

## **ENMC Meeting and Meeting with Commissioner Karmenu Vella**

Fórum Oceano – Political Statement

### **Message 1**

Forum Oceano represents the Portuguese Maritime Cluster, it is the major Portuguese association of maritime interests in Portugal covering a wide diversity of players working in Blue Economy such as companies, R&D centres, universities, local authorities, (see document attached).

Fórum Oceano confirms its political support to ENMC and the availability to participate in the activities undertaken by the network. We consider that ENMC, gathering national clusters and professional federations at European level, is a relevant player to influence European policies, programs and rules in line with the interests of maritime communities.

Within the mission of ENMC Forum Oceano also highlight the relevant role of ENMC to leverage the cooperation between European maritime clusters and the cooperation with other maritime clusters and their associations all over the world.

### **Message 2**

Having in count the goal and the mission of ENMC at European Level and having in count the relevance of territories and regional levels can play, Forum Oceano suggests the reinforcement of the cooperation between ENMC and the CPMR – Conference of Peripheries and Maritime Regions of Europe, organisation that gathers more than one hundred European maritime regions.

### **Message 3**

Forum Oceano states the relevance of Juncker Plan, it represents an opportunity to support some relevant infrastructures in the fields of ports and logistics, motorways of the sea, inland water transport, shipping, marine renewable energies and R&D and also to support innovative projects undertaken by companies in maritime affairs. ENMC should play an active role promoting projects from the members and lobbying near the European Commission.

### **Message 4**

Forum Oceano is able to cooperate with ENMC to fill data gaps in maritime economy under the study European Maritime Economy. Currently, a similar initiative is being developed in Portugal at national level, we think it would be useful to discuss and exchange about it, Forum Oceano is able to intermediate near the Portuguese authorities responsible for the projects.

### **Message 5**

Forum Oceano will organise, next 16th and 17th November in Porto, the event – Business2Sea. It includes a diverse program with conferences, seminars, workshops, business meetings, we are available to host a meeting or any other activity of ENMC, namely the presentation of the main conclusions of the study on maritime economy, if possible.