



BLUEINVEST DAY 2025 FLASH REPORT



DAY 2 | 06 March

230+

In-person attendees

265

Unique livestream viewers

46

Speakers

3

Pitch categories

FEATURES

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Costas Kadis, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans marked 2025 as a significant year for the EU's Blue Economy with the **Ocean Pact**, which aims to ensure coherence across ocean-related areas. Europe must strongly position itself in **key technology sectors** – clean and green technologies, artificial intelligence and dual-use technologies that safeguard vulnerable underwater infrastructure amidst ongoing geopolitical tensions.

The Commissioner recognised **BlueInvest's impact on blue financing**, noting its 300 active investors and the establishment of a blue innovation risk capital ecosystem, which was nearly non-existent in 2019, when the European Commission had launched its BlueInvest initiative to help close the financing gap and boost the ocean innovation ecosystem. He underscored the importance of cooperation in blue innovation and the success of BlueInvest as a model in bridging the innovation gap in the European Blue Economy.

European Investment Bank (EIB) Vice President Ambroise Fayolle emphasised the importance of oceans to Europe and encouraged blue economy stakeholders to read the newly released **European Blue Champions report**. Many companies are currently stuck in the "Valley of Death" and more investment is needed to support startups poised for growth. Mr. Fayolle underscored the **positive impact of blue innovation on climate change, the economy, job creation, and global competitiveness**, advocating for greater collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Christophe Clergeau, a Member of the European Parliament, emphasised that the ocean is fundamental and should not be overlooked amid the current focus on supporting Ukraine. He called for a high degree of ambition in developing the **Ocean Pact** which should include a concrete legislative agenda, clear objectives, and enforcement strategies to guide global action in restoring oceans. He also highlighted the need to **revise existing legislation to facilitate increased investment** in the blue economy.



BLUE CHAMPIONS REPORT LAUNCHED



KEY FINDINGS

The EIB presented its new report, "**European Blue Champions – Charting the Course for Innovation Finance**". 70 companies applied for the Blue Champions programme, indicating a clear demand for investments above 7.5 million euros in the blue economy sector across Europe. 20 Blue Champions were selected from the candidates. The Champions identified key growth barriers, with 85% citing access to finance as a major obstacle. Other concerns included regulatory barriers such as lengthy permitting processes and skill shortages, particularly at the management level.

Key recommendations:

- Rebalance the use of grants to provide more technical assistance, also addressing skill gaps.
- Facilitate anchor contracts from public entities and large corporates to support development.
- Reduce regulatory barriers and provide regulatory sandboxes.
- Strengthen regional Blue Economy strategies.
- Create a consolidated European ocean data infrastructure.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

MODERATED BY

SPEAKERS



Daniela CEDOLA

Partner
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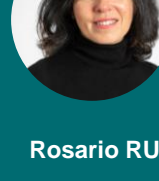
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SWEN Capital Partners



Rosario RUILOBA

VP Business Development
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Michael WHITE

Partner
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BOOSTING COMPETITIVENESS AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE EU BLUE ECONOMY

Panelists discussed drivers and barriers to enhancing competitiveness and attracting private investment to the EU blue economy, and how this compared to other ecosystems like the US. Key observations included:

- The newly released Competitiveness Compass is cited as a vital tool with the potential to significantly boost the blue economy.
- There is an urgent need to continue to build a comprehensive blue ecosystem that enables startups to collaborate with investors, other companies, and stakeholders to reach the market.
- A critical gap in the blue economy is still a lack of funds willing to invest in technologies at the scale-up phase, leaving companies stuck in the "Valley of Death" after early-stage investments.
- Adequate financing at all innovation stages is essential, and there needs to be more cross-border collaboration across Europe.
- Opening public procurement markets to startups was discussed, emphasising the need for startups to supply public markets to demonstrate performance.
- The EU has an important role in connecting fragmented sectors and avoiding the duplication of efforts, particularly in research and innovation strategies for the ocean and marine knowledge frameworks.
- The new multiannual financial framework is key to securing proper financing for the blue economy. Differences with the US environment were noted, where agile legislation allows innovators to seize opportunities quickly.
- The UK's potential, especially through new collaboration with the EU via Horizon Europe 2030, was also recognised.



NETWORKING & SHOWCASE OF TECHNOLOGIES

135+ minutes

Dedicated networking time

30

Showcased technologies



Exhibitors



BLUEINVEST AWARDS 2025

12 innovative companies presented their products and solutions to the investor jury panel across 3 categories.

Net Zero and Ocean Sustainability



Sustainable Bioresources from the Ocean



Ocean Intelligence & Autonomous Systems



AWARDS WINNERS

Net Zero and Ocean Sustainability

seamoretech
water for tomorrow
Brine purification systems that transform harmful by-products from desalination into freshwater.

Sustainable Bioresources from the Ocean

GOA VENTURES
Fresh seaweed transformed into valuable products, such as protein, biopolymers and biogas.

Ocean Intelligence & Autonomous Systems

MWI
Advanced weather forecasting and analytics that enhance efficiency and safety at sea.

People's Choice

UNIVERSAL PLASTIC
Verification of beach cleanups and plastic collection through AI and blockchain.

SHOWCASE OF BLUE CHAMPIONS

5 Blue Champions presented their innovative technologies and projects.

