



CONFERENCE CYCLE  
6 Dialogues

# THE ROAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN



## DIALOGUE 6

### TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT PATH:

a sustainable blue economy  
for a prosperous Mediterranean

24 Novembre 2021 – 18h00 – 19h30 CET

---

Languages: English / French with simultaneous translation into Spanish

Live Streaming: La Caixa Foundation platform / YouTube

Organized by





## **TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT PATH:** a sustainable blue economy for a prosperous Mediterranean

### **PRESENTATION**

The Mediterranean Sea is renowned worldwide for the diversity of its marine ecosystems, natural resources, and landscapes, which have laid at the heart of its economic, social, and cultural prosperity for centuries. However, human activities, especially the resource-intensive and unsustainable production and consumption model and the intensive urbanisation, have led to the environmental degradation of the marine and coastal ecosystems, that, coupled with the worrying effects of climate change, pose an existential challenge to the livelihood and prosperity of the Mediterranean region.

Against this background, it is now imperative and critical to shift to socioeconomic development models that reconcile the economic prosperity of the Mediterranean with the preservation of its marine and coastal environment, the safeguarding of its biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and the sustainable management of its natural resources. The blue economy of the Mediterranean Sea must now go green. Based on a shift to sustainable production and consumption models that create decent jobs and economic value, a sustainable Mediterranean blue economy has the potential to become the engine for the protection and restoration of the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems, while addressing climate-related challenges with effective, innovative, and nature-based adaptation and mitigation strategies.

While the previous dialogues of the cycle focused on the impacts of climate change and the role of the youth, diplomacy, and cities to raise awareness and put forward solutions to climate-related challenges, the closing session of the 2021 edition tackles the transformative power of sustainable blue economy models to effectively advance towards a zero-waste, low-carbon, resource efficient, inclusive, and prosperous Mediterranean region. Understanding how a shift towards sustainable blue economies can contribute to the socioeconomic and environmental prosperity of the Mediterranean Basin is crucial to develop policies and concrete solutions that make a difference on the road to a more sustainable and climate resilient Mediterranean. It will be equally important to measure the untapped potential of the sustainable blue economy, identify promising sectors, as well as the challenges and bottlenecks to be overcome, in order to devise concrete cooperation agendas across the region.

- What has been the contribution of the maritime economy to climate change and environmental degradation in the Mediterranean? How climate change and environmental degradation impact the economy?



## **TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT PATH:** a sustainable blue economy for a prosperous Mediterranean

- What is the potential of the transition towards sustainable blue economies in terms of job creation and economic growth in the Mediterranean? To which extent Mediterranean countries are aware of its benefits?
- What are the priorities of a shift towards sustainable production and consumption models in the Mediterranean blue economy? Where to start?
- What are the best examples of the transformative power of the sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean?
- What are the challenges and the bottlenecks to be overcome to accelerate the shift to sustainable blue economies in the region? How could Euro-Mediterranean cooperation help address them?

### **SPEAKERS**

#### **Closing Remarks of the 2021 Edition**

**Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

**Mamphela Ramphela**, Co-President of the Club of Rome

#### **Moderator**

**Jérémie Fosse**, President and Co-Founder, eco-union

#### **Guest Speaker**

**Samir Grimes** (Algeria), Senior Lecturer at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral (ENSSMAL-Alger), Algeria National Hub of the WestMed Initiative.