European Commission

Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan
(state of play and next steps)

"Atlantic Strategy in Action"
Committee of the Regions

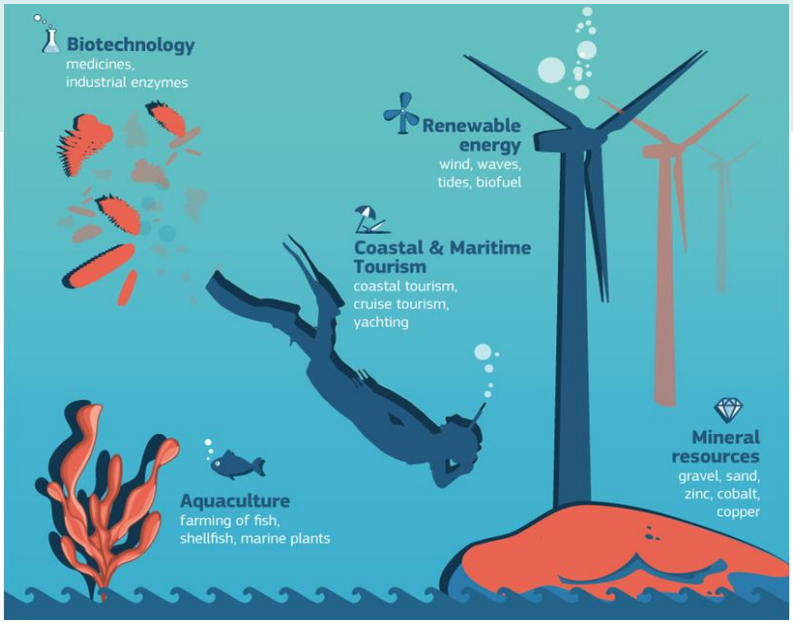
Brussels, 8 June 2016

Juan RONCO, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

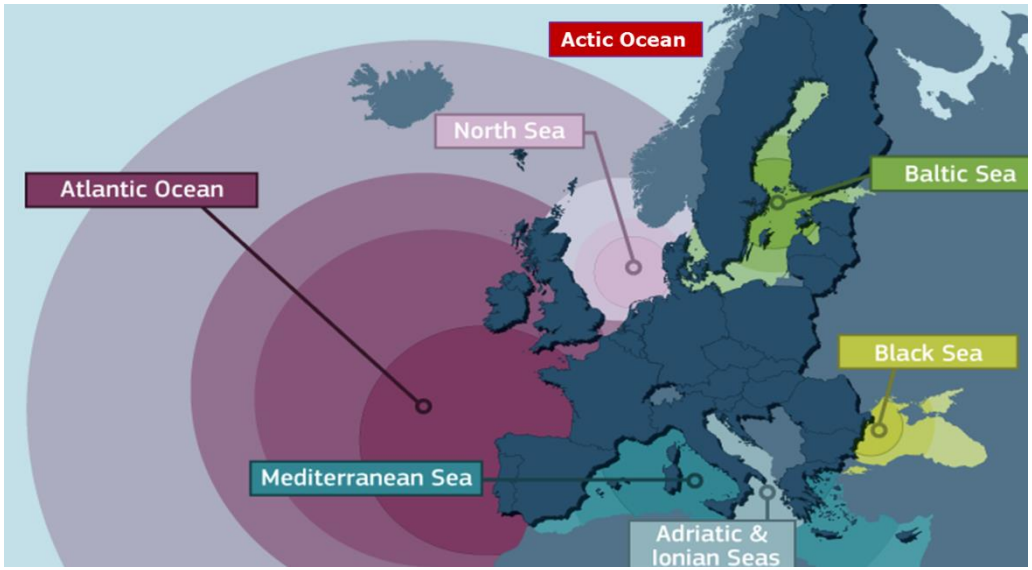
Maritime Affairs

Integrated Maritime Policy

Blue Growth Five focus sectors



Sea Basin Strategies

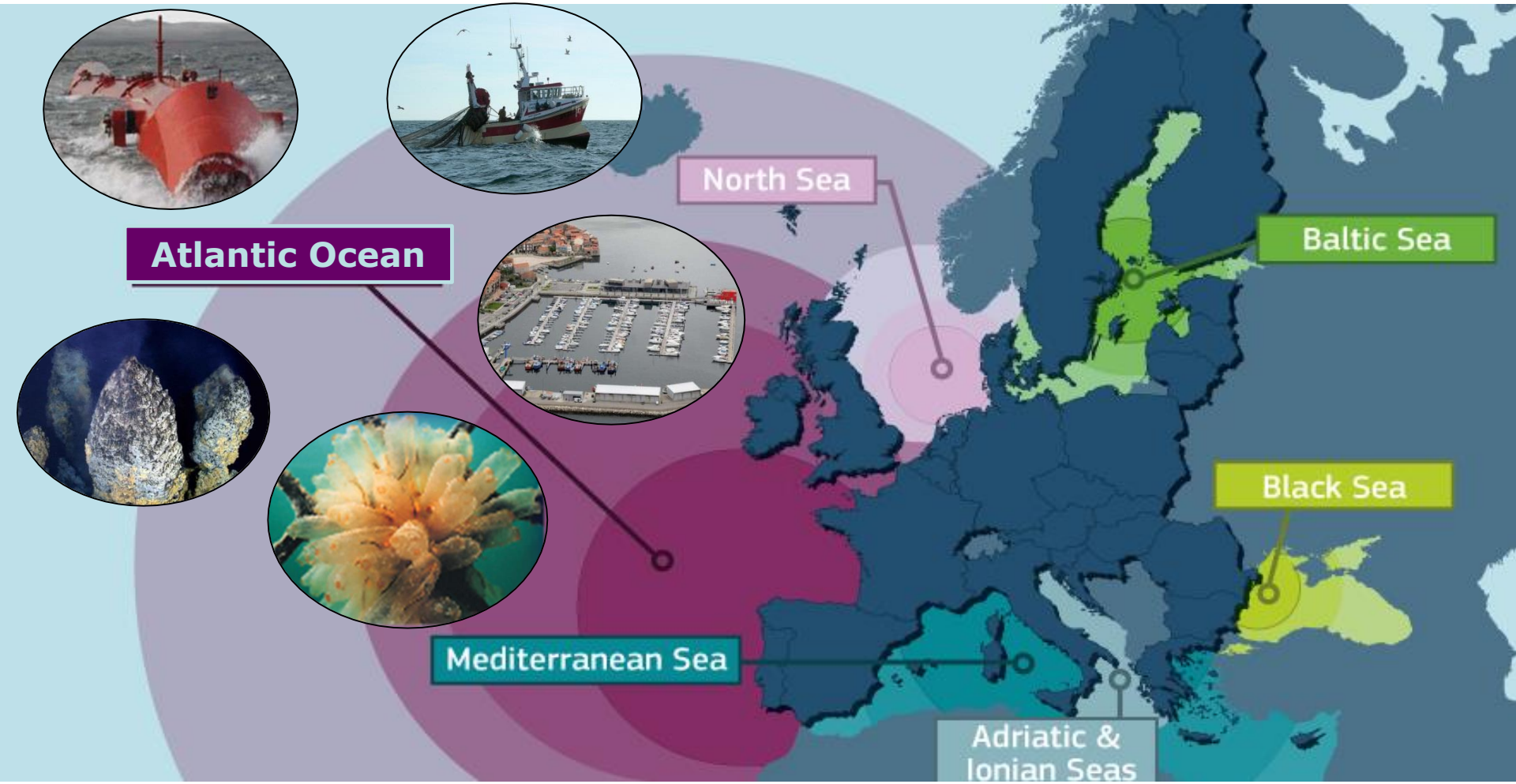


Enabling policies

International cooperation

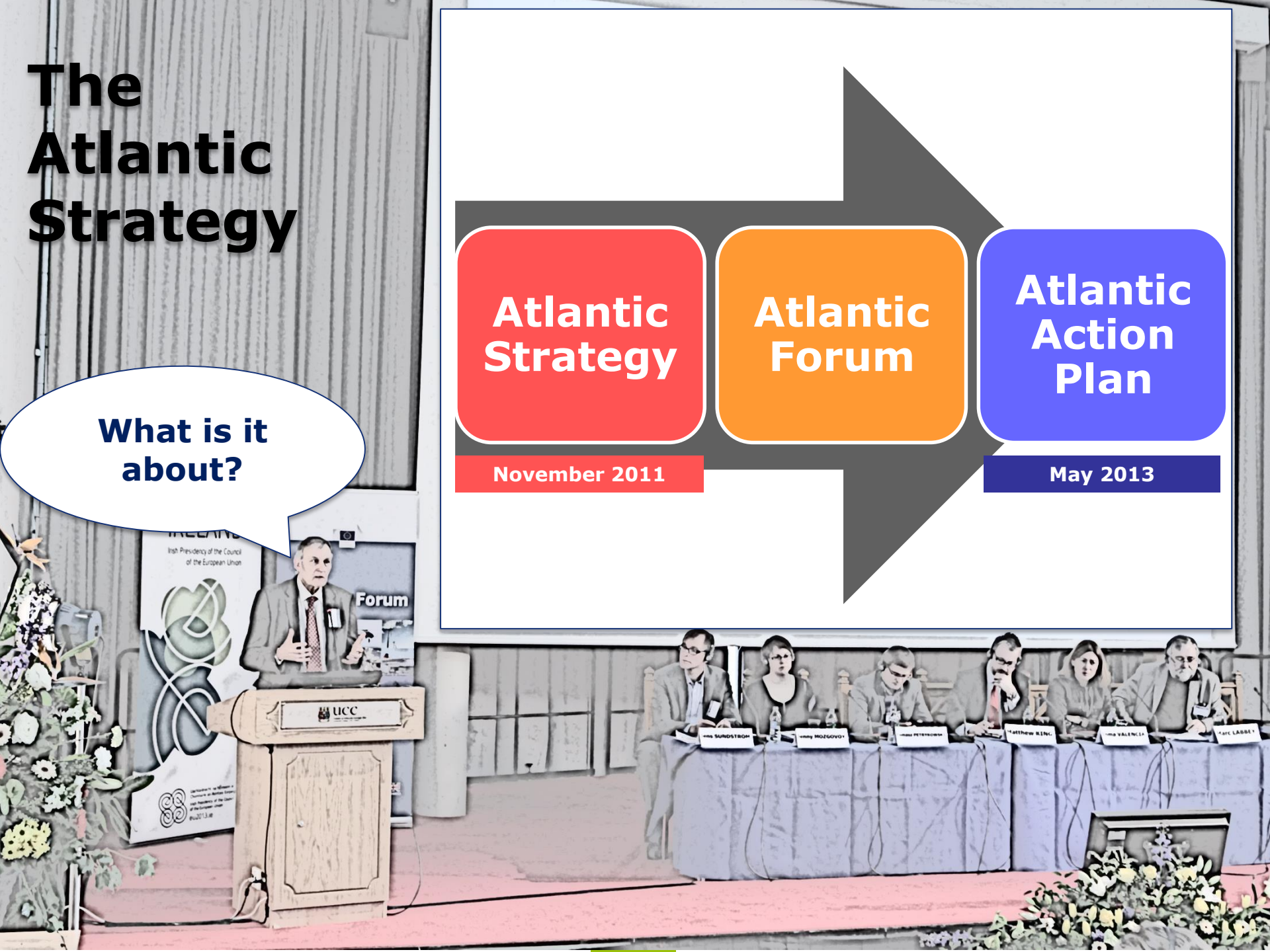
Sea basin approach

Atlantic Ocean



The Atlantic Strategy

What is it about?



Atlantic Strategy — November 2011

Atlantic Forum

Atlantic Action Plan — May 2013

Atlantic Action Plan

Objectives

- Smart, sustainable growth and employment
- Enhance cooperation in the Atlantic

Key priorities

Priority 1:

Promote entrepreneur ship and innovation

Priority 2:

Protection of the marine and coastal environment

Priority 3:

Improve accessibility and connectivity

Priority 4:

Promote the regional development

Implementation – Funding channels

ESFI funds

HORIZON 2020

COSME

LIFE

Private sector

European Investment Bank

EFSI

synergies and complementarity

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Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance

- **Launched in May 2013 (Galway Statement) under Irish Presidency with Commissioners Geoghegan-Quinn & Damanaki**

