

Antonio Tajani
President of the
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels - Belgium

Subject: Placing integrated marine science at the core of Europe's Research and Innovation Agenda

2 January 2019

Dear President Antonio Tajani,

The European Marine Board wishes to highlight the importance of the Sea and Oceans in the future budget for Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. We fully endorse the Mission to Eliminate Plastic Waste in Rivers and Seas. The marine research community embrace the pillars of open science, open data and open access. It is clear that without sustainable sea and ocean farming, fisheries and mariculture, resilient marine ecosystems and appropriate ocean governance we will not be able to feed the 7-9 billion people on the planet, or appropriately use the ocean space over the next decades. The Blue value-chain and multiple uses of the marine space will only be valorised through well maintained research and innovation funding projects.

The marine research community stand ready to address the technological advances needed for the digital ocean, Blue Digital Economies and the Blue Cloud, and the European Marine Board is currently addressing this through a working group on Big Data. In addition, in our Flagship Policy Document, Navigating the Future V (NFV) we will highlight the research needed to understand the four-dimensional ocean (how the 3D ocean changes over time) and the role that the ocean plays in climate mitigation and adaptation. NFV also highlights the impact of multiple human stressors, the impact of extreme events and how to monitor and model these changes, as well as the importance of sustainability science. All of these themes are part of the broad lines in the Horizon Europe proposal for Sea and Oceans, and we therefore advocate for making sure that the Seas and Oceans are not forgotten in the parliamentary debates and choices made for Horizon Europe. Only by appropriate funding for Seas and Oceans in the budget of Horizon Europe can we yield a strong European circular economy and have future innovations that will improve the lives of European citizens.

The EMB recognizes the significant investment in marine science and technology research in EU's programmes. Continued investment in Seas and Oceans will enable Europe to be the largest and preferred research area in the world. **The EMB calls for the Horizon Europe programme to consider these recommendations and promote holistic and integrated approaches to European Research and Innovation funding. The marine science community stands ready to take this quantum leap on a scale that is needed to understand, protect, manage and sustainably exploit our Seas and Oceans and wider natural environment.**

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Jan Mees
Chair, European Marine Board