



Interview with Pierre Erwes (Biomarine)

“Making the sea the most beautiful place on the earth ...“

The first edition of Biomarine, the World Forum for the sea, will be held in Marseille and Toulon from October 20 to 24 this year, and will be one of the official events during the French Presidency of the European Union. Pierre Erwes, its initiator, believes that this opportunity gives new momentum to understanding such a rich and fragile environment to be preserved



Pierre Erwes

> What is the starting point for creation of the Biomarine International forum?

Pierre Erwes : The sea is our future, and it is important to create a major conference on this theme. It was inspired from previous initiatives of the Biovision forum to find ways of continuing to exploit the wealth of this environment without destroying it. Therefore the idea is to bring politicians, scientists, international and regional companies together around this platform where they can hold discussions, find solutions and study the different themes and problems related to the maritime environment. We hope to achieve new partnerships but also new behaviours. It will be a place for debates, proposals and commitments, at which decision makers from around the entire world, manufacturers, research workers, civil society, and the media all meet in an unusual manner ...

> is the objective of this annual forum?

Pierre Erwes: To create a genuine international maritime policy capable of facing globalisation and competitiveness, climate change, deterioration of the marine environment, energy security and the sustainable use of energy. It will also help to assure that security and safety conditions conducive to these activities are set up and maintained. This policy must be based on excellence in research, technology and maritime innovation.



> What are the upcoming opportunities that we must not miss?

Pierre Erwes : Biomarine will propose an exceptional conferences program attended by more than 150 internationally famous speakers. Debates will be organized in about forty sessions, to encourage interaction between the public and interviewed persons. We would like a genuine exchange with straight talking. At the same time, opportunities will be made for presentation of the most recent industrial and scientific progress in which international, national and regional companies will have an opportunity to meet and swap ideas.

> Why choose the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region to organise this first event?

Pierre Erwes : Biomarine is above all an official event held within the framework of the French Presidency of the European Union. The town of Toulon that will host the forum on October 20 and 21 this year occupies an important position in Mediterranean geopolitics, being the home port for the largest European Naval Fleet in the Mediterranean. Marseille is another emblematic town in maritime history, particularly with its commercial port. It also has a strong scientific and economic potential with 600 research workers and engineers working around the Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers (National Institute of Astronomical, Earth and Environmental Sciences). Therefore, it is perfectly natural that Marseille will host the forum from October 22 to 24.



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- Visit the Biomarine site: www.biomarine.org
- View the program
- Download the brochure