



Government Offices of Sweden



The Ocean Conference

Official Side Event

“EUROPEAN UNION TOURISM COMMITTED TO BLUE GROWTH”

June 8, 2017 - 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

The United Nations Head Quarters, Conference Building, New York, Conference Room B

Europe is certainly one of the most committed region in the world towards the Oceans and SDG14.

Coastal and Maritime Tourism is one of the key sectors of the European Union Blue Growth Strategy with a high potential for sustainable jobs and growth. Tourism employs over 3.2 million people and generates a total of €183 billion in gross value added, representing over one third of the maritime economy.

The Universal dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides the European Union (EU) regions with the opportunity to show leadership and share best practices to extend their Blue Growth strategy in other parts of the world.

PROGRAMME

6:00 – 6:30 Welcome Coffee

6:30 – 6:35 Introduction and Moderation: **Mrs. Zoritsa Urosevic**, Representative to the United Nations at Geneva, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Keynote speaker:

Mr. Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, “EU Tourism Committed to Blue Growth”

6:45 – 7:35 **Round table: “Realizing the SDG14 through EU Tourism - Blue Growth”**

Panellists:

Dr. Jakob Granit PhD, Director General of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Mrs. Isabella Lövin, Vice-Prime Minister of Sweden (TBC)

Mr. Patrick Torrent Queralt, NECSTouR President

Mrs. Birgitta Losman, President of the Regional Development Committee Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

Ms. Susana Ibáñez Rosa, Secretary General for Tourism in Andalusia, Spain

Dr. Rob Brumbaugh, Director of Ocean Planning, The Nature Conservancy

Ms. Claudia Monteiro De Aguiar, Member of the European Parliament Committee for Transport and Tourism (video)

Mrs. Ana Tejedor Arceredillo, WISE-Marine coordination and cooperation with Regional Sea Conventions, European Environment Agency

Mr. Chris Elfverson, UNWTO Special Advisor to the Secretary General

7:35 - 7:45 Conclusions: **Mrs. Zoritsa Urosevic**, Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)