

25 March 2021

**RE: Marine Science to support the European Green Deal, the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change**

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

The [European Marine Board](#) (EMB) is the leading European think tank in marine science policy, a unique strategic pan-European Forum for seas and Ocean research and technology. We represent the 35 foremost marine research organisations in Europe, supported by the knowledge of more than 10,000 marine scientists, engineers and technologists. With this background, I would like to highlight the vital role marine science can play in helping to achieve your portfolio of responsibilities, including the European Green Deal, the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.

The EMB conducts foresight activities on topics of strategic importance for marine science in Europe. As such, our [current activities](#) will be important for your work on the European Green Deal and the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy. Our recent work on the possible impacts of [Marine Geohazards on the Blue Economy](#), the impacts of [Underwater Noise](#), and the existing and future implications of [Marine Renewable Energy](#) will be important for your coordination of the Commission's Zero-Pollution ambition and the European Climate Pact. Similarly, our ongoing work on the importance of [Coastal Resilience](#), and our recently published documents on [Biological Ocean Observations](#), [Marine Ecosystem Modelling](#), and [Valuing Marine Ecosystem Services](#), which follows on from our [Science Roadmap for Marine Biodiversity in Europe](#) will be invaluable for your work on the New Green Deal, the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, and the Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.

The EMB is also part of the team working on the [IOG Forum](#), where we highlight the importance of the Ocean Knowledge System, from Ocean observations, through using models to address scenarios for change. The Ocean Knowledge System is imperative for the proper enforcement and implementation of EU laws and instruments such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive. We therefore highlight the importance of fit-for-purpose Ocean observations, which underpins this Ocean Knowledge System, as well as the problem of [sustained funding for Ocean observation infrastructure](#) in a new Policy Brief that will be published this summer. The importance of a common approach for measuring once and using the data multiple times is highlighted by the EU's initiative for responsible sharing of Ocean observations in a recent [consultation](#). In our response to the consultation we highlighted the importance of Ocean observations for the understanding of the impact of climate change and a changing Ocean on human health and wellbeing, but also the importance of Ocean observations for our sustainable use of Ocean resources.

In 2019, through our flagship policy publication [Navigating the Future V](#), we emphasised the importance of Ocean observations for understanding the 4D Ocean, for managing multiple stressors, and for understanding climate related extreme events. We also underlined the importance of new Ocean technologies, modelling and artificial intelligence, which will not be useful for managing our Ocean without the observations to validate their predictions. The recommendations from this document were mapped onto the Societal Goals of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in a [Policy Brief](#).

We believe that the European Union can empower the coordination efforts for Ocean observations by proposing a framework for national and EU collaboration, to support pan-European and global Ocean observation efforts to improve the overall efficiency of national and European investments in shared Ocean observation infrastructures. Joint planning of observation activities in this framework would increase member state cooperation, and bring them together to cope with the effects of climate change and human activities on our Ocean. This will help with the measurements needed to ensure we achieve

our zero-pollution ambition and reduce our carbon footprint in the Ocean. It will also help to measure our ability to protect our biodiversity. A coordinating framework for Ocean observations in Europe will strengthen the integrated combined capacity of the Ocean observing system to deliver the data needed to support the Green Deal and the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and to enable the Adaptation that will be needed by all Europeans to future climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heymans." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Sheila JJ Heymans  
Executive Director