- **Goal: To better understand the Atlantic Ocean and to promote the sustainable management of its resources. The work will also study the interplay of the Atlantic Ocean with the Arctic Ocean, particularly with regards to climate change**

- **In HORIZON 2020 WP 2014-2015: Several topics, are identified as relevant for the Galway Statement**

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State of play

- Bottom-up process for the design and adoption of the Strategy and the Action Plan completed with the "Atlantic Forum" (2012-2013)
- High-level stewardhsip provided by the "Atlantic Strategy Group" (Member States, EU institutions)
- Open, participative process: "Atlantic Stakeholder Platform" meetings: Porto (Feb. 2015), Brest (Oct. 2015)
- In 2014: workshops organised by the Commission in support of stakeholders - Brussels (Feb.), Funchal (March), Gijon (April), Liverpool (June)
- "Support Team" to support the implementation of the Action Plan: operational in 4th quarter 2014. Brussels central office and 5 "National Units" (one in each Atlantic Member States)

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Next steps

- Event "Atlantic Strategy in Action" (8 June 2016, Committee of the Regions, Brussels) where "funders" (e.g. Managing Authorities) will:
  - present work on embedding the Action Plan and,
  - learn from other participants about current or forthcoming funding opportunities relevant for the Strategy and the Action Plan.
- Round Table "Seas in Motion: Activating the Atlantic Action Plan" (14 June 2016, European Parliament, Brussels): event co-organised by the Irish Perm. Rep. and the EP's intergroup SERICA (Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas)

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Next Steps (2)

2016 Atlantic Stakeholder Platform

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Next steps (3)

- **Ongoing work on the EMFF budget under "direct management", in support of the Integrated Maritime Policy, for 2017 (and 2018):**
  - **Actions that could supported under this budget now under discussion: challenging task because of the numerous proposals and initiatives, and the limited budget.**
  - **The Atlantic area could benefit from "horizontal" actions**
  - **Specific actions, targeting the Atlantic have been considered but could overlap with other actions in other sea basins or sectors.**
- **2017: mid-term review of the implementation of the Action Plan:**
  - **to be carried out by the Commission, and to be discussed with Member States and stakeholders.**
  - **an independent evaluation, based of completed projects will be part of the review.**

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Thank you!

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea_basins/atlantic_ocean/index_en.htm