

**EUROPEAN
OCEAN DAYS**

3-7 MARCH 2025



**EU
MISSIONS**

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

**Mission Ocean and Waters Forum
and related events**



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Towards a Water Resilience Strategy for the European Union (incl. high level stakeholder consultations)

Programme - Version 22 - Date 26-02-2025

Format: In person (web streamed) –

Interpretation: FR - DE - EN - IT - ES – EL (NL and PT tbc, as well as other EU languages tbc)

Date: 6 March 2025

Venue: Charlemagne Building, Brussels

Scope: The event is part of the consultation process for the development of the European Water Resilience Strategy. Commissioner Roswall will be present to welcome participants and give an opening statement. The event will include sessions on the main aspects of the water resilience agenda, including governance and implementation, industry, research and innovation, and the international dimension. Participating stakeholders will be asked to give their contribution and engage in active discussions on the spot. The event will also discuss the innovative solutions offered by the Mission and research and innovation from source-to-sea. It will showcase research and innovation solutions to for restoring rivers, lakes and coastal waters and strengthen water resilience of communities across Europe.

The WRS event is also part of a week-long series of events centred around the "Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters Forum 2025," with its third annual forum focused on the Mission's objectives. The forum will highlight the extensive mobilization and specific research and innovation solutions developed to support the Mission's goals. It aims to review and celebrate achievements by 2025, engage the participating community, and discuss necessary future steps to reach the 2030 targets. The forum will cover topics such as protecting and restoring ecosystems, eliminating pollution, achieving climate neutrality and circularity, and securing funding for deployment and scaling efforts.

During the WRS event the ‘*Sustainable Rivers & Lakes Awards*’ will be awarded to three winners, one for each category in: ‘Governance’, ‘Innovation’, and ‘Restoration’ selected from 41 nominations coming from all four Mission Ocean & Waters area based lighthouses: 1) Atlantic-Arctic, 2) Mediterranean Sea, 3) Baltic-North Sea, and 4) Danube-Black Sea. Mission lighthouses are sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy Mission activities across EU seas and river basins.

Targeted stakeholders: Key stakeholders involved include Member States and Associated Countries, relevant third countries and international organisations, regional and local authorities, representatives of sea and river basins, conservation communities, academia and education, industry, businesses, investors, NGOs and representatives of civil society.

The full programme of the whole week of Ocean and Water Days is available [here](#)

Towards a Water Resilience Strategy for the European Union (incl. high level stakeholder consultations)

Draft Programme – Version 16

Format: In person (but also web streamed)

Interpretation: Approved interpretation for FR - DE - EN - IT - ES – EL (NL & PT tbc), other languages pending

Date: 6 March 2025

Venue: Charlemagne Building, Brussels

Moderator: Anya Sitaram (<https://www.moderatorseurope.eu/anya-sitaram>)

Timing (hrs)	Topic & Possible contact persons / speakers
08.30 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 09.15	Welcome & Opening remarks – Commissioner Jessika Roswall – Commissioner for Environment, Water resilience and a Competitive circular economy
09.15 – 10:15 <i>[1.00h]</i>	<p>Session 1 - Restoring the water cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Short teaser video of policy relevant R&I project: ‘MERLIN’ Bringing Europe’s freshwaters back to life.</i> ○ <u>3 minutes scene setter</u> by moderator and video: <i>What is the water cycle, why is it increasingly “broken” according to the Global Commission for the Economics of Water? What does the Global Commission recommend to restore the broken water cycle, what do the United Nations recommend?</i> ○ <i>10-15 SLI.DO questions (40 minutes) to explore the environmental aspects of water management in the European Union.</i> ○ <i>Consultation (15 min): possibility to for participants who have not submitted written input in response to the call for evidence to deliver input and additional contributions to what the EC will have already received.</i>
10:15 - 11.15 <i>[1.00h]</i>	<p>Session 2 - Water smart economy and competitive water industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Short teaser video of R&I project: AQUA Spice</i> ○ <i>3 minutes scene setter facilitating an animated discussion on: (a) economic agents to use water more efficiently to leave more water for nature (b) better promoting companies excelling in Green tech for water resilience</i> ○ <i>10-15 SLI.DO questions (40 minutes) to explore the socio-economic dimension of water, and – second - the competitiveness of Europe’s water industry.</i> ○ <i>Consultation (15 min): possibility to for participants who have not submitted written input in response to the call for evidence to deliver input and additional contributions to what the EC will have already received.</i>
11.45 – 12.00	Coffee Break
12.00 - 13.00 <i>[1.00h]</i>	<p>Session 3 - Ensuring clean and affordable water for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Teaser video: of R&I project: REsilienT water gOvernance Under climate CHange for Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus (RETOUCH Nexus)</i> ○ <i>3 min. scene setter by moderator to start the explorations by the panel of the problem of water pollution, surface waters, groundwater and the sea. The audience will be asked to propose actions to promote clean water, as well as access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.</i> ○ <i>10-15 SLI.DO questions (40 minutes) to address the societal dimension of water management.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Consultation (15 min): possibility to for participants who have not submitted written input in response to the call for evidence to deliver input and additional contributions to what the EC will have already received.</i>
13.00- 13:20 [20m]	Blue Rivers and Lakes Award (organised by BlueMissionMed CSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Introduction by Fedra Francocci (BlueMissionMed)</i> <p><i>There will be three winners. There will be one award for each category in: 'Governance', 'Innovation', and 'Restoration' and one further 'special mention'. The awards are conferred by Pascal Lamy (Mission Board Chair), Kestutis Sadauskas (DG MARE Deputy Director-General and Mission Manager) and John Bell (DG RTD Director and Deputy Mission Manager).</i></p> <p>Note: <i>No interpretation is provided during the award ceremony!</i></p>
13.20 - 14.30	NETWORKING LUNCH
14.30 – 15.30 [1.00h]	Session 4 – Shaping a water resilient world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Short teaser video of policy relevant R&I project: Water4All</i> ○ <i>Short scene setter by moderator (2'), introducing the fire chat (15') between Ms Sarah Nelen, Acting Director of Directorate F at DG ENV and Mr Saurabh Kumar (Indian Ambassador to the EU - tbc).</i> ○ <i>Interactive consultation of stakeholders guided by Sli.do questions</i>
15.45 - 16.15	Coffee Break
16.15 – 17.00 [45m]	Session 5 – Research & Innovation underpinning the Water Resilience Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Short scene setter, panel discussion followed by Q&A session</i> <p><i>Scene setter: John Bell, Director Healthy Planet, DG RTD, EC</i></p> <p><i>Panel: Water4All Partnership (Bjørn Kaare Jensen), Danubius Research Infrastructure (Adrian Stanica), PRIMA (Octavi Quintana Trias), CIRSEAU (Kristina Wencki).</i></p>
17.00 – 17.30 [30m]	Session 6 – Mission Ocean and Waters supporting regional engagement & cooperation through area-based “lighthouses” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Short scene setter, panel discussion followed by Q&A session</i> <p><i>Scene setter: Ivelina Vasileva, Mission Board Member</i></p> <p><i>Panel: Mission projects: INSPIRE (Gert Everaert), EUROLakes (Paul Brotherton), FERRO (Tallent Dadi), Danube4All (Helmut Habersack), FutureLakes (Laurence Carvalho).</i></p>
17.30 – 18.00	Wrap up and closing remarks session: <p><i>Panel: Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director General DG ENV (confirmed), and Oliver Röpke, President of the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (confirmed) and André Viola, rapporteur for the CoR opinion “Towards a resilient water management to fight climate crisis within an EU Blue Deal” (tbc).</i></p>