



## **Together with a panel of European experts, the French Minister for the Sea Ms. Annick Girardin welcomes the 11 recommendations of Eurocean's Youth maritime ambassadors**

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**After three months of work and three immersive days of political meetings, exhibitions and debates in La Rochelle, the young European ambassadors for the maritime world, Eurocean's Youth, presented their recommendations to the French Minister for the Sea, Annick Girardin, and to a college of experts and European ministers.**

With the support of the French Ministry of the Sea, Surfrider Foundation Europe has created Eurocean's Youth, a network of young European ambassadors for the maritime world. Aged between 20 and 27, these 106 young active people, students in oceanography, environment or political science have worked for 3 months with a precise objective: to establish recommendations around 2 major subjects - the sustainable future of maritime transport and the evolution of careers in the maritime professions.

**[Read the full press release presenting Eurocean's youth here](#)**

Due to Covid restrictions, a delegation of 15 young people came to La Rochelle to present 11 recommendations at a conference devoted to the jobs and skills of the European maritime industry, organised as part of the French Presidency of the European Union.

The young people presented their recommendations to the French Minister for the Sea, Annick Girardin, as well as to the participants of the conference. Among the participants were Pascal Lamy, former European

Commissioner for Trade, and Professor Raphaël Baumler, a specialist in maritime transport safety. Here are the recommendations:

## Blue Careers

### Recommendation 1

**Implement an EU-wide Maritime Surveillance and Enforcement Programme.**

### Recommendation 2

**Invest in upskilling and reskilling of people employed in disappearing sectors to facilitate their transition to emerging sustainable jobs**

### Recommendation 3

**Create a Marine Erasmus+ programme combining education, job and networking opportunities, to enhance knowledge transfer and raise awareness about maritime affairs**

### Recommendation 4

**Create a European platform to advance ocean literacy**

### Recommendation 5

**Introduce an Ocean Certification for public authorities in the EU**

## Maritime Transport

### Recommendation 6

**Implement a new rating system for zero-emission vessels combining the EU MRV regulation and the IMO rating system. By 2040, ensure that only vessels with A rating are allowed in European waters and ports**

### Recommendation 7

**Improve monitoring of water quality in the EU ports**

### Recommendation 8

**Ensure strict implementation of dredging rules with an ambition to introduce a dredging ban in the upcoming years**

### **Recommendation 9**

**Provide EU subsidies for training in autonomous vessels technology and promote this specialization in maritime schools EU-wide**

### **Recommendation 10**

**Make government, private and EU funding available to the environmental transition of the shipping sector**

### **Recommendation 11**

**Recommendation: Facilitate the accession of shipowners to the Green Marine label by providing financial support to its certified members**

### **[Click here for the details of the 11 recommendations](#)**

The next presentation will be made the One Ocean Summit, where another delegation of young Ambassadors will present their recommendations on Thursday 10 February as part of the workshop "Which Europe of the Sea?" (6pm, Atelier des Capucins in Brest, see also [www.oneoceansummit.fr](http://www.oneoceansummit.fr)), allowing them to raise awareness among international experts. They will continue this dissemination during several other major international events in the coming months, including the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon next June.

*We remain at the disposal of journalists for any interview requests.*

Surfrider Foundation Europe, an NGO created in 1990, works to protect the oceans, the coastline, the waves and their users. With a team of experts and 50 volunteer branches in 12 European countries, the association works with stakeholders (citizens, private and public sectors) on several major issues: maritime transport, aquatic waste, coastal development, climate change, water quality and user health. In addition to the Eurocean's Youth programme, Surfrider Europe will be present in Brest during the One Ocean Summit to introduce its maritime eco-label [Green Marine Europe](#).

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