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# Press Release

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**Lisbon** – What Europe wanted for the Ocean at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, what was achieved so far and what the future marine challenges are will be discussed in Brussels on 6<sup>th</sup> June. EurOcean pays tribute to its co-founder and first President, Prof. Mário Ruivo, with “Your Ocean, Your Future”, an international event that will bring together policy makers, NGOs, industry, researchers, communicators and the public of all ages to reflect on the legacy of a true champion of the sea, who during his long career reached the top of some of the most relevant ocean-related international organizations like the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

The day-long event will start with those who knew Prof. Mário Ruivo both personally and professionally telling how inspiring and visionary he was and how ambitious was his dream of having the Ocean at the centre of our lifestyles and policies. The programme includes political representatives, such as the Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education and Members of the European Parliament, launching the debate on what is ahead for the European marine sphere to fully implement actions aligned with Prof. Mário Ruivo's lifelong mission of putting ocean literacy at the top of the marine agenda. Varied representatives of society, including industry and NGO representatives, as well as citizens passionate about the Ocean, will close the morning session presenting innovative products and initiatives to highlight new ways to combine economic development, sustainability, innovation and public engagement.

Prof. Mário Ruivo was a man of action and so the afternoon session will be dedicated to hands-on activities targeting the younger generation but keeping also an eye on the more experienced ones. A selection of ongoing ocean literacy projects, interactive games, demonstrations of marine technology and an arts and photographic contest will serve to raise awareness of all attendees about how the ocean affects us and how we affect the ocean. One thing is sure, at the end of the day no one will leave the Rotunda Room of the Centre of Fine Arts unaware of how each individual and organization can take action about our Ocean and help us all reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 related to healthy oceans.

EurOcean invites the media to cover this event that enjoys the High Patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic and is also associated to the World Oceans Day commemorations. Our team is available to provide further details and to schedule interviews before, during and after the event.

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Please visit the following links

Prof. Mário Ruivo [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/mario\\_ruivo\\_a\\_life\\_of\\_service\\_to\\_the\\_ocean/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/mario_ruivo_a_life_of_service_to_the_ocean/)

Event <http://www.eurocean.org/np4/592.html>

EurOcean <http://www.eurocean.org>

Our Mission <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ec0xGnlOMSc>

Our Members <http://www.eurocean.org/np4/members.html>

Ocean Literacy <http://www.seachangeproject.eu/seachange-about-2/ocean-literacy>

Venue <https://www.bozar.be/en>

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COM O ALTO PATROCÍNIO DE SUA EXCELÊNCIA  
UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

O Presidente da República

*YOUR OCEAN YOUR FUTURE*

Brussels, 6 June 2018

**Building on Prof. Mário Ruivo's Legacy**  
*Join us to celebrate the scientist, the politician, the advocate for the Ocean*