

## The Declaration of Brest at the One Ocean Summit:

### Mercator Ocean International to become an Intergovernmental organisation

**At the One Ocean Summit in Brest (France), in the frame of the many engagements taken in favour of the sustainability of the Ocean, was announced that Mercator Ocean International, will become an Intergovernmental organisation. An international reference and authoritative institution dedicated to ocean prediction and digital ocean.**

Access to reliable ocean information is a prerequisite for informed governance of the ocean, to understand and protect it, to respond to the challenges of climate change, to face the collapse of its biodiversity and to promote the development of a sustainable blue economy. The digital oceanography developed by Mercator Ocean International allows us today to combine scientific knowledge, operational surveillance capabilities and digital technologies, to create reliable information accessible to as many people as possible. The EU Copernicus Marine Service conceived and operated by Mercator Ocean International is a successful illustration of this major and indispensable scientific service.

During the One Ocean Summit in Brest, France, six European states signed the "**Declaration of Brest**" committing to transform Mercator Ocean International into an intergovernmental institution. This step will enable the organisation to meet the ambitious and various needs of the European coastal states and their marine strategies, of the European Union and its Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" and of the UN Ocean agenda, **by building the first World's Digital Ocean.**

*"The digital twin of the ocean is a tremendous step forward to consolidate our knowledge about our oceans. Science and technology are one of the most effective tools to protect biodiversity, fish populations and climate balance. And this is also what gives meaning to the Mercator Ocean transformation into an international organisation"* said President Macron today at the One Ocean Summit.

The vision of a digital ocean for operational use (science, policymakers, industries, services, ocean advocates, citizens...) has made a big leap thanks to the declaration signed by representatives from France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. They form the first circle of member states of the Intergovernmental Organisation that will be created by transforming Mercator Ocean International legal status. The Declaration warmly calls other European Countries to join the organisation as soon as possible. A first assessment of the transformation process will be made at the United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon between 27<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

Mrs Annick Girardin, French minister of the sea who took the lead of this initiative said *"The transformation of Mercator Ocean International will provide a new and decisive impetus for the construction of a world digital ocean"*.

Pierre Bahurel, Director General of Mercator Ocean International, comments: *"We are delighted about the trust invested in us and looking forward to playing an even stronger role in supporting European and international ocean governance initiatives. The ocean is an essential part of the Earth system and very important in our fight against the climate crisis. Building together a digital ocean helps all of us to act more concretely in the face of these environmental challenges."*

The One Ocean Summit took place in Brest from the 9th to 11th of February and was hosted by France, the current holder of the EU presidency. The summit aimed to unite and mobilise political decision-makers to swiftly implement mitigation measures to the vast challenges our oceans are facing: biodiversity and ecosystems under threat, climate change, and sustainability of the blue economy.

#### Link to video of the Event (at 3h41mn)

[\[LIVE\] One Ocean Summit - Forums \(2\) - YouTube](#)

#### Find more information here:

<https://www.mercator-ocean.eu/en/>

<https://twitter.com/MercatorOcean>