



Our unknown oceans: Understanding their role – exploring their potential

15 March 2016, Brussels



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our oceans are so vast and deep that their resources seem unlimited, that our actions seem to remain without consequences. Yet, it is a fairly unknown world – and a highly sensitive ecosystem. If we bring the oceans out of balance, we unbalance ourselves. Though clearly sensing that we might be wrong, mankind tends to exploit the oceans in an insatiable manner.

Understanding the oceans is critical: What integrated observation systems do we need for assessing their role, especially in the climate system? What ecological impact results from deep sea mining? How can researchers contribute to a reasonable use of the oceans' potential?

Various recent policy initiatives address this topic. Future developments, however, strongly depend on whether these can be brought to life. By providing latest research examples and insights from politics and industry, the Helmholtz Association wants to foster the discussion for a sustainable approach.

We cordially invite you to participate in this year's Helmholtz evening event on:

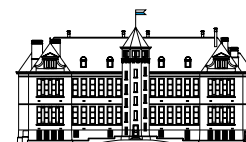
Our unknown oceans: understanding their role – exploring their potential
on 15 March 2016, 6:00pm

at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU, Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels

I look forward to meeting you and exchanging views with you on these critical issues.

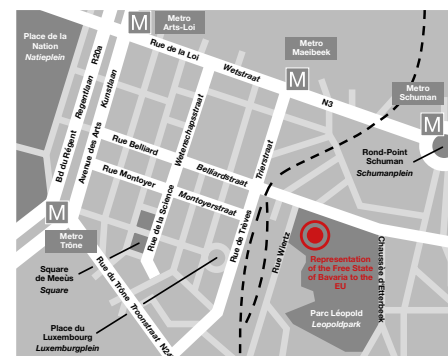
Kind regards,

Otmar D. Wiestler
President of the Helmholtz Association



Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union

Rue Wiertz 77
1000 Brussels



Programme

18:00 Get together

18:30 Welcome addresses

- **Michael Hinterdobler**, Director of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU
- **Prof. Dr. Otmar D. Wiestler**, President of the Helmholtz Association

18:45 • **András Inotai**, Member of Cabinet of Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

- **Prof. Dr. Peter M. Herzig**, Vice-President of the Helmholtz Association for the Research Field Earth and Environment, Director of the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
» Ocean Research in the 21st Century - Challenges and Opportunities «

19:15 Panel discussion | Discussion moderated by **Jacki Davis**, Journalist

- **Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius**, Head of the Joint Research Group for Deep-Sea Ecology and Technology, Alfred Wegener Institute – Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research
- **Dr. Ricardo Serrão Santos**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup “Seas, Rivers, Islands & Coastal Areas”
- **Iain Shepherd**, Acting Head of Unit for Marine Policy – Atlantic, outermost regions and Arctic, DG MARE, European Commission
- **Prof. Dr. Martin Visbeck**, Head of the Research Unit “Physical Oceanography” at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project “ATLANTOS”
- **Leonhard Weixler**, Executive Director, Department of Maritime Technologies, BAUER Maschinen GmbH and President of the DeepSea Mining Alliance

20:00 Reception

**PLEASE REGISTER
BEFORE 8 MARCH 2016**

• Please register via email and contact: events.bxl@helmholtz.de
• For questions, please contact Kristine August
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