. The European Union announces that it will support biodiversity Actions for Mozambique with a contribution of EUR 13 million. These actions aim at protecting biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of rural communities through sustainable management of natural resources in 3 target areas of Mozambique, among which Ilhas Primeiras e Segundas (APAIPS - one of Africa's largest protected marine zone) and its adjacent coastal areas.
21. The European Union announces that, at the end of 2020, a new initiative to support the sustainable development of Pacific island states and the coastal countries will be launched. This new Programme will support the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management and will also promote urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems. In 2020, a budget of EUR 12 million will be allocated to the Pacific Region.

Sustainable fisheries

22. To foster aquaculture and improve governance and the poor state of the stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea capture fisheries, the European Union announces that it will support the work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean with a grant of EUR 4.3 million in 2020. The grant will, among others, support the implementation of regional activities in the Eastern Mediterranean aimed at developing a common framework for cooperation between coastal states of the Mediterranean and Black Seas to enable the common management of fish stocks in these regions. This will be done through the provision and sharing of scientific work and data with non-EU partner countries, a contribution to the enhancement of their capacity in participating actively in the relevant regional frameworks for sustainable fisheries management and to establish a sound socio-economic and scientific basis to improve fishing resources in these regions and achieve sustainable management of these resources using an ecosystem approach.
23. The European Union announces the start of two projects on aquaculture worth EUR 15 million under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Furthermore, the European Union announces that it will allocate EUR 16 million for research and innovation on fisheries in the full ecosystem context under Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Work Programme 2020.
24. The European Union announces a contribution of EUR 12 million to FISHGOV.2 The objective of the action is to improve food security, livelihoods and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, aligned with African Union's 2063 Agenda, through evidence-based African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies, coherence and coordination of fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) and other AU priorities and adequate representation and participation of Africa in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and other relevant global instruments.

Maritime security

25. The European Union announces a EUR 7.5 million project in 2020 (CRIMARIO II) to support partner countries in the Wider Indian Ocean and South East Asia, with a particular focus on the Eastern Indian Ocean region (including South East Asia), to adequately address maritime-related issues and maritime security challenges in a comprehensive manner, encouraging cross-sectorial and interregional approaches. The project's duration will be four years (2020-2024).
26. The European Union announces a EUR 8.5 million programme (WECAPS) aimed at helping partner countries in West and Central Africa to address increasing vulnerabilities related to port security. The program will be for two years (2020-2022). It supports port security and safety in West and Central Africa countries through capacity building, support to establishing public-private partnerships and twinning with European ports.
27. The European Union announces a EUR 10 million programme named PASSMAR (Programme to the Maritime Security Strategy in Central Africa) to support the region by reinforcing the institutional, legal and operational framework for cross-border maritime cooperation.
28. The European Union commits EUR 20 million to a Regional Programme for Maritime Security in the Red Sea. With a focus on five coastal countries, namely Eritrea, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen, this new programme aims to enhance maritime and port security and safety of navigation in the Southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden regions.
29. The European Union announces a EUR 5 million project Critical Maritime Routes Law Enforcement Agencies Phase III (CRIMLEA III). With a focus on selected countries (namely, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania) the project aims to reduce maritime insecurity in Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean region by reinforcing the capacity of law enforcement agencies in selected countries to effectively detect and investigate maritime-based organized crime threats, such as piracy, armed robbery, or the trafficking in weapons and drugs.

30. The European Union commits EUR 8.5 million to a project on "Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia" aimed at strengthening cooperation with Asian countries in several security-related areas, in particular maritime security. In partnership with France and Germany, this project will support deeper cooperation on maritime security with regional partner countries based on identified needs and opportunities, with a total budget of EUR 14.085 million.

 31. The European Union announces the development of a new tool named "Coordinated Maritime Presence" (CMP) aimed at promoting international cooperation on maritime security. The CMP will rely on the coordination of the presence of EU Member States naval assets in a given maritime area in order to bolster maritime awareness in this area and promote international cooperation at sea, especially with regional and coastal countries.
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