

**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 18 - Date 17-02-2025

Format: In person (web streamed) –

Interpretation: FR - DE - EN - IT - ES – EL (NL and PT 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, (web streamed) - interpretation: All EU languages

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 – 10:30 [1.15h]	Session 1 - Restoring the water cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short teaser video of policy relevant R&I project: MERLIN ○ Short scene setter by moderator ○ Interactive consultation of stakeholders.
10:30 - 11.45 [1.15h]	Session 2 - Water smart economy and competitive water industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short teaser video of R&I project: AQUA Spice ○ Short scene setter by moderator ○ Interactive consultation of stakeholders
11.45 – 12.00	Coffee Break
12.00 - 13.00 [1.00h]	Session 3 - Ensuring clean and affordable water for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teaser video: of R&I project: REsilienT water gOvernance Under climate CHange for Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus (RETOUCH Nexus) ○ Short scene setter by moderator ○ Interactive consultation of stakeholders
13.00- 13:20 [20m]	Sustainable Rivers and Lakes Awards (organised by BlueMissionMed CSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction by Fedra Francocci (BlueMissionMed) Awards conferred by Pascal Lamy, Mission Board Chair, John Bell, DG RTD Director and Deputy Mission Manage.r Note: No translation will be provided for the awards session!
13.20 - 14.30	NETWORKING LUNCH
14.30 – 15.45 [1.15h]	Session 4 – Shaping a water resilient world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short teaser video of policy relevant R&I project: Water4All ○ Short scene setter by moderator ○ Panel discussion: participants tbc.
15.45 - 16.15	Coffee Break

<p>16.15 – 17.00</p> <p>[45m]</p>	<p>Session 5 – Research & Innovation underpinning the Water Resilience Strategy</p> <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 Kaar Jensen), DanubiusRI (Adrian Stanica), PRIMA (Octavi Quintana Trias), CIRSEAU (Kristina Wencki).</i></p>
<p>17.00 – 17.30</p> <p>[30m]</p>	<p>Session 6 – Mission Ocean and Waters supporting regional engagement & cooperation through area-based “lighthouses”</p> <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>
<p>17.30 – 18.00</p>	<p>Wrap up and closing remarks session:</p> <p><i>Panel: Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director General DG ENV (confirmed), Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General DG RTD (confirmed) and Oliver Röpke, President of the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (confirmed).</i></p>