



TRANSCRIPCIÓN

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, EN LA PRESENTACIÓN DEL PACTO EUROPEO DE LOS OCÉANOS

Niza, 9 de junio de 2025

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Thank you very much, good afternoon.

My friends, Spain welcomes the European Ocean Pact, adopted by the European Commission last Thursday. There is no better setting than this 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference to present it and share it with the rest of the world.

I am also pleased that we have brought under one single reference framework our European ocean policies. This will allow us to better protect our marine life, support coastal areas and strengthen our thriving blue economy.

My friends,

As we have highlighted and repeated at the summit, our oceans and seas are a source of life, wealth, and identity. They are an intrinsic part of who we are. They regulate the climate, host immense biodiversity, and provide resources indispensable to our societies.

However, this vast and fragile environment is at risk. It faces unprecedented threats due to human activity: warming, pollution, acidification, overexploitation, biodiversity loss...

In just two decades, microplastics in our oceans have increased tenfold. In 2024, fifty percent more plastic was found in the human brain than in 2016. The problem is already here, regardless of those who make jokes about European Union regulations to keep caps attached to bottles, so recycling is easier. This is just one example that anything we can do to protect our oceans is an investment in protecting our people.

So, I would like to share four messages so we build on this Pact as we move forward.

First, the need for commitment. This Pact arises from the need for ambitious, comprehensive and urgent action. Spain has always shown a strong commitment to marine protection. We were the first to ratify the UN Treaty on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. And we are strong supporters of the main international agreements for ocean protection. We actively defend the precautionary pause on deep-sea mining currently under negotiation and the need to push for an agreement on plastic pollution. So that is my message: yes, promises are important; but it is much more important to honour them.

Second, the importance of placing our coastal communities at the centre. Forty percent of the Spanish population —nearly 19 million people— live in coastal municipalities — 19 million people. It is crucial to ensure their resilience and sustainability, whether they



are on the mainland coast, islands or outermost regions such as the Canary Islands. Environmental protection and coastal restoration must be key, as should be strengthening competitiveness, with fisheries and aquaculture placed –as the commissioner has already stated –at the core as strategic sectors for food sovereignty, social cohesion, and cultural identity.

Third, the need to strengthen knowledge at all levels. I think this is an essential condition to ensure the sustainability and respect of the marine environment. Having solid observation systems and better training will enable improved ecosystem management and support adaptation for sustainable development in coastal areas. Likewise, education in schools will lead to greater protection and respect for the sea and marine heritage.

Fourth and final, the role of technology and governance. As the Pact outlines, we must be able to monitor maritime activities within our borders, for which new technologies such as artificial intelligence and dual-use tools like drones will be very useful. This must go hand-in-hand with strong governance, including a European marine diplomacy to strengthen preservation through cooperation and progress in key negotiations, such as those on plastic limitation.

In short, it is, my dear friends, important to let this Pact be not only a commitment on paper –as the president of the Commission has already stated–, but a promise in action—for our oceans, for our people, and for our future generations.

That is why we encourage the Commission to maintain ambition in its implementation, with the future 2027 Ocean Law, and to provide sufficient funding within the next budgetary framework to make it a reality.

Muchas gracias.

Thank you very much.

Merci beaucoup.

(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés)