

# NOTES overall

## Session:

### Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Mission Arena – Opening Session

**Date:** Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

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The opening session of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mission Arena set the stage for the three-day conference. Moderator, Angela Schultz-Zehden, opened the session, stating that we were here to bring “Brussels to the regions, where the key work takes place”! Four keynote speakers then took to the stage to introduce the more than 300 attendees to the key themes to be covered at the conference. A Swedish government representative presented Gothenburg as the entrance to the Baltic Sea and an innovation hub. The audience was left to ponder: What will be our blue unicorn? What will be the blue Spotify that changes the course of the economy?

The president of the SUBMARINER Network, Fredrik Gröndahl, then took to the stage, to emphasise the realities of our blue planet and that it is not enough to look to the green to solve our problems, we need the blue. Applied science, collaboration, community outreach and sustainability must lead this acceleration. VASAB, then added to the discussion that Marine Spatial Planning is the groundwork needed to create a productive and sustainable blue economy. To wrap up the key notes, the STRING region, a blue-green Mega Region spanning from Hamburg to Oslo, emphasised that our problems are international and that we therefore need solutions which are cross national.

Following the panel, eight elevator pitchers took the stage to preview the workshops to take place during the conference. The topics previewed included: Mussels, low-trophic cultivation, algae recirculating aquaculture systems, blue biomass, fisheries, MPA management, finance, community engagement, and business development.

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#### **Petra Wallberg, Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise & John Tumpane, FORMAS :**

- Gothenburg as the entrance to the Baltic and North Sea, home to innovation from Volvo to the first EPA
- Government is represented in the EU working groups, promoting calls on a national level
- Looking to get out of the conference – what Sweden can do for the Mission and for the sector
- By 2030 value of Blue Economy is expected to double!
- Questions to ask ourselves today: What are the blue innovative disruptions that are going to come out of the Blue economy? What is our blue unicorn?

#### **Fredrik Gröndahl, SUBMARINER Network:**

- We live on a blue planet
- Changing from a fossil fuel to a bio economy: Sweden looks to the forest, but we need more, we need the blue
- We need applied science, collaboration, community outreach and sustainability in our actions in the Blue Economy
- Long term goal: to make Sweden a leader in sustainable seafood

#### **Elīna Veidemane, VASAB**

- Intergovernmental maritime spatial planning for the Baltic Sea Macro region
- MSP is the groundwork to creating a productive and sustainable blue economy.
- Regional MSP roadmap in place through 2030

#### **Emelia Cullborg, STRING:**

- Representing the mega-regional perspective from Oslo to Hamburg
- 15 members, which represent 14 million people.
- Blue-Green Mega Region focused on transitioning to a blue-green economy
- Crucial to have the support from government and industry: public private partnerships are key
- Key point: our problems are international – we need solutions that are cross-national