

PRESS RELEASE

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BIOMARINE : THE DAVOS OF MARITIME EVENTS

Marseille, 24 October-- João Mira Gomes, State Secretary for Defense and Maritime Affairs of Portugal, gave a ringing endorsement of the BioMarine conference today, saying BioMarine is a key initiative that could be “a kind of Davos meeting of the sea” which could play an “instrumental role in the development of an integrated maritime policy” Also today at BioMarine, Joe Borg, European Union Commissioner Responsible for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs said, “The Integrated Maritime Strategy has been a genuine bottom-up approach...We used to limit ourselves to sectoral and sometimes contradictory maritime policies... This conference shows we have come a long way.” Recommendations from BioMarine are attached to this document.

BioMarine, the world ocean summit, closed today in Marseille with the plenary on Europe 's Integrated Maritime Policy with Joe Borg ; Xavier de la Gorce, French Secretary General for the Seas ; Joao Mira Gomes; Elisabeth Walaas, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Norway ; and Anna Wypych-Namiołko, Vice Minister of Infrastructure of Poland.

The five days of debates in Toulon 20-21 October and Marseille 22-24 October brought together some 1500 participants from government, industry, science, civil society and the media. Industry leaders from supporting partners of BioMarine including Thales, DCNS, EADS, Capgemini, Comex, CNIM, Total, Veolia Environnement, Pole Mer PACA, the regional authorities of Toulon and Marseille, and others met with policy makers, scientists, interested participants and the media. Projects and activities of BioMarine scientific partners IFREMER (France) and Scripps Institution of Oceanography (USA) were highlighted.

BioMarine is a unique international forum focused on innovative solutions in advancing ocean sustainability providing a global platform for leaders in maritime affairs and marine science. The forum aims to strengthen the position of ocean sustainability on the world agenda Improve the marine environment ; encourage better regional and international maritime governance, promote creative exchanges between and within the maritime communities ; identify future leaders and foster emerging initiatives ; highlight advances in marine science ; and encourage responsible marine ventures . The forum also provides access to the latest developments in ocean innovations and quality networking opportunities.

Pierre Erwes, President and founder of BioMarine, will take the project forward. The next BioMarine conference will take place in British Columbia, Canada 11-14 October 2009 at the Vancouver Exhibition and Conference Centre. BioMarine was launched as an initiative of the National Science Foundation of Lyon, France.

The first edition of BioMarine was 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-Rhone and the Var, the Urban Communities of Marseille and Toulon, and the City of Marseille.

For more information, please go to www.biomarine.org (program, speakers list, session summaries, photographs and videos) or contact Alexandra Gueorguieva at BioMarine in Lyon, telephone (334) 7892-7007, email alexandra.gueorguieva@bioevents.eu.

BIOMARINE 2008: Recommendations and Suggestions

POLICY & LEGISLATION

- Ratify & implement UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- EU to raise proposed 30 percent reduction target by another 10 percent
- EU should harmonize maritime legislation as it did on land at Schengen
- Incorporate ocean issues into climate change negotiations
- Discuss shipping CO2 emission reductions within IMO
- Establish clear rules on protecting the Arctic
- Conclude agreement between US & Canada on Northwest Passage
- Commit to several generations of Jason satellites for real-time maritime surveillance
- Legislate to make the whole ecosystem and not just one species the basis for conservation
- Introduce labeling for sustainable fish farming

Shipping

- Phase out single hulls for oil tankers
- Move from "class-based" to goal-based design for ships
- Introduce "responder immunity" for salvors
- Encourage ships to file make pollution observation reports
- Monitor the condition of ships using wireless systems to analyze data

COORDINATION & INTEGRATION

- Commit sufficient funds to the Union for the Mediterranean
- Coordinate strategy for the Mediterranean with integrated maritime policy cutting across all related areas
- Integrate and inter-connect all Global Navigational satellite Systems
- Promote data continuity and sharing
- Improve civilian-military coordination and share technology
- Establish regional coordination between piracy-affected countries
- Make integrated coastal and ocean management in all coastal areas a global goal
- Promote land-and-sea coastal integration at regional level
- Improve links between blue biotech and industry
- Support & fund grass-roots projects

RESEARCH & COMMUNICATION

- Built higher profile for maritime safety industry
- Cooperate in R & D to build safer ships and cut costs
- Fund abyss research
- Fund marine bio-fuel and algal development initiatives
- Provide public subsidies for marine energy research
- Make scientific marine observation data available to the public
- Ring alarm bells about ocean acidity and corals
- Make Scientists speak out about threats to oceans