



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



30 June 2022

## Call for Action

### Join the Mission Charter

The Mission Charter calls for joining efforts to achieve the three objectives of the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030<sup>1</sup> to:

- I. Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- II. Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, in line with the EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil
- III. Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular, in line with the proposed European Climate Law and the holistic vision enshrined in the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy.

To reach these objectives the Mission is also putting in place two enablers:

- i. Digital Ocean and Water Knowledge System
- ii. Public mobilisation and engagement.

We want to establish a simple, inclusive and inspirational framework to enhance cooperation, align intents with other partners, mobilise resources and develop activities to deliver on the Mission objectives. This Charter is non-binding and open to any public or private interested parties.

<sup>1</sup> More information on Mission Restore our Ocean and waters and on its Implementation Plan are available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/mission-ocean>

## **Commitment/call for Mission actions**

The European Commission is calling on a wide range of stakeholders, including public or private organisations, national/regional/local authorities (including cities and ports), philanthropists and investors, enterprises and businesses, civil society, research and academia to adhere to the Mission Charter by submitting actions for achieving the Mission objectives. Any actions at European, transnational, national, regional/local level, promoted by public or private funds (including crowd funding), contributing to the Mission objectives are welcome.

Actions include Mission Ocean and Waters related policies, programmes, initiatives and projects to support:

- a. Research and innovation
- b. Evidence-based knowledge and data and/or access provision to knowledge and data, in line with FAIR principles for the Mission Ocean and Waters Knowledge System
- c. Upscaling, deployment and replication of solutions
- d. Citizen engagement, citizens-science, youth-led initiatives, communities of practice, ocean and water literacy, outreach, awareness raising and participatory approaches
- e. Education and training.

## **What is in it for me?**

By adhering to the Mission Charter, you send a clear signal on the importance to protect our ocean and waters and to take concrete actions. You will be involved in major Mission fora and events. In this way, we are multiplying the opportunities for networking, exchanges of experiences, collaboration and increasing visibility.

You will have access to knowledge, services and tools the Mission Ocean and Waters will deploy through the European Digital Twin Ocean, the Mission Implementation Platform and other coordination actions at basin level. You will have also access to tools to empower citizens to take action for the restoration of the ocean and waters. The submitted actions will be monitored through the coordination action

## **How to join the Mission Charter?**

You adhere to this Charter by submitting relevant actions through this dedicated online platform, which will remain open throughout the duration of this Mission. Submitted actions will be assessed by the European Commission for their coherence with the Mission objectives and enablers, in three waves each year (January/May/ September). All Mission Ocean and Waters actions will be made publicly available on the EC website. For more information, please contact the Mission secretariat at [EU-MISSION-OCEAN-AND-WATERS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-MISSION-OCEAN-AND-WATERS@ec.europa.eu)

# Mission Ocean and Waters Charter

The organisation/entity I represent is committed to contributing to the Mission Ocean and Waters through the action hereby submitted (submission via [this link](#)).

This action will contribute to the Mission “Restore our Ocean and waters by 2030” and create the conditions to achieve the Mission objectives and targets:

- I. **Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity**, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
  - a. Protect a minimum of 30% of the EU’s sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
  - b. Strictly protect at least 10% of the EU’s sea area.
  - c. Restore at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers.
  - d. Contribute to relevant upcoming marine nature restoration targets, including degraded seabed habitats and coastal ecosystems.
- II. **Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters**, in line with the EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil
  - a. Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter at sea.
  - b. Reduce by at least 30% microplastics released into the environment.
  - c. Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides.
- III. **Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular**, in line with the proposed European Climate Law and the holistic vision enshrined in the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy
  - a. Eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from maritime economic activities in the EU and sequester those emissions that cannot be avoided (net zero maritime emissions).
  - b. Develop zero-carbon and low-impact aquaculture, and promote circular, low-carbon multi-purpose use of marine and water space.

**In carrying out the action proposed, the organisation/entity I represent, will:**

- support the EU Ocean knowledge system and respect FAIR principles in relation to knowledge and data
- involve citizens in the decision-making process;
- stimulate investments from public and private sources;
- share knowledge and experience and collaborate with other Mission actors;
- take stock of the collective progress of achieving the Mission objectives and contribute to adjusting its course and steer its actions.