

Excellencies,

Mr Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I would like to say how pleased I am to be among you today.

Let me express my warmest thanks for your welcome and for inviting me to take part in your discussions. It is always a pleasure to travel to Portugal, particularly to this beautiful city of Cascais which I always enjoy visiting.

I have not forgotten that, very close to Cascais, great explorers once set off around the globe, positioning Portugal a great maritime nation. I am thrilled to see that this country is once again preparing its future by looking towards the ocean.

I would also like to thank Pierre and Véronique Erwes, as they are faithful partners of my Foundation. Our roads frequently cross over the same issues and the same hopes.

I have been following with interest Biomarine's initiatives and achievements for many years. The success of this International Business Convention confirms the high quality of the work conducted by its directors and the high potential in the topics uniting us, a potential I would like to discuss with you today.

It is not a question of flaunting the merits of technological and industrial prospects for which you have a better knowledge than myself. It is a question of making people understand that the Biomarine project, if part of a pertinent commercial and entrepreneurial logic, can above all meet a political need.

Leveraging on marine bio-resources does not only mean an additional source of supply for a world with an increasing appetite. For me, it is far more about being able to respond to the challenges of the present through solutions for the future, to having the determination to find answers to the various problems we face.

I would like to characterize this challenge in three words: lucidity, responsibility and inventiveness. These three words embody for me - and I think for all of us - profound needs. They find here, in the topics that bring us together today, an unique opportunity to take concrete and positive shape.

First of all: Lucidity.

The key strength of marine bio-resources is not merely the many promises they hold. What makes their development and growth inevitable is first and foremost the lucid observation of the world as it is.

We are in a world of scarcity, even shortage, as evidenced by the situation of the key resources on which we depend.

I am thinking of energy of course. Although it is the primary pre-requisite for improving people's lives and empowering individuals, we witness on a daily basis the limits of the current energy system that relies on resources that are too rare to fully satisfy humankind, which can be toxic to the environment and subject to depletion.

I am also thinking of food, which we all know is one of the main challenges today facing the balance of our world and which will be even more of a challenge in the upcoming years and decades.

With nine billion humans soon on our planet, with food requirements and standards that fortunately are increasing, with practices that are becoming standardised, the food issue has become one of the greatest challenges of this century.

The current system leads to the destruction of 0.5% of our arable land per year, representing 30 million hectares – that is almost the size of Italy! At this rate, 50% of the Earth's land will have been exhausted in 100 years' time. Irrigation which leaches the soil, pollution which damages it, urbanisation : these are all causes of a potential disaster.

Marine resources are not in a better position, since their exploitation is still too highly dominated by overfishing and irresponsible aquaculture.

In 2011, 400 international experts from more than 35 countries approached by the United Kingdom came to this alarming conclusion which sadly went unnoticed: Without changing our ways, we have twenty years to produce 40% more food and 50% more energy.

These figures, Ladies and Gentlemen, should lead us to take stock of our situation: the impossible equation between supply bound to diminish and ever-expanding demand.

It would be unrealistic and futile to respond to the current crises by supporting negative growth which few people wish for and, more importantly, which proves is impossible. To ensure the survival of the billions of humans living on this Planet and more

importantly those who will live after us, we have no choice but to change our conduct and find new resources.

Among them, marine bio-resources are obviously to play an extremely important role, due not only to their various potential but also to the magnitude of the volumes we can hope to benefit from in the long term.

However it does not mean that they should be exploited by perpetuating a contradictory system. After plundering the land and many maritime resources, especially fish resources, it would be absolutely suicidal to now start depleting this new wealth, as yet barely explored.

This is the second principle I wanted to focus on: Responsibility.

It pushes us to develop, starting right now, a certain number of guarantees and long-term mechanisms that only would ensure the reasonable and sustainable use of these new resources.

These guarantees must come primarily from international legal instruments. Legal instruments which currently are insufficient, both in the face of the challenges of which we are already aware - climate change, damage to biodiversity - and in the face of new challenges which are of concern to us today.

Treaties need to be implemented and their provisions enforced. The main one is of course the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This treaty was and is a visionary legal instrument but it needs adaptation.

We would like to improve it, so that it can take better account of key issues, not only for Marine Genetic Resources but to all threatened species in the Area Beyond National Jurisdictions (i.e. high seas) that are not covered by other legal instruments.

