

## SPEAKER BIOS

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### **Mr Almotaz Abadi**

Almotaz Abadi is the UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment, and Blue Economy since September 2022.

He was UfM Acting Deputy Secretary General for same division between Sept 2015-Aug 2016. At the UfM, he had led the initiatives to revitalize the water political process in the Mediterranean, including achieving a Ministerial Declaration and approving a regional water strategy.



Before the UfM, he was the director of the Aid Coordination & Management Unit with the donor community and the Government of Palestine in the water and related sectors.

He has a Master's degree in water resources management and in Governance, leadership and multilateral cooperation on resources.

### **Ms Alessandra Sensi**

Alessandra Sensi holds a University Degree in Political Science, Economic Branch, and a Post University Master's Degree in Management and Economics of Energy and Environment. She is Head of Sector of the Environment, Green and Blue Economy portfolio at the Union for the Mediterranean since March 2013.

She was Senior Programme Manager for Environment/Green and Blue Economy/Climate Change at the European Commission, EuropeAid, up to 2012. Previously, she worked for FAO, Rome; for UNEP/Global Environment Facility in Nairobi and Geneva; for the Development Cooperation Office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi, Vietnam; and for Eurostat - the Statistical Office of the EU, Luxembourg.



## **Ms Delilah Al Khudairy**

Dr Delilah Al Khudairy is the Director for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy in the European Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). The mission of the Directorate is to drive forward maritime policy and to support and stimulate the creation of jobs, growth and investment to unlock the economic potential of the sea. The Directorate also provides analyses on economic and social aspects of maritime affairs and fisheries management and has a leading role in the work in DG MARE on the Better Regulation Agenda, including on public consultations and Impact Assessments. Prior to this, Delilah Al Khudairy was the Director of the directorates for Competences as well as Strategy, Work Programme and Resources at the European Commission's in-house Science and Knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre. Delilah graduated with a first class honours B.Sc (Eng.) and Ph.D degrees in Materials Science Engineering from London University. She was employed at British Gas PLC, UK, before joining the European Commission in 1990.



## **Mr Mohammad Al-Sakran**

Eng. Mohammad Al-Sakran is the Executive Director of Transport & Logistics in Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC), holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Jordan University – 2001 with 20 years of extensive experience in both public and private sectors.

Eng. Al-Sakran started his career in 1999 in Civil Engineering in different projects in Jordan. In 2002 he joined Aqaba Water Company, following that he joined Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC) in mid-2005. In 2012 he became the Chief Business Development & Investment Officer till mid 2014 where he became the Executive Assistant to CEO. In 2015 he served as the Executive Director for Transport & Logistics which involves all ports, airport and logistics concessions in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone, offering him massive knowledge & professional experience in public-private partnership (PPP).



Eng. Al-Sakran is currently Jordan's representative at the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) in the blue economy and transport working group as the Co-President.

Eng. Al-Sakran chairs and a board member of a number of companies. He also worked as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Jordan in Aqaba during the period 2012 – 2016.

### **Ms Marwa Zeidan**

She is a Senior Legal researcher, Manager of Bilateral Agreements and International Cooperation at the Foreign Cooperation Department - Maritime Transport Sector of the Egyptian Ministry of Transport - the highest supervisory authority over all maritime activities in the Arab Republic of Egypt, responsible for developing the overall strategy for Egyptian ports, and of setting and implementing maritime policies to meet the objectives of Egyptian national development plans. She received a Bachelor degree in Law in 2005, Administrative Sciences Diploma in 2007, and Master degree in 2011 - International Maritime Law, Faculty of Law, and Alexandria University- Egypt. She has experience in the Maritime law, regional maritime Policies, International Cooperation field during her 14 years of employment at the Maritime Transport Sector.



