



# Blue Book for Maritime Policy



A new Vision and Action Plan for an integrated approach to EU Maritime Policy



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# Why an EU Maritime Policy ?

*How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean*

*(Attributed to Arthur C. Clarke)*



# Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas





# 1300 million cubic kilometres of water, but also

A rich source of life, food, energy, medicine

A precious natural environment

The world's climate regulator

A source for discovery, research

A place for transport, travel and trade

A source of income for five million  
Europeans



## Strategic objectives for the Commission

### **In its strategic objectives for 2005-2009, the Commission declared**

*“the particular need for an all-embracing maritime policy aimed at developing a thriving maritime economy, in an environmentally sustainable manner. Such a policy should be supported by excellence in marine scientific research, technology and innovation”*



# The Blue Book



- An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union
- Maritime future for Europe that builds on the strong maritime heritage and looks strategically forward
- For the first time the EU has explicitly recognised that an integrated approach is needed for the seas and oceans
- There is a maritime dimension to virtually every major issue facing Europe today

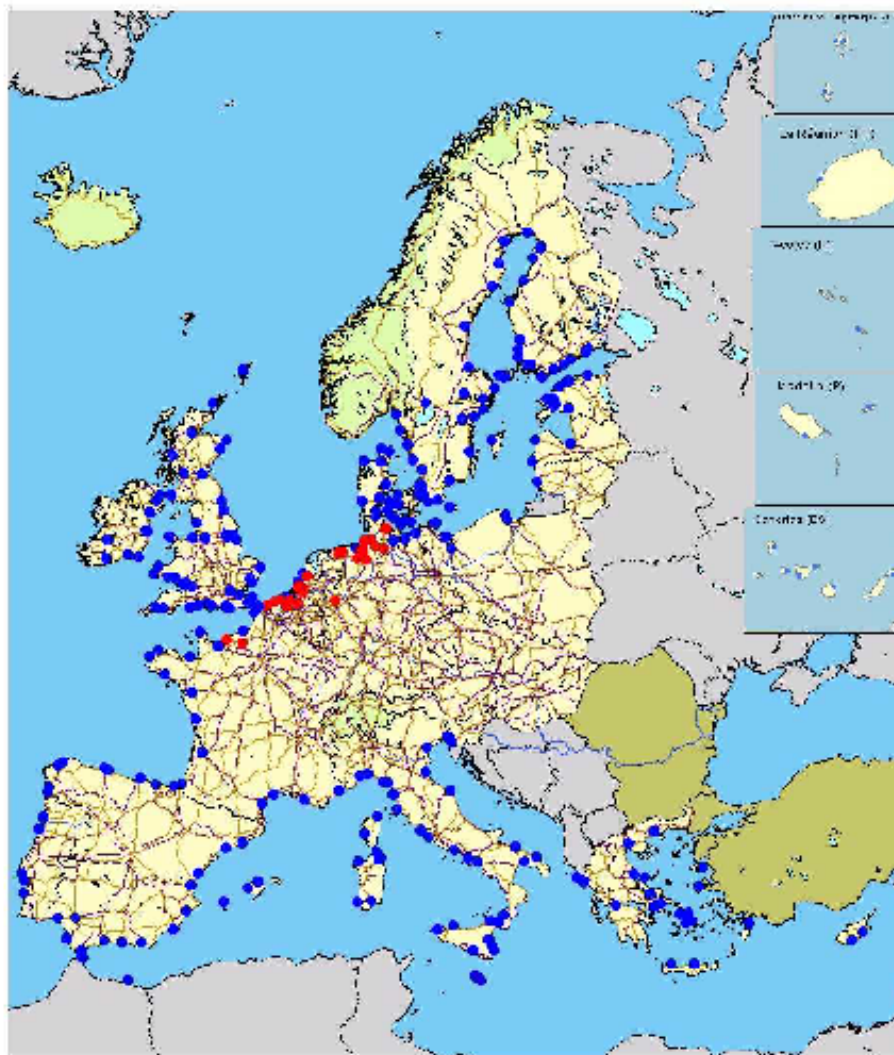


# Shipping





# European ports







## Energy production





# Fishing





## Deteriorating environmental quality





# Integrated policy





# The Blue Book



- Need for a cohesive and all-embracing way of policy-making
- A genuine, single vision of the oceans and seas
- Policy that will feed from, and into, other Community policies
- On the 10 October a package of 3 key documents has been adopted:
  1. The Blue Book
  2. Action Plan
  3. Communication which sets out the conclusions of the consultation process



# The Action Plan



- Outlines the first steps that will be taken forward implementing the policy
  - Deploying Europe's strength to combat climate change
  - European strategy for maritime research
  - Better regulation of maritime transport
  - Respect for the crucial role of ports in driving economic growth while aiming for sustainability
  - Taking into account the environmental impact of all forms of development
  - Better use of planning tools, data networks and horizontal coordination
  - Backing maritime clusters and centres of excellence



# The Action Plan



- Need for concrete proposals to address the challenges ahead
- Discover our own modern-day 'new world' opportunities
- “Nothing ventured, nothing gained!”



# The Action Plan



- Covers different issues and activities:
  1. Maritime Governance
  2. Tools for integrated policy
  3. Maximising the sustainable use of the oceans and seas
  4. Building a knowledge and information base for the maritime policy
  5. Delivering the highest quality of life in coastal regions
  6. Promoting Europe's leadership in international maritime affairs
  7. Raising the visibility of maritime Europe





## Tools for integrated policy



- Surveillance Activities
- Maritime Spatial Planning and integrated coastal zone management
- European Marine Observation and Data Network



# Maritime Spatial Planning



- Important tool to help an integrated approach
- EU is aiming to help facilitate related activities, support the exchange of best practices, disseminate good examples
- Respect the subsidiary principle and the need for regional approaches



# Consultation

Adoption of Green Paper  
Start consultation-period

End  
Consultation-  
period

Report  
Commission

**07.06.2006**

**30.06.2007 End 2007**

## Material

Green Paper  
Background and  
promotional material

## Debate

Meetings  
Events  
Web consultation

## Result

Follow-up  
proposals



## The way forward



- In 2008 a series of preparatory actions as a first stage
- A number of other supporting actions, e.g. Communication on ports policy, on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, on sustainable tourism ...
- December European Council – endorsing this integrated policy
- Blue Book is not the end of the voyage, nor the beginning but a significant milestone



## Regions for economic change

- Two maritime related priorities:
  1. Managing coastal zones
  2. Reaping the benefits of the sea
- Programme funded under INTERREG IVC
- About “partnership in action”
- Exchange of good practices
- Interest in stimulating the organisation and coordination of regional maritime actions based on a cross-sectoral, intergrated approach

### More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm)



**Thank you  
for your attention!**

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>