

ATLANTIC STRATEGY

Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan

Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 Pillar Coordinators

In the revised Atlantic Action Plan (AAP 2.0), **four thematic pillars were identified** and accompanied by **concrete actions**, representing a practical way to make the common vision a reality, since they are interconnected and trans-regional by nature.

Reaching the end of the current contract, **each incoming Pillar coordinator** has shared a message about its purpose and objectives for the new period and **each leaving Pillar coordinator** shared a farewell message.

2020-2022

2022-2024

PILLAR I



LIAM LACEY



CARLOS BOTANA

PILLAR II



ANA NORONHA

PILLAR III



OLATZ AJURIA



KERRIE SHEEHAN

PILLAR IV



PHIL MONBET

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE PILLAR COORDINATORS OF THE TERM 2020-2022

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PILLAR COORDINATORS FOR THE TERM 2022-2024



LIAM LACEY
DIRECTOR OF THE IRISH MARITIME DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE

The Atlantic Action Plan is an important initiative that recognises the role of ports as gateways for trade and hubs for business. When our ports perform well, they underpin the success of Europe's trading economies. In recent times, ports throughout the EU have been challenged to deal with exogenous shocks such as Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and more recently, the war in the Ukraine. Increasingly, our ports are called upon to meet the needs of emerging industry sectors, such as offshore renewable energy and alternative fuels. Whether meeting the demands of emerging sectors, coping with the extraordinary events that can occur without warning, or maintaining the connectivity that allows trade to flourish, our ports are strategically important infrastructure that facilitates economic and social exchange. Therefore, the development of our ports is important not only in the context of the Atlantic Strategy, but also in the context of the ideals that are at the heart of the European Project.

The incoming Pillar Co-ordinator will be busy, but the work will be rewarding. By way of advice, I would suggest that Pillar Coordinators work closely together on shared ambitions. I wish all incoming Pillar Coordinators the very best of luck.



CARLOS BOTANA
HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT, PORT OF
VIGO

Ports are hubs of business and innovation within the blue economy. Advanced ports have a relevant role in the green transition as drivers of innovation. Collaboration and exchange of information among stakeholders on new sources of energy and its implementation at vessels and port operations will be key to address sector challenges related to the needs for legal analysis, design of prototypes and cost – benefit analysis. We will promote good practices exchange and joint initiatives along the Atlantic region through open workshops, working groups and will produce relevant analysis on challenges and potential solutions. We will encourage the involvement of the quadruple helix of innovation all through the activities. Moreover potential financial sources and tools will be identified to submit projects and implement actions. This period will have an action taking and solution oriented approach. Decarbonization is our joint responsibility.

PILLAR I – PORTS AS GATEWAYS AND HUBS FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY



OLATZ AJURIA
PROJECT MANAGER, EVE – BASQUE ENERGY
AGENCY

Marine renewable energies have been in the spotlight of the European Commission, Member States and Regions during the last decades, though in recent years with even more intensity. There is a compelling reason behind this: the opportunity to guarantee energy supply, renewable generation and develop innovative value-added industry with high social benefits. Collaboration between different public administrations, industry and research centres is vital for the development of MRE sector, and the Pillar III of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 has put its efforts on that. Despite difficulties faced by the Working Group during the last years (a global pandemic, a war in Europe), the conviction that we must continue promoting MRE technologies has only been reinforced.

We hope that the seed planted by us will deliver some results and that next Pillar III coordinators can build on those.

Good luck and thank you very much.

PILLAR III – MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY



KERRIE SHEEHAN
HEAD OF RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY AT
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND
(SEAI)

As leader of Pillar III, my goal is to accelerate exploitation of Atlantic Marine Renewable Energy by enhancing sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, identifying sector gaps to address through research funding and collaboration within Pillar III and other Pillars to optimise policy mechanisms and funding levers across the interdependent spheres such as enterprise, grid, research, test sites, ports, environment & planning and supply chain. We will achieve this through enhancing collaboration within our Task Force members, facilitating external communication between the regions and informing on enabling regional collaboration mechanisms. Our development of Atlantic Marine Renewable Energy must keep pace with EU ambition, which is ever heightening in response to accelerated climate change and geo-political challenges. The Atlantic has vast potential, and we must work together to maximise its harnessing, while protecting its unique ecological features.

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