Press Release – CCOSS Conference 2026

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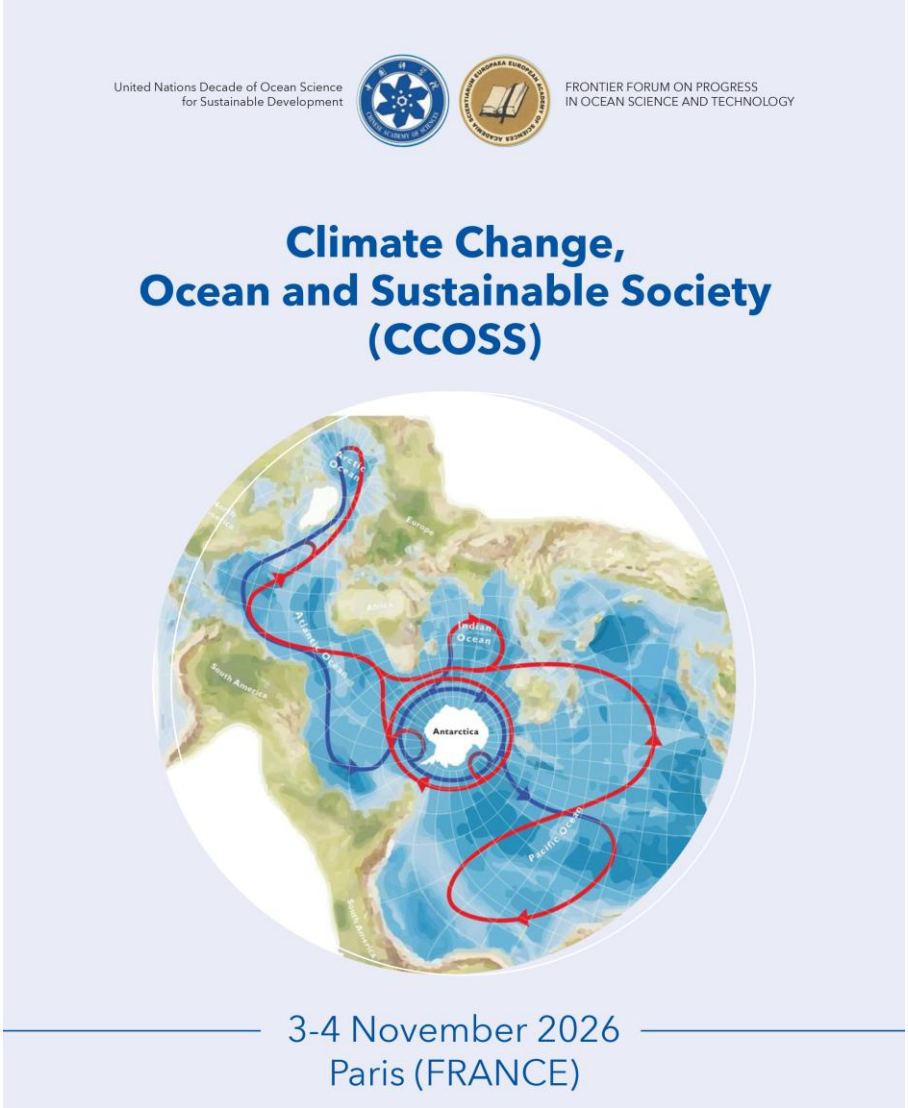
PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 21 October 2026



Leading European and Chinese scientists gather in Paris to address climate change and the ocean

The European Academy of Sciences (EurASc) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) will hold their 4th Frontier Forum on Marine Science and Technology, "Climate Change, Ocean and Sustainable Society" (CCOSS), on 3 and 4 November 2026 at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) in Paris. The conference, organised under the banner of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), brings together some twenty leading ocean and climate scientists from Europe and China for two days of talks and discussion, in person and online.

A critical moment for the ocean and climate

The ocean regulates the Earth's climate, absorbs most of the excess heat and a large share of the carbon dioxide produced by human activities, and sustains societies worldwide. Yet it is changing rapidly: polar ice is melting, sea levels are rising, marine heatwaves are intensifying, and the observing systems that track these changes are under growing strain. The CCOSS forum takes stock of the state of knowledge and asks what science, technology and international cooperation can deliver for a sustainable future.

The programme is organised around four themes:

1. **Ocean observation sciences and technologies**, chaired by Sabrina Speich (ENS, Paris) and Shi Jian Hu (Hohai University, Nanjing), on the state and future of the global ocean observing system, from satellites and autonomous vehicles to the ocean microbiome and carbon fluxes.
2. **Climate change and polar systems**, chaired by Michael Meredith (British Antarctic Survey) and Rui Bo Lei (Polar Research Institute of China), on rapid change in the Arctic and Southern Oceans, ice sheet and ocean interactions, and polar ecosystems.
3. **Climate change and ocean circulation**, chaired by Stefan Rahmstorf (PIK, Potsdam) and Xian Yao Chen (Ocean University of China), including the risk of tipping points in the Atlantic overturning circulation and the North Atlantic subpolar gyre.
4. **Climate change and coastal zones**, chaired by Anny Cazenave (CNES, Toulouse) and Shan Jiang (East China Normal University), on sea level rise, coastal flooding, eutrophication, Mediterranean ecosystems and coral reefs.

Among the highlights, Sabrina Speich (ENS) will present the priorities of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and make the case for ocean observing as critical infrastructure and a global public good. Stefan Rahmstorf (PIK) will ask whether the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation is approaching a tipping point. Michael Meredith (BAS) will review contemporary change in the polar oceans, and Robert Nicholls (Tyndall Centre) will address solutions to sea level rise in coastal systems.

Practical information

Dates	3-4 November 2026, 08:00-14:50 CET
Venue	Ecole Normale Supérieure, 24 rue Lhomond, 75005 Paris. Room Serre, 5th floor, building E (Erasmus)

Online	Via Zoom. 3 Nov: meeting ID 941 0294 6962. 4 Nov: meeting ID 967 2756 4161
Conference chairs	Prof. Paul Tréguer (University of Western Brittany, France) and Prof. Jing Zhang (East China Normal University, China)

The forum is sponsored by the European Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and hosted and organised by the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris. The organising committee comprises, for EurASc, Anny Cazenave, Jean-Pierre Gattuso, Sabrina Speich and Paul Tréguer, and, for CAS, Shi Jian Hu, Rui Bo Lei, Xian Yao Chen, Shan Jiang, Yi Xu, Fang Zuo, Li Tan, Wei Zheng and Jing Zhang.

Journalists are welcome to attend in person or online, and interviews with speakers can be arranged on request.

About the organisers

The European Academy of Sciences (EurASc) is an independent, non-profit organisation of distinguished scientists committed to promoting excellence in science and technology in Europe. Its Earth Division gathers leading researchers in Earth, ocean and climate sciences.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is China's leading academic institution and a major global centre for research in the natural sciences.

The Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL), a founding member of Université PSL, is one of France's foremost institutions for research and higher education, hosting leading research in geosciences and climate.

Press contact

Prof. Sabrina Speich President of the Earth Division, European Academy of Sciences Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris [email address] [phone number]

Prof. Paul Tréguer, European Academy of Sciences, Institut Universitaire Européen de la mer, paul.treguer@univ-brest.fr - +33 (0)6 08 48 07 50