

Mr Kurt Vandenberghe
Director: Policy Development and Coordination
European Commission
building CDMA
1049 Brussels - Belgium

Subject: Ensuring holistic European Partnerships in Horizon Europe

29 July 2019

Dear Director Kurt Vandenberghe,

The European Marine Board wishes to highlight the importance of the Seas and Ocean in future Horizon Europe Partnerships, significantly for those within the Cluster Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

The European Marine Board (EMB) is the leading European think tank in marine science policy, representing around 10,000 scientists and technical staff, from major national marine or oceanographic institutes, research funding agencies, and national consortia of universities with a strong marine research focus.

It is clear that without **a climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy**, resilient marine ecosystems and appropriate ocean governance we will not be able to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The EMB recognizes the significant investment in marine science and technology research in EU's programmes. It is, however, imperative to also consider the Sea and Oceans in what would historically be thought of as terrestrial sectors, e.g. **safe and sustainable food system for people, planet and climate** (sustainable sea and ocean farming, fisheries and mariculture); **maintaining biodiversity to safeguard life on earth** (importance of marine biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem); and **sustainable, inclusive and circular bio-based solutions** (including marine bio-based industries and research groups). Continued investment and enhanced partnerships for linking terrestrial (including rivers), atmospheric (climate) and marine (Seas and Oceans) research will enable Europe to be the largest and preferred research area in the world and will enable delivery on the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

We would therefore request that the Seas and Ocean are explicitly included in the European Commission debates and choices made for Horizon Europe and for future partnerships. Only through appropriate funding for Seas and the Ocean, and promoting holistic and integrated approaches in Horizon Europe can we yield a strong European circular economy and have future innovations that will improve the lives of European citizens. The EMB's flagship publication, [Navigating the Future V](#), will be very helpful in these debates and in future partnerships.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Sheila JJ Heymans FRSB



Executive Director
European Marine Board