

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sorry that I have not been able to attend this workshop from the beginning due to other commitments. However, I did feel that I should make an effort to attend, if only to express my real goodwill with regard to the whole sphere of maritime research.

I should just like to make a few observations about how ITRE and BUDGET can best contribute to furthering marine research.

In the first place, mapping of the sea floor is of prime importance for reasons that include fishing, biological and mineral resources, biodiversity and the list goes on. Moreover,

the research that is undertaken in this field is just the tip of the iceberg: it is to be anticipated that a whole new vista in so far as research is concerned will be opened up from this basis.

At the same time, such mapping of the sea floor requires expensive, state of the art equipment. It also requires properly trained and competent scientists.

*How am I, as a member of ITRE and BUDGET; to further this research and contribute positively to the concrete measures that are required?*

*As a part of the team in ITRE responsible for preparing the EU Parliament's response to*

H2020, I have fought to ensure that H2020 devotes considerable attention to maritime-related research. Together with other colleagues, I can promise that we shall continue the good fight.

Of course, all of this boils down to questions of money. *As a member of BUDGET*, I am the EPP standing reporter for research. I have also recently become the Specialised Rapporteur for climate change, environment and the green new deal.

In this role, let me assure you that I will do my utmost to ensure that maritime research receives its fair share of funding.

Indeed, I am aware that, in many respects, maritime research has been somewhat disregarded and that it has also been largely underfunded at European level. It is to be hoped that H2020 will serve as a turning point that will enable us to rectify this state of affairs.

Thank you very much.