



PRESS RELEASE

The Mediterranean to host the first world conference on the ocean: BioMarine, the Maritime Initiative of the French Presidency of the European Union 20-24 October

Press Conference Marseille 15 September at 11 am on board of “Le Yacht”, 3, Quai du Port, 13002 Marseille.

Lyon, 28 August--What is the last remaining unexplored frontier here on earth? The ocean. For the first time, an international gathering of policy makers, business leaders, scientists and experts will address the issues and opportunities presented by the oceans. The Mediterranean cities of Marseille and Toulon will host BioMarine, the Maritime Initiative of the French Presidency of the European Union, 20-24 October. In partnership with Scripps Institution of Oceanography (USA), and with the full support of the European Commission and the French Government, BioMarine aims to cover all aspects of our interaction with the seas.

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, is expected to attend the forum. Present at the opening of BioMarine will be Karen Roth, Parliamentary State Secretary of Germany; Koji Omi, former Finance Minister, Japan, leading a large Japanese delegation and Xavier de la Gorce, Secretary General of Maritime Affairs of France.

BioMarine meets for two days in Toulon with a focus on maritime geopolitics—including thawing oceans, opaque law and the use of force (who controls the arctic?); a debate on sustainable development of the Mediterranean; and blue politics and blue multilateralism.

The second focus in Toulon will be security, pollution and prevention—starting with a debate on protecting people and the oceans from maritime disasters. The discussion on pollution will start with a focus on the Mediterranean, and move on to look at advances on the horizon for cleaning up the oceans, as well as space technology in service of our oceans. Security issues will include piracy and smuggling; and new technologies for building safer ships.

From 22 to 24 October, BioMarine will take place in Marseille, with an initial focus on the oceans, environment and energy and discussions on climate change and how to better manage where the land meets the sea. Abysses, marine biomass, the new world of mining and ocean exploration will be highlighted, and there will be two sessions on energy: the hunt for alternatives to oil and emergent technologies in extracting energy from the sea. We will look at the life resources of our oceans: the living richness of the seas, blue fishing and aquaculture, blue biotech, and maritime clusters, as well as





foods from the oceans and the impact of humans on the ocean. A key debate will focus on governing the high seas and their ocean resources.

Finally, discussions in Marseille will wrap up with a look at multimodality: Ports and maritime transport, and a European Maritime Policy Day. Open-access, competition and regulation are issues for maritime transport; ports vs. cities; and the outcome of new regulations on Europe's motorways of the sea, and Europe's integrated maritime policy will come under scrutiny for this final day of debates.

BioMarine is made possible by the generous financial support and mobilization of our major institutional partners hosting the forum on their territory: the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, the General Councils of the Bouches-du-Rhône and the Var, the Urban Communities of Marseille and Toulon, and the City of Marseille.

Institutional partners of BioMarine include the European Commission, the French Government through the Secrétariat Général de la Mer, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the government of British Columbia, Canada. Major industrial partners of BioMarine include, DCNS, EADS, Thales, CNIM, Veolia, Total, Pole Mer PACA and Pole Mer Bretagne among others. Major scientific partners of BioMarine are IFREMER (France) and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (USA).

BioMarine is an initiative of the National Science Foundation of Lyon, France. It is under the leadership of Pierre Erwes, President and Founder, BioMarine.

For more information on BioMarine, please see our website www.biomarine.org. For press accreditation, please contact Barbara Erskine at Barbara@barbaraerskine.com, telephone (4179) 202 4528.