The political push should be on one hand to make sure oceans and seas will have a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal in the post 2015 Development Agenda, and on the other hand that we start negotiations for an implementing agreement not restricted to Marine Genetic Resources. It will be a missed-opportunity to restrict the negotiations to Marine Genetic Resources and not to address the urgent protection of all undangered species in the high seas.

I would also like to point out that the governance of the ocean and its resources increases the complexity of the situation. The FAO is responsible for fisheries management, UNEP for the environment, the IMO for navigation, UNESCO for scientific matters.

As for the International Seabed Authority itself, it is only vested with power in regard to mineral resources, which means that no Commission is competent as far as the exploitation of bio-resources in international waters are concerned. International Seabed Authority was established for a specific purpose and its mandate could be reviewed to invest it with other responsibilities but it will have a cost...

Significant efforts need to be made here which unfortunately will not come about quickly. We see at every international summit how great the challenges are. Confronted with the divergent interests of various Nations, faced with what is considered more urgent crisis, the international community struggles to reach an agreement with regard to sustainable development.

That is why measures can and must also be taken at a local, and even national, scale.

I am thinking of the conservation of certain rare resources or the particular attention we should pay to certain extremely fragile regions. In order to do this we have the marine protected areas system, the principle of which needs to be expanded and apply to all sea-related activities. In the absence of certainty, the exploitation of bio-resources itself, must, like all economic activities, respect certain sensitive areas whose future is vital to all humanity.

That is why I champion, with my Government and my Foundation and within multilateral fora, these marine protected areas which have experienced significant growth recently.

However, with only 2.3% of the global ocean surface currently under the status of a protected area, there is still a long way to go. The targets established at the Nagoya Conference in 2010, may I remind you, provided for increasing this figure to 10% of the ocean surface by 2020. But this goal is extremely low figure for successfully maintain sustainable biodiversity. It is therefore crucial to sustain all efforts in this respect.

More refined, inventive and unprecedented measures need to be developed, based on improved scientific knowledge of the mechanisms at work and on the implementation of safer technical solutions.

This is the third principle I want to mention today - Innovation.

Such innovation is also the responsibility of political leaders who need to define new ways of protecting the seas.

It is to this end that, together with the French and Monegasque governments, my Foundation launched last year a Mediterranean Trust, the purpose of which is to fund the development of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean and to promote their operation as a network.

This is one example among many, an example of the inventiveness that we all need to demonstrate in order to create blue growth.

This inventiveness also involves a great amount of research whose promotion is the responsibility of political leaders. By hosting various international scientific events and laboratories, by contributing to various research programmes across the globe, in particular on maritime issues, my country is involved in this effort.

However choosing innovation means above all placing trust in companies, because the principle of innovation is at the heart of their approach. It guarantees their success and guides them on a day-to-day basis. I believe that companies need to be fully involved in our objective of new growth, this blue growth in which they should play the leading role and be the first beneficiaries.

At a time when the current crises fuel doubts on the social value and responsibility of the corporate sector, at a time when they are so often disparaged, an opportunity is being given to them to prove their value.

It is in fact up to companies to explore and develop the vast field of marine bio-resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, for the benefit of all. They alone have the ability to match the needs of the Planet with the daily expectations of the consumer. They alone are able to spur men and women daily, those who have a thirst for progress but do not want to destroy the heritage of future generations.

That is why I support Biomarine and the project it is implementing. The project in which you are key players. For these reasons, and with my Foundation, I have chosen to take part in the creation of the Biomarine International Clusters Association.

The growth I am calling for is made of networks, cooperation, shared access to information for everyone in the interests of everyone.

Biomarine is an amazing catalyst for these new energies, a catalyst that we need to nurture and encourage, by being responsible players ourselves in the development of our oceans.

It is a necessity for us, for our children and for the oceans themselves!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

Aware of the situation of our Planet,

Responsible, faced with the prospects of new resources,

Inventive, confronted with the challenges posed by these resources,

we will, I am sure, be able to address the challenges of this century.

The road ahead will of course be difficult. But it is a road within our reach as long as we give ourselves the means to follow it.



So that our world of rare resources is able to continue to live in peace, to offer progress and hope to as many people as possible, we have to move forward.

We have no other choice!

As Winston Churchill said, "We must take change by the hand or, rest assuredly, change will take us by the throat."

Marine bio-resources must help us take this change by the hand, and Biomarine can help us achieve it! That is the reason of our presence here today.

Thank you.