Her experience also encompasses the drafting and concluding of legal Procedures for Bilateral Agreements and Memorandum of understanding between the Arab Republic of Egypt and foreign countries in the field of maritime transport; Participation in drafting National Maritime Policies and implementation plans; and organizing and preparing Major Maritime events, National workshops, bilateral maritime dialogues with foreign countries (European – Asian – African). She has served as the Egyptian Maritime Transport Sector’s Representative in the Supreme International cooperation committees with foreign countries, and as Arab Republic of Egypt Technical focal point in the UFM working group on Blue Economy Since 2015.

### **Mr Antonis Avranas**

Antonis Avranas serves as a Maritime Transport Attaché in the Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union in Brussels. His main areas of interest are the shaping of European port policy, towards sustainable maritime investments, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport, as well as the monitoring and evolution of the sustainable blue economy sector (holding the role of UfM’s Focal Point for Greece). Within his mandate is EU’s integrated maritime policy, following all pertinent issues (on international ocean governance, maritime spatial planning, coastal and maritime tourism, marine litter etc.). Prior to his current position he has had over a decade of working experience as a consultant in the private sector and for the European Investment Bank, managing, implementing and evaluating sustainable urban and regional development projects. Since 2016, Antonis was appointed as a member of the permanent scientific staff of the General Secretariat for Ports, Port Policy and Maritime Investments of the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy. Fluent speaker in English and Greek.



### **Ms Lucienne Meilak**

Lucienne Meilak graduated in Public Administration from the University of Malta in 1988 following which she specialised in Advanced European Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, obtaining her post graduate diploma in 1989. Upon her return, she joined the EU Affairs Directorate which was being set up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was involved in the preparation of Malta's application to the European Union, and later in the screening process prior to accession. Since 2004 when she was appointed Director EU Affairs, she has worked in various fields such as Data Protection, Communications, EU Funded Projects and Transport. She has been visiting lecturer at the University of Malta since 1990 and has lectured for the Faculty of Laws both at undergraduate level and Masters programme. She currently holds the post of Director Policy Development and Programme Implementation in the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects.



### **Mr Nabil Anwari**

Anwari Nabil started his career in 1997 as an engineer within the Moroccan Department of Marine Fisheries, where he has endeavored to dwell on the salient features of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. He has acquired since then consistent experience, particularly in establishing management plans as part of the central administration duties and in elaborating monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) schemes for a set of Moroccan fishing ports.



His skills and core competencies have been developed due to his involvement in various training programs and workshops, dealing, inter alia, with issues such as maritime logistics, maritime security, data science, and climate change. Moreover, the follow-up of the activities carried out by a number of non-governmental organizations operating in the field has been of rewarding output for his career.

The substance of the expertise gained through a career encompassing a number of positions of responsibility has provided him with the necessary skills and tools to come up with innovative solutions to the pressing challenges facing the sector, with due consideration to the different components of the blue economy ecosystem as a whole.

His adhesion to some international networks such as the Friends of WMU Japan Fellows Alumni and his devotion to all matters dealing with the blue economy under some frameworks, among others, such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the WestMED initiative, and the FAO Technical Cooperation has been an impetus for shaping a pragmatic vision for the future.

Nabil holds a master's degree in maritime administration from the World Maritime University in Sweden, an engineering diploma from the National School of Mineral Industry in Morocco, and a certificate in public management from the National School of Administration in Paris.

### **Mr John Bell**

Dr John Bell is the European Commission's 'Healthy Planet' Director leading DG Research & Innovation policy transitions on Climate Change, Bioeconomy, Food Systems, Environment, Biodiversity, Water, Circular Economy, Oceans and the [European Green Deal](#).

He leads the EU's €10 billion Horizon Europe Research & Innovation programme across these planetary transitions and SDGs. As Chair of the EU Governing Board of €2 billion Circular Bio-based Europe institutionalised partnership with industry, he leads the deployment of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy.



He is the Deputy Mission Manager for the EC's moonshot Green Deal "Mission": ["Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030"](#). His commitment to international research and innovation cooperation ranges from the Atlantic Ocean Galway and Belém Alliances, Arctic cooperation, International Bioeconomy Forum, Global Earth Observation GEO, Mediterranean Water Agriculture PRIMA and African Union Food and Nutrition Security.

### **Mr Paul Holthus**

Paul has been working on ocean on climate issues for almost 40 years, especially regarding small islands. He founded World Ocean Council (WOC) – the Global Blue Economy Business and Investment Organization – bringing together ocean investors, innovators and industry (i.e. shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, offshore energy, submarine cables, ports, and others) for private sector leadership, collaboration and action on sustainable development and climate.



On climate, the WOC is catalyzing private sector leadership on:

- Ocean/Blue Carbon Removal - bringing together the business, investment and entrepreneurial community to advance ocean and coastal carbon sequestration
- Port/Coastal Infrastructure Adaptation and Resilience - convening the port and infrastructure users (shipping, cruise tourism, offshore energy, fishing, etc.), builders (construction, engineers, planners, etc.) and institutional investors to advance resiliency



- Offshore Renewable Energy - identifying barriers to growth, especially cross-sector conflicts, and developing the B2B dialogue to create understanding and address constraints

The annual WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) is the premier high-level global ocean business event on sustainable development and ocean-based climate solutions, while the new Global Blue Finance Summit (BlueFIN) brings together the international finance community on ocean and climate.

### **Mr Enrique de Villamore**

Enrique de Villamore Martín works for MedWaves since 2002. He worked as project manager until 2010 when he was appointed as Director of the Center. MedWaves is an institution, hosted by the Catalan waste Agency, that was established as center to support the countries members of two international treaties, namely, the Convention of Barcelona for the protection of the environment of the Mediterranean region and the Convention of Stockholm on the fight against Persistent Organics Pollutants. The Center hosts the official mandate of promoting the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production. In the performance of its mandate, Medwaves has become a reference for international cooperation in the support to administrations and entrepreneurs in the transition to circular economies and the prevention of toxic chemicals.



Enrique has a Law degree from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, a Master in Environmental Law from the Basque Country University and two university graduates on Environmental Management, from the CEU Abad Oliva University and the Government of Catalonia

### **Mr Jose Valls**

José Valls Bedeau is a Policy Officer in the Food Systems and Food Safety division in FAO headquarters in Rome, where he provides leadership and guidance for results-based policy assistance and facilitates policy dialogue and capacity development on sustainable food systems. Previously he worked in the field, and in food security and strategic planning units in FAO. He is Agricultural Engineer and MSc. in Rural Development and has 18 years of experience in the areas of food security and food systems. He has served in different development organizations and countries in Central America and North Africa.



### **Ms Isabelle Nobio**

Isabelle is graduated in European Law and has more than 20 years of expertise in project engineering and European funding programmes implementation. She is now project officer at the Interreg Euro-MED Programme Joint Secretariat, particularly in charge of innovation. Isabelle speaks fluently English and Italian.



### **Mr Martin Heibel**

A French and Italian national, Martin Heibel has over 15 years of experience in the fields of communication and public relations of EU-funded cooperation programmes and projects, especially those implemented across the Mediterranean area.

Martin Heibel holds a B.A in Political Sciences and an M.A. in European Affairs from *Sciences-Po* Strasbourg as well as a M.Sc. in Space Studies from the International Space University.



Martin Heibel is currently the communication manager of ENI CBC Med programme, the largest EU-funded cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

### **Ms Dolun Muge**

Müge Dolun is a development practitioner, with expertise on trade, gender and the environment. She has over 20 years of experience in strategic research, technical assistance projects and programme evaluation.

Since mid-2021, she has been managing a large portfolio of UNIDO projects on circular economy and resource efficiency. Immediately prior to taking up duties at the Division of Circular Economy and Environmental Protection, she served as the ad-interim Gender Coordinator at the Office for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Between 2016 and 2019, she was responsible for managing independent evaluations, mostly focusing on the energy and environment portfolio of UNIDO. In her previous roles, she has managed technical assistance projects in trade and standards as well as agri-business



development. Ms. Dolun is a development economist by training, with a Master in Public Administration in International Development degree from Harvard Kennedy School and a BA in Environmental Studies.

### **Ms Elodie Nunes**

Elodie Nunes is a Public Policies and International/European cooperation expert, with more than 9-year experience in territorial, transnational, and decentralized cooperation working with local and regional communities.

She has a Research background in Humanities and Languages from the University of Lyon/University of California, as well as an International Relations/European Studies specialization with a focus on Project Management from the University of Strasbourg.

Elodie has joined the team of the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission in 2014, where she has been fulfilling the role of Executive Secretary since 2019.

She is. Activities include networking and lobbying actions with more than 35 member-regions on themes linked to: governance, territorial cooperation, blue innovation, marine energies, sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection, as well as social and youth issues, among others. All activities continuously aim at an improved cohesion for the whole of the Mediterranean basin.



### **Mr Michael Scoullos**

Michael J. Scoullos (Prof. Emeritus, University of Athens) is an Environmental/Water Chemist (MSc, DSc, University of Athens) and Oceanographer (PhD University of Liverpool), founder of the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry and Oceanography at the University of Athens.

Today he is the Director of the UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean. He has worked extensively on environmental protection and different aspects of fresh and marine water. In his forty-year career, he has combined advanced scientific research and academic teaching with active participation in drafting and piloting environmental, water and climate related policies. He is founder and Chairman (1991 - today) of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), which is the major environmental NGO platform of the Mediterranean region and Secretary General of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarian for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD).

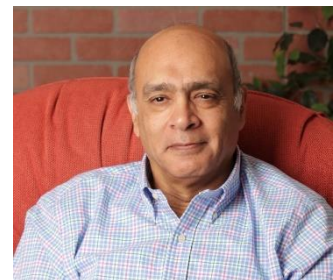




From 1992-2018 he represented, as an expert, the European Parliament on the Management Board and the Executive Bureau of the European Environmental Agency (EEA). As Chairman (2005 – today) of the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) he has strategically led and facilitated a series of regional water cooperation mechanisms, processes and projects. From 2016-2019 he was the Team Leader of the EU-Funded SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism, a regional project dedicated largely on sustainable environmental and water resources management in eight Mediterranean countries, while since 2019 he is the Team Leader of its follow-up project Water and Environment Support in the ENI Neighbourhood South region. He has organised and chaired a very large number of International Conferences, many of which of major political significance and has received numerous international distinctions among which the Gold Medal of the City of Paris (Honorary Citizen), the *National Order of Cedar* of Lebanon, the *Simon Bolivar* Medal of UNESCO and the Environmental Award of the Academy of Athens.

### **Mr Emad Adly**

Founder and General Coordinator of the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) established in 1990. A Sustainable Development expert with experience of over 40 years working with international agencies, governments, civil society, grassroots organizations, academia, media and NGOs. Has invested most of his time in fostering regional and international partnerships and in implementing regional and national projects. Has extensive experience in issues related to SDGs focusing on environment, water and sanitation, climate change, disasters risk reduction, education for sustainable development, energy, biodiversity, and participatory development and governance. He facilitated, designed and led initiatives aiming at fostering national, regional and international partnerships and stakeholders' engagement.



### **Mr Mauro Randone**

Marine Biologist and Sociologist with long term experience in international cooperation and Integrated Ocean Planning and Management. He is the Sustainable Blue Economy Programme Coordinator for the Mediterranean Marine Initiative of WWF, core team member of WWF's global Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative and WWF's representative in the Ocean Action 2030 coalition of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.



## **Ms Julia Manning**

Julia is an environmental and sustainability professional with almost 20 years of experience advising on large infrastructure projects with focus on energy and maritime transport sectors. In her role at EBRD, she pushes for most stringent E&S standards to be applied to investments, while working with clients, regulators and business associations on raising ESG capacity in developing markets. She is the lead for Blue Economy at EBRD and a member of EU Platform for Sustainable Finance.

