

A Maritime Policy for the EU

Floor van Houdt
European Commission
Maritime Policy Task Force

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A Maritime Policy for the EU



Almost half of the Union's population lives less than 50 km from the sea.

Over the last 50 years, the population living by the sea has more than doubled, now reaching 70 million people.



BUT ...



Some 90% of the EU's external trade and over 40% of its internal trade is transported by sea.

About 2 billion tonnes of freight a year are loaded and unloaded in the around 1,200 EU ports.

Nearly 40% of the world's merchant fleet belong to maritime companies under the control of EU nationals.

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Overall objective

"the particular need for an all-embracing maritime policy aimed at developing a thriving maritime economy and the full potential of sea-based activity in an environmentally sustainable manner."

Strategic Objectives of the Commission for 2005-2009

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International trends

"the problems of ocean space are closely inter-related and need to be considered as a whole"

The Preamble to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982

"Ensuring the sustainable development of the oceans requires effective coordination and cooperation"

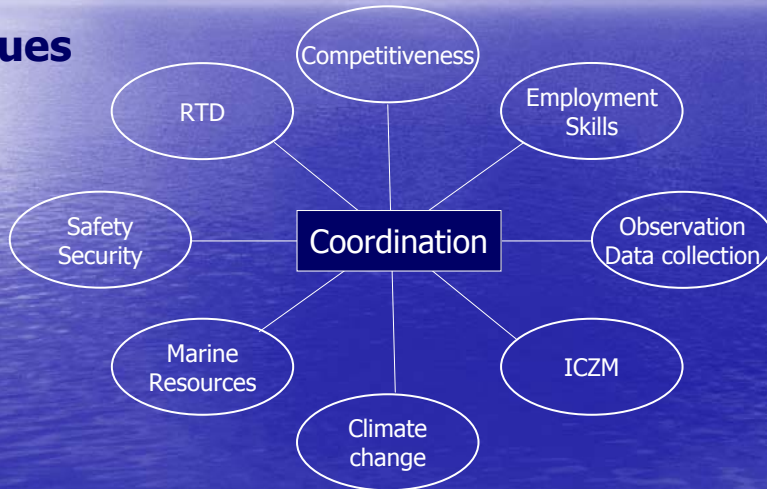
2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Several countries, including Australia, Canada, and more recently the USA, have been developing new integrated ocean policies.

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Issues



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President Barroso asked Commissioner Borg *"to steer a new Maritime Policy Task Force with the aim of launching a wide consultation on a future Maritime Policy for the Union."*

Maritime Policy Task Force

- Vice-President for Enterprise and Industry
- Vice-President for Transport
- Commissioner for Environment
- Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (Chair)
- Commissioner for Research
- Commissioner for Energy

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- Commissioner's Steering Group
- Commission Interservice Group
- Dialogue with stakeholders
- Study visits
- Analysis of data and reports



Commission Green Paper to a conduct a wide consultation in the first semester of 2006

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More information, input ?

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/maritime/index_en.htm



**Maritime Policy Task Force
The European Commission
Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
J-99 07/12
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium
ec-maritime-policy-task-force@cec.eu.int**