

## Feedback from European Marine Board to [European Commission's roadmap for a New Circular Economy Action Plan](#) (20 January 2020)

Do not forget to make the Blue Economy circular! The EU has the world's largest maritime territory (including outer regions), which is larger than the land it holds, houses almost half of its population and accounts for almost half of its GDP. The European blue economy represented €174 billion of added value in 2016 and the ocean economy is expected to double its contribution to global added value between 2010 and 2030 (European Commission, 2018; OECD, 2016). It is therefore important to include coastal and marine environments as part of the (future) circular economy. The 2019 OECD report "Rethinking Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean Economy" presents priority areas for action which must be considered for ensuring an encompassing Circular Economy.

Science sits at the nexus of the blue economy, which depends critically on scientific data for sustainability. The New Circular Economy Action Plan must ensure a sustainable knowledge-based circular blue economy, so that we are able to organize diverse uses of ocean space across time, while balancing conservation efforts, minimizing the human impact on the environment, and harnessing ocean resources in a sustainable and equitable manner, including food and energy production. Enabling permanent dialogue between ecology and economy can fully exploit the potential for sustainable development, taking into account their interactions and conflicts.

The New Circular Economy Action Plan must also address the importance of reducing waste and the problems of current recycling systems, including the citizen's unwillingness to change and efforts to address this through behavioural change studies, expectations of recyclability and must define a process of priority setting for tackling problems impacting the environment. We also call for more interlinkages between other EU directives, policies and strategies (EU's nature protection directives, Common Fisheries Policy, Clean energy for all Europeans package, etc.) to avoid institutionalized destruction of the natural environment; and the efficient enforcement of implementing measures at Member State level and at the European institutions (European Parliament, Directorate Generals, etc.).