

# International Ocean Stewardship forum

*„Marine science policy“*



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## Introduction

- Attempt to sketch the scene at EU level, describe how the various policy initiatives over the last two years combine and/or conflict and show where we stand.
- 2006-2008 : a multitude of initiatives with an impact on marine sciences and research as a whole:
  - Consultation on Maritime policy (June 2006)
  - Launch of FP7 (beg. 2007)
  - Consultation on the « European Research Area » (April 2007)
  - EUROCEAN: Aberdeen conference (June 2007)
  - *To come: Mid term revision of the FP7 (2010)*

## Focus on the maritime policy consultation process: a learning process and a catalyst for RTD communities

- Consultation on the Green Paper on the future „EU integrated maritime policy“ :
  - Great mobilisation of the RTD community (internally at Ifremer and at EU level) : revival of the Galway initiative
  - Step by step process: individual and collective responses. French marine research community, Ifremer/NOCS/KDM, Marine Board responses.
  - ... leading to the „Bremen to Aberdeen Process“ – the most integrative and open one.

## Aberdeen's outcome June 2007

The science community could express with one voice, leading to the „Aberdeen Declaration“ with emphasis on:

- The need for a Research and innovation Strategy at EU level
- Foresight mechanism
- Partnership approach among all stakeholders
- Cross-cutting character of MST within FP7
- Infrastructures and data
- Priority areas : climate change, energies (renewables and CCS), sustainable use of resources

- Results:
- Towards „co-building the partnership approach“ (stakeholders, EC...)
- A better dialogue between marine and maritime science stakeholders at EU level but still a great fragmentation among them: institutes, networks, projects...

## Simultaneous developments :

*From the policy side (June 2007-June 2008)*

- Consultation on the ERA (European Research Area) : the objective being to strike a „half-way“ balance 8 years after launching the ERA ;
- Outcome : 5 key initiatives to be published. Focus on those with marine science relevance: „joint programming“, launch of Ljubljana Process – vision to 2020;
- Make the integrated EU maritime policy come true: “Blue Paper” as follow-up of consultation -10th October 2007 :

Several actions with RTD relevance:

- A maritime research strategy for Europe (to be published)
- EMODNET (European marine and observation data network)
- Seabed mapping and spatial planning
- Sustainable use of the seas
- European Atlas of the Seas

# What are the impacts of those policy initiatives from the users' side?

June 2007-June 2008

- Towards self-structuring of the RTD community: several models: „Aberdeen + interest group“ , „Network of Networks“ model, closer relationship between research performing organisations (G3), ...
- „Aberdeen“ recommendations and initiatives to reduce fragmentation are incorporated in FP7:
- Overarching marine ERA-Net (based on both regional and thematic approaches, encompassing provision for infrastructures, linking with other networks).
- „Support to maritime Partnership „

## Where do we stand now?

*„A maritime research strategy for Europe“*

This document to be published under French Presidency by DG RTD raises high expectations

- *What is the EC going to offer?:*
  - Towards a coherent framework for research in cooperation between all stakeholders
  - Focus on integration among policies, sectors, disciplines, actors, synergies (EC-MS) and new „soft governance“ models :

## What Ifremer suggests

- The research community needs a balanced strategy with governance issues and RTD priority actions, so that the momentum does not fall apart.
- After a 2 years consultation, there is a need for more concrete action.
- E.g. make the „cross-cutting“ approach a reality in FP7 with regular reporting. It will be a good start : the EC must be accountable for this
- Use preparation of midterm review of FP7 to strike a first balance and go further (M&Ms priority)
- Marine sciences are increasingly seen as a showcase for the ERA implementation and could very much be a first pilot project on « joint programming » : let us not loosing this opportunity.

Thank you for your attention

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