

Press Release

BioMarine, the International Maritime Initiative: Focus on the Mediterranean

Lyon, 12 June— The first BioMarine Forum will take place 20 - 24 October 2008 in Toulon and Marseille. This international initiative brings together more than 2000 European and international leaders from science, politics and industry to debate « A European maritime vision in the world ». There will be a specific focus on the Mediterranean during the five-day meeting, first, in the context of maritime geopolitical issues and again in the discussion of problematics of maritime development, with a regard to sustainable development of the Mediterranean.

BioMarine 2008 is made possible by the generous financial support and strong commitment 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. The following texts from our host partners reflect the importance of BioMarine and the local and regional context:

"Since its creation, the TPM urban community has put into place a dynamic policy for economic development, notably founded on high quality provision in terms of university and engineering studies. This determined and effective approach has made it possible to implement a series of structuring projects in order to offer improved conditions for implantation and perspectives for growth to both French and foreign companies. This approach is part of a wider policy for sustainable development."

□ **Hubert Falco**, Secretary of State for Development, President of the Toulon Provence Méditerranée Urban Community

"Given the remarkable savoir-faire and high quality infrastructure it provides for sea-related activities, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is undoubtedly a major maritime region and occupies a key geo-strategic position in the Mediterranean basin. I am therefore delighted to welcome BioMarine, whose decision to host this international forum on the sea in our region is a tribute to our competence, heritage and international profile."

□ **Michel Vauzelle**, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

"The protection of the Mediterranean concerns us all and is an issue that transcends party politics. The Mediterranean Union, as proposed by the President of France, must also encompass environmental issues, as well as trade and the economy. (...) We want Marseille to confront and meet the challenge of achieving ecological excellence"

□ **Jean-Claude Gaudin**, Vice-President of the Senate, Mayor of Marseille

"The maritime and marine issues have long been interlinked with our region's history. They have forged its identity and are still a key factor in defining its economic and environmental situation. The Bouches-du-Rhône General Council actively supports the organisation of this major international event on the theme as we work to implement environmental and development policies which reconcile the needs related to coastal conservation, balanced development and the economic dynamic."

□ **Jean-Noël Guérini**, Senator for the Bouches-du-Rhône, President of the General Council

"The Var is a department with both a maritime and strategic vocation. The Mediterranean's history is multi-faceted and numerous civilisations have been built in



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the region. Over the centuries, its proximity to the sea has meant the Var has benefited from the economic, trade and cultural exchanges it generates.

The action of the General Council aims to accompany stakeholders in bringing about balanced economic development and ensuring the sustainable protection of the environment.

BioMarine will permit us to establish a global view of current and future maritime issues."

Horace Lanfranchi, President of the Var General Council

"That Marseille Provence Métropole should participate in the BioMarine Forum goes without saying. 'The City of Marseille owes both its cultural vitality and, to a large extent, its economic and scientific development to the Mediterranean Sea.' BioMarine is a unique opportunity to capitalise on this rich and promising potential. It is my intention to develop this potential even further so it is recognised beyond our borders and beyond our waters."

Eugène Caselli, President of the Urban Community Marseille Provence Métropole

"BioMarine 2008 is the maritime event of the French Presidency of the European Union".

For more information and accreditation, our website www.biomarine.org, or contact Barbara Erskine at barbara@barbaraerskine.com, phone (4179) 202 4528.