DiploInnova Canarias

Maritime Innovation, Strategic Resilience, and European Partnerships

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Brussels
15th October 2026

Gobierno de Canarias
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About DiploInnova Canarias

DiploInnova Canarias is an initiative of the Government of the Canary Islands aimed at the diplomatic corps accredited in Spain, as well as European institutions and national and international organizations. Its purpose is to strengthen international cooperation in science, innovation, and economic development by building on the unique capabilities of the Canary Islands, fostering strategic partnerships and participation in initiatives of global significance.

The initiative is founded on a clear conviction: **science not only expands the frontiers of knowledge, but also serves as a tool for cooperation, technological sovereignty, and shared prosperity**. The Canary Islands offer exceptional conditions to demonstrate this, thanks to their world-class scientific infrastructures, outstanding research talent, and a legal framework that recognizes their unique status as a European outermost region.

DiploInnova is conceived as **a meeting point where diplomacy and science come together**. It enables the diplomatic corps, European institutions, and participating organizations to gain first-hand insight into the capabilities of the Canary Islands and to explore avenues for collaboration that extend beyond research, opening opportunities for technological development, business innovation, economic cooperation, and participation in international networks, partnerships, and programmes.

Each edition focuses on a different area in which the **Canary Islands can offer added value**. In 2025, the focus was on astrophysics and space; in 2026, on the ocean, climate change, and blue innovation; and in future editions, on other fields aligned with the Canary Islands' Smart Specialisation Strategy, where the archipelago has established scientific strengths and clear competitive advantages.

With a programme that combines science, innovation, and culture, **DiploInnova Canarias** seeks to showcase to the world the potential of an island territory that, through its unique characteristics, is positioning itself as a strategic actor in building a sustainable future.

https://diploinnovacanarias.org/

DiploInnova Canarias

Programme

Maritime Innovation, Strategic Resilience, and European Partnerships

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Thursday, 15th October 2026

Headquarters of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
Rue du Trône 62, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels

09:30 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 10:05 **Welcome and Opening**

Speaker:

- *Marina Martínez, Horizonte Europa Programme Officer, CDTI SOST*

10:05 – 10:10 **From Maritime Innovation to European Impact**

Speaker:

- *Fernando Clavijo Batlle, President of the Canary Islands (video intervention)*

10:10 – 10:30 **Panel Discussion 1: Strategic Capabilities for a More Resilient Europe**

What maritime capabilities has Europe developed to date, and which additional capabilities will be required to strengthen its resilience and security by 2035?

Speakers:

- *Delilah Al Khudhairy, Director, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy (MARE.A), Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission*
- *Fotini Ioannidou, Director, Waterborne Transport (MOVE.D), Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), European Commission*
- *Conor Delaney, Technical Coordinator, European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) Secretariat*

Moderator: *Adriana Regidor, Coordinator, DiploInnova Canarias*

10:30 – 11:00 **Panel Discussion 2: From Capabilities to Action - Deploying Solutions at the European Scale**

How can Europe transform existing capabilities into operational solutions and high-impact projects?

Speakers:

- *Muriel Attané, Secretary General, European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO)*
- *Kinnie De Beule, Innovation & Project Manager, De Blauwe Cluster (Blue Cluster Belgium)*
- *Moisés Blanco Ríos, Policy Officer, Clean Transport Transitions, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission*

Moderator: *Santiago Díaz, Head of Unit, Canary Islands Institute of Technology (ITC)*

Organized by: Gobierno de Canarias

In collaboration with: Gobierno de España, Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades; CDTI Innovación, Spain Office for Science and Technology, SOST-Brussels; CSIC; PLOCAN Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias; EMERGE Startups Innovation

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11:00 – 11:50 **Roundtable Discussion: Building European Partnerships for the Next Multiannual Financial Framework**

Which critical capabilities should Europe prioritize by 2035?
Which infrastructures and platforms should be shared at the European level?
How can regions, businesses, technology centres, and European institutions be better connected?
What partnerships should be established now to maximize the opportunities offered by the Multiannual Financial Framework, particularly under FP10?
Who should lead and participate in these initiatives at both the European and international levels?

Speakers:

- *Rubén Molowny López-Peñalver, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director, Canalink*
- *Justine Brossard, Maritime Policy and Project Officer, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)*
- *Mónica Quesada Peña, Project Officer, Maritime Cluster of the Canary Islands*

Moderator: *Joaquín Hernández Brito, Director, Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN)*

11:50 – 12:00 **Conclusions and Closing Remarks**

Speaker:

- *Migdalia Machín Tavío, Regional Minister for Universities, Science, Innovation and Culture, Government of the Canary Islands*

12:00 – 13:00 **Cocktail networking**

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This document is currently under development. It will be updated periodically and shared as relevant changes and developments occur.

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