FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Spain signs Convention establishing Mercator International Centre for the Ocean

Spain becomes the fifth signatory, strengthening international cooperation in operational oceanography and marine services.

Paris, Madrid, 26 November 2026 – Spain signed the Convention establishing the Mercator International Centre for the Ocean, the future intergovernmental organisation dedicated to digital ocean systems and information services, becoming its fifth signatory after France, Norway, Greece and Bulgaria.

H.E. Victorio Redondo Baldrich, Ambassador of Spain to France, signed the Convention on behalf of Spain at the Spanish Embassy in Paris, in the presence of Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Ambassador and Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for the Ocean and the Poles, with representatives of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French Ministry for the Sea and Fisheries and the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space.

The signature builds on Spain's involvement since the 2022 Brest Declaration. Together with France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom, Spain expressed its intention to establish an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the digital ocean.

H.E. Victorio Redondo Baldrich said: "Spain's signature is a significant step towards strengthening internatio*nal cooperation and European leadership in operational oceanography and marine services. Through this Convention, we are committing to shared capabilities that support maritime safety, climate resilience and ocean protection*."

As a major maritime nation, Spain brings scientific and operational expertise in ocean research, forecasting and maritime operations, developed by a broad community of research centres, public bodies and companies. It also has a long-standing institutional partnership with Mercator Ocean International through the Spanish State Ports Agency, Puertos del Estado, a shareholder since 2017 and a contributor to Copernicus Marine products and services.

Anticipating ocean change and responding to its impacts on marine ecosystems, coastal economies and maritime safety requires reliable information, sustained scientific cooperation and robust governance. The Mercator International Centre for the Ocean will enable participating states to jointly shape the development and operation of digital ocean systems and information services. Working with scientific institutions, it will turn ocean data and science into trusted information on past, present and future ocean conditions.

Its capabilities in ocean modelling, forecasting and digital twin technologies will support public and maritime decision-making at global, regional and national levels.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Pierre Bahurel, Director General of Mercator Ocean International, said: “Our longstanding partnership with Puertos del Estado has laid a strong foundation for this next step. Spain’s signature brings us closer to a shared ambition: giving participating states the means to better understand and predict the ocean, respond to their national priorities and strengthen Europe’s leadership in operational oceanography.”

ENDS

Press contact Mercator Ocean

Press@mercator-ocean.fr
Laurence Collet, Corporate Communications & Media Relations
M : + 33 6 76 86 85 15

Impact & Influence
mercator@impactandinfluence.global

About Mercator Ocean International

Mercator Ocean International is a global leader in ocean monitoring, forecasting, and Digital Ocean systems. It provides operational ocean information services for public authorities, international organizations, and the scientific community worldwide. It operates the Copernicus Marine Service for the European Commission and plays a central role in the development of the EU Digital Twin Ocean, working with a pan-European network of scientific and operational partners. By combining ocean observations, numerical modelling, high-performance computing and artificial intelligence, Mercator Ocean delivers operational digital ocean services supporting ocean prediction and decision-making. Mercator Ocean is currently transitioning towards the creation of a new intergovernmental organization dedicated to Digital Ocean systems and information services. www.mercator-ocean.eu