

REACTION OF SURFRIDER TO THE HEARING OF COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE ON FISHERIES AND OCEANS COSTAS KADIS

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This Wednesday 6 November in the afternoon, the European Commissioner-designate for fisheries and oceans Costas Kadis expressed himself in front of Members of Parliament in the context of the confirmation hearing sessions.

[The complete hearing is to be found here.](#)

Our main takes on the hearing are the following:

POSITIVE ELEMENTS:

- Costas Kadis referred to the European Oceans Pact as being one of his main priorities, insisting on furthering implementation and enforcement of existing legislation
- He also recognized coastal areas were highly vulnerable to climate change and stated that resilience to climate change would be a matter of priority

- He recognized pollution of our ocean was an issue that needed to be further addressed
- He referred several times to science saying that decision making under his leadership would be based on robust science
- He said he would visit coastal communities in the field and would listen to all
- He shared he would work on the Ocean diplomacy of the European Union, committing the European Union to ratifying the High Seas Treaty as soon as possible and to playing a key role in the perspective of and at next year's UN Ocean conference

WHAT WORRIES US:

- Overall, the hearing was dominated by exchanges and Questions and Answers on fisheries and aquaculture, overlooking half of the portfolio, on other key Ocean matters. Yet, it came as no surprise given the mission letter sent to him, and the people in the room coming from FISHERIES committee with ENVI committee members only being invited to the hearing and given – as a result - only a few minutes
- Kadis' answers were vague on the exact content of the Oceans Pact, and it is extremely worrying to hear that it may only consist in a coordination mechanism and will not introduce new policies nor measures
- He did not say anything on his concrete vision to increase the resilience of the ocean and coastal areas to the impacts of climate change
- And it is unclear what initiatives will be put forward to reach our zero pollution objectives

Gaelle Haut, EU affairs coordinator at Surfrider Foundation Europe finally added :

“We look forward to working with Costas Kadis. We welcome his strong reliance on science and commitment to furthering coherence between all policies with an impact on the ocean via the Oceans Pact and increasing implementation of existing legislation. It has been reassuring to hear him recall the importance of a healthy ocean for any economic activity and for coastal communities. We are concerned though that the Oceans Pact would not necessarily imply new policies to quote his own words and urge him to reconsider this strongly as gaps remain in several areas in the face of the triple crisis our ocean is in.”

RESSOURCES FOR THE EDITORS :

[CV / Curriculum Vitae \(PDF - 118 kB\)](#)
[Declaration of interests \(PDF - 786 kB\)](#)
[Written questions and answers \(PDF - 200 kB\)](#)

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

About Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Foundation Europe, an NGO created in 1990, works to protect the oceans, the coastline, the waves and their users. For 30 years, with a team of experts and 50 volunteer branches in 12 European countries, the association has been working with stakeholders (citizens, private and public sectors) on several major issues: aquatic waste, coastal development, climate change, water quality and user health. Find out more about the association at <https://surfrider.eu/> or via this [vidéo](#)

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