

THE “BLUE MANIFESTO- ROADMAP TO A HEALTHY OCEAN IN 2030”

is a unified call to action by civil society organisations
from all over Europe working for healthy seas and ocean.



BLUE MANIFESTO

THE ROADMAP TO A HEALTHY OCEAN IN 2030

We need thriving marine and
coastal ecosystems to support
a climate-resilient future

In past decades, we have witnessed a succession of strategies and action plans for safeguarding the ocean. While these plans were needed, they have never been fully implemented.

In 2008, European governments committed to have “ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive”

by 2020. They are nowhere near achieving this. On any given day, a dolphin in the ocean has to navigate warming and more acidic seas, while also dodging trawling nets, offshore drilling, noisy and heavily polluting ships, invasive species, diseases from farmed fish, dead zones, construction, tourism, and swathes of pollutant-laden plastics and microplastics.

But the tide is turning.

Citizens young and old took to the streets, urging European governments to take global leadership on an ecological transition. In response, the European Commission has committed to ambitious climate and biodiversity strategies that will shift investment and legislation towards a climate-resilient and ecologically diverse future. The ocean must be an integral part of these strategies.

We need marine and coastal ecosystems to be rich in fauna, flora, and genetic biodiversity so that they can perform their natural functions and support life on earth.

The ocean acts as a vital carbon sink, regulates weather patterns and provides oxygen. We depend on it – even if we live inland.

WE HAVE A RESCUE PLAN FOR EUROPE FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

European countries are **legally-bound** to put a number of measures in place to achieve clean and healthy seas. They failed to do so **before 2020**. The following, therefore, still **needs to be done as a matter of urgency** to address the gap in delivering on commitments:

- EU countries adopt the necessary measures to ensure that **EU seas are in good environmental status** under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- EU countries adopt the necessary measures to ensure that **EU freshwater is in good status** under the Water Framework Directive.
- EU countries designate and **protect all marine Natura 2000 sites** from harmful activities under the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- EU countries **end overfishing** of all harvested stocks under the Common Fisheries Policy.
- EU countries take measures to **end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** in their waters, by their fleet or by their citizens, under the IUU Regulation, and to fully implement the **Deep-Sea Regulation**.

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