

Towards a circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands

11.04.2018, 10:00 – 13:00

European Parliament Brussels

The Mediterranean region is the world's leading tourist destination. In the **summer season**, due to the annual tourist wave, **Mediterranean islands host a far greater population**. This is beneficial for the local economies, but it also puts a **huge burden on the local infrastructures**, especially for waste management systems.

The growing attention to the potential of **sustainable tourism as a lever to promote circular economy** is at the basis of the BLUEISLANDS project (ERDF Co-funding under the Interreg MED program). The project gathers 8 major and 55 smaller islands of the Mediterranean in a systematic effort to identify, address and mitigate the effect of the seasonal variation of waste generated on Mediterranean islands as an effect of tourism.

Several policies and instruments address Coastal and Maritime activities, including tourism and waste management, and call for a more sustainable and cooperative approach, among which the Maritime Spatial Planning, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management instrument, the UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Blue Growth Strategy, the BLUEMED Initiative, the Bologna Charter Initiative and the Integrated Regional Development policies on sustainable tourism. The Circular Economy Package and the new EU strategy on plastics specifically aim to improve waste management policies in order, among others, to tackle marine litter and the adverse impacts of waste generation. Nevertheless, a stronger coordination is still needed between policies to achieve sustainable development results for islands and coastal areas, harmonising the interests of key coastal sectors such as tourism through interregional cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration.

This is the background of the conference “Towards a circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands”, which will gather a high level panel of key actors willing to: **enhance mutual learning opportunities** between islands and regions dealing with seasonal variation of waste and marine litter; **build consensus on a shared path towards material resource resiliency, circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands**.

*Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible [here](#) in order to guaranty and organize the access to the EP. The day of the conference, Participants are kindly requested to present themselves from **09:45** onwards, in order to avoid delays.*



This work resulted from the BLUEISLANDS project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

10.00-10.20 - Welcome Addresses

- Ms **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, Chair of the Intergroup
- Ms **Athena PAPANASTASIOU**, Cyprus Department of Environment

10.20-10.30 – How to achieve a sustainable bioeconomy

- Mr **John BELL**, Director of the Bioeconomy, Directorate General for Research & Innovation

10.30-10.40 - The new perspectives in the battle against marine litter with the EU Strategy for Plastics

- Mr **Michel SPONAR**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission

10.40-10.50 - Action points towards material resource resiliency on MED islands. Path to a shared charter of commitments

- Mr **Josep Maria TOST I BORRÀS**, ACR+ President

10.50-11.30 - Islands and Regions dealing with waste

Moderator and respondent Mr **Tonino PICULA**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup

- Mr **Roberto DONEDDU**, Director of Training Service, Sardegna Region
- Ms **Eleni HATZIYANNI**, Director of Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Crete
- Ms **Sandra ESPEJA ALMAJANO**, Councillor of the Environment department, Concell de Mallorca
- Mr **Davide STRANGIS**, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Mediterranean Commission

11.30-12.20 - How to monitor marine litter and tourism waste?

Moderator and respondent Ms **Michela GIUFFRIDA**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup

- Ms **Patrizia ZIVERI**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Ms **Maria Teresa SPEDICATO**, Scientific Director, COISPA Technology and Research
- Ms **Serena CARPENTIERI**, Campaign Manager, Legambiente Onlus
- Ms **Thomais VLACHOGIANNI**, Programme Officer, MIO/ECSDE

12.20-12.35 - Raising awareness and taking action

- Ms **Maeva VOLTZ**, Project Officer, ACR+
- Ms **Francesca DAVOLI**, Program Officer, A.I.C.A Associazione Internazionale per la Comunicazione Ambientale

INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



12.35-12.45 - Rosa ESTARAS FERRAGUT, Searica Vice-Chair of the Intergroup in charge of the Mediterranean

12.45-13.15 - Networking Coffee



This work resulted from the BLUEISLANDS project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund