



Fundación Philippe Cousteau
“Unión de los Océanos”

PRESS RELEASE

Fundacion Philippe Cousteau and CS MARE join forces for the Med

SDG4MED, the Joint Observatory of Sustainable Development Goals for the Mediterranean Basin was created last July 22nd as a shared effort by Madrid based Fundacion Philippe Cousteau and the Italian Fondazione CS MARE.

According to a joint statement of the two foundations, “The Mediterranean basin (including North East Spain and Portugal and related ultraperipheral areas) is vital for both the biodiversity and the geopolitical stability of the EU and the whole world. This is the reason UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG or Agenda 2030) are so important for the: to bring peace and prosperity.”

The mission of the just born Observatory is to involve Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Small Municipalities in achieving the UN’s AGENDA 2030: “SMEs account for 99% of the enterprises in the area and for more than 50% of the GDP, however their potential is still significantly underdeveloped” said the Fundacion Philippe Cousteau’s Secretary General, Rafael Lobeto Lobo, who added “by promoting an alliance between local governments and SMEs we will help unlocking a huge potential as thousands of small organisations acting together will be at least as effective on SDGs as a large enterprise”.

The establishment of SDG4MED comes at an historically high economic crisis induced by the COVID19 pandemic whose effects will last for many months to come. “Mediterranean Countries are less resilient to economic crisis than north Europe, Far East or US” commented CS MARE’s Secretary General Giuseppe Castiglione “this is the reason why we can, we should and we must act now: achieving Agenda 2030 in the Mediterranean will create the momentum our enterprises need to recover.”

SDG4MED will publish its first multiannual plan by September and will then operationally start promoting joint projects putting at the very centre of its agenda the multiple challenges that the Mediterranean Basin as a whole (and not just its EU part) is facing: a social and economic sustainable development without threatening biodiversity and the potential designation of the Mediterranean as a Emission Control Area as far as shipping is concerned.

“22nd of July is inked in our heart not only because an historical 2021-2027 Financial Framework of the EU was approved but also because we decide to join our forces into SDG4MED” the two Secretary Generals say in a joint statement: joint as the keyword for SGD4MED.

Established in 1996, Fundacion Philippe Cousteau “Union de los Oceanos” is headquartered in Madrid and has delegations in all the EU, South American and several other Countries. It aims at supporting the sustainability at sea through international cooperation aiming at the protection of the environment and of marine biodiversity, the promotion of maritime security and life safety at sea and the maintenance of high skill levels among the maritime workers.

Fondazione CS MARE, established in 2017 under Italian Law, is mainly operating in Brussels to facilitate the access of SMEs and Small Municipalities to innovation and to align their digital and climate change induced transformations with the EU strategies

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