

## Concept note – EU Green Week

**Title:** “COP1 and beyond - how cooperation in the High-Seas is essential for European prosperity”

**Date and location:** 5 June, 2026

**Description:** In January 2026, the landmark agreement to protect and sustainably use marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) came into force. After 20 years of negotiations, its adoption came at a critical time when multilateralism is being challenged and the importance of science is frequently undermined. The entry into force was a stark reminder that through pragmatism, ambition and leadership, international cooperation can be a powerful antidote to the divided geopolitical arena of today. As we look towards COP1 and beyond- it is now time for implementation.

Covering around 64% of the global ocean surface, the High Seas is a biodiversity-rich seascape that provides a wide range of ecosystem services that benefit humankind and are fundamental to human survival and well-being. For Europe, investing in ocean protection is a prerequisite to invest in a resilient and prosperous future.

The European Union has shown its global environmental leadership in this regard by promoting an ambitious BBNJ agreement and by continuing to support global efforts to gather political momentum for its early implementation. One of the spearhead initiatives is the BBNJ High Ambition Coalition (HAC), co-hosted by the EU with Palau and Seychelles. The goal of the coalition is to promote universal ratification of the agreement, but also to showcase and operationalise how biodiversity conservation and sustainable use can co-exist for the well-being of people, planet and prosperity.

A month after the end of the third BBNJ Preparatory Commission, the event during the EU Green Week will look at how the High Seas can be a key space for environmental diplomacy, scientific cooperation, and concrete actions to safeguard our global ocean.

### Draft agenda:

- **Introductory remarks (10 minutes)**
  - EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans
- **Showcasing leadership – a word from the HAC co-chairs (20 minutes)**
  - Permanent mission of Palau to the EU
  - European Union Delegation to the Republic of Seychelles
- **COP1 and beyond (40 minutes)**
  - Australian Embassy to the EU, NATO, Belgium and Luxembourg
  - IUCN (BBNJ High Ambition Coalition Secretariat)
  - Ocean & Climate Platform
  - UNEP Brussels Liaison office
- **Concluding remarks (5 minutes)**