

## Press Release

### EuSalt Solar Salt Conference 2014

Brussels, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014

On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014, EuSalt held its second biodiversity conference in Marsala (Sicily) on the theme of 'The Economic Value of Biodiversity in Solar Salt Works'. The very first edition of the conference took place in 2012 in Seville and focused on biodiversity and ecosystems within and around salt works. This new edition aimed to shine a light on the connection between the need to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services associated with salt works and the need to foster viable economic activity.



The conference took up where we had left two years ago: solar salt works offer an example of biodiversity created by men. They thrive, as much as highly depend, on rich and valuable ecosystem services. While solar salt works may serve land management or rehabilitation and biodiversity creation purposes, the question of their economic viability is essential. How can exploitations, whether small or large, transform this natural asset into economic value? The vast panel of academics, scientists and salt producers attempted to answer such questions.

The event highlighted some of the technical issues that salt works are confronted with. For instance, the presence of certain algae in salt ponds, the use of brine from desalination plants to produce salt, and so forth. In addition, salt producers gave examples of various options – ranging from cultural and educational activities to thalasso and health centres – that may be used to valorize the sites and their uniqueness towards the public. In this regard, the conference provided an incentive to share experiences. This will be the basis of an upcoming publication of EuSalt.

A visit of the Saline Ettore e Infersa, in Marsala, was organized ahead of the conference on the kind invitation of Sosalt. The salt works offers one of many examples of sustainable development of a relatively small plant.

*EuSalt is the non-profit organisation representing the common interests of salt producers located across Europe. As the voice of the salt industry, our aim is to create an interactive platform and facilitate information exchange between the industry and European and international stakeholders*

**Contact:** Sandrine LAURET, mobile: +32 498 60 96 41, [sandrine.lauret@eusalt.com](mailto:sandrine.lauret@eusalt.com)