



EMBASSY OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO
TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Washington, D.C.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JUNE 2026



AMERICA 250

- Monaco Joins the America250 Commemoration [➤](#)
- Monaco–U.S. Relations Celebrated Through Film [➤](#)
- Former NASA Administrator Bill Nelson Visits Monaco [➤](#)
- New Orleans Launches Sail250 Celebrations [➤](#)

DIPLOMATIC DIGEST

- Meridian Sports Diplomacy Forum in Washington DC [➤](#)
- State of the Union Address [➤](#)
- “Women in Diplomacy” [➤](#)
- 2026 Ambassadors’ Reception in Washington, D.C. [➤](#)
- Strengthening Francophone Cooperation [➤](#)
- Monaco’s North American Representatives Featured on Monaco Info [➤](#)

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

- Venturi Space: Monégasque Innovation Reaches for the Moon [➤](#)

ARTS & CULTURE / PHILANTHROPY

- An Evening Inspired by Monaco's Heritage & Generosity [➤](#)
- PCMF USA Celebrates 10 Years of Impact in the U.S. [➤](#)
- PCMF USA Programs Featured on Monaco Info [➤](#)
- NYC’s American Irish Historical Society Celebrates Princess Grace’s Enduring Legacy [➤](#)

NEWS FROM MONACO

- A Landmark Papal Visit to Monaco [➤](#)
- Strengthening Dialogue Between Monaco and California [➤](#)
- Blue Economy and Finance Forum 2026 [➤](#)



Monaco Joins the America250 Commemoration Through Historic Partnership

April 28, 2026

The Principality of Monaco formally joined the United States' **250th anniversary commemoration** with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the America250 Commission on April 28 at the Residence of Monaco in Washington.

Hosted by H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Ambassador of Monaco to the United States, alongside The Honorable Rosie Rios, Chair of the America250 Commission, the event marks a new chapter in the longstanding relationship between Monaco and the United States.



The agreement places Monaco among international partners contributing to America250, with a focus on cultural exchange, education, and forward-looking dialogue. In her remarks, Ambassador Maccario Doyle noted that the partnership “reflects not only a shared history, but a shared commitment to shaping the future together,” while Rosie Rios underscored the importance of international engagement in the commemoration.

The signing took place during a year of significant milestones, including the 250th anniversary of the United States, the **20th anniversary of Monaco’s diplomatic presence in Washington**, and the **70th anniversary of the marriage of Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III**.



Monaco Joins the America250 Commemoration Through Historic Partnership - Cont'd

April 28, 2026

The evening brought together leaders from diplomacy, culture, and industry, including Charles Rivkin, Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association and former U.S. Ambassador to France and Monaco; René Augustine, Vice President of Global Government Policy at Paramount; J.B. Kelly, President of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation-USA; Ginna Levine of the Princess Grace Foundation-USA; and Bill Nelson, former NASA Administrator, U.S. Senator, and astronaut.



From left: Charles Rivkin, Alexandra Kelly, Jennifer Condon (Executive Vice President, America 250), Michael Lopez Alegria (Chief Astronaut, Axiom Space), Rosie Rios, H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, JB Kelly, René Augustine, Ginna Le Vine, Grace & Bill Nelson



Monaco Joins the America250 Commemoration Through Historic Partnership - Cont'd

April 28, 2026

The event also served as an opportunity to reflect on the **deep historical ties** between Monaco and the United States. More than a century ago, **Prince Albert I** traveled extensively across America in pursuit of scientific discovery and exploration. During one of his journeys, he visited Wyoming, where he hunted with the legendary **Buffalo Bill** at what became known as “Camp Monaco.” Prince Albert I later visited Washington in 1921 and met with President Warren G. Harding, making it particularly meaningful that the agreement was signed at the Residence of Monaco, once Harding’s home before he entered the White House.

Prince Albert I & Buffalo Bill
(Wyoming, 1913)



Wedding of HSH Prince Rainier III & Grace Kelly (April 19, 1956)
© Archives du Palais de Monaco/Detaillé

The connection between Monaco and America was further strengthened through Prince Albert I’s marriage to Alice Heine, who was born in New Orleans, and later through the **iconic union of Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III**, a transatlantic story that continues to resonate nearly seventy years later.

As Ambassador Maccario Doyle emphasized, the MoU is not simply about commemorating milestones, but about **honoring a shared history, strengthening the ties between the two nations, and carrying that friendship forward for future generations.**



Culture in Focus: Monaco–U.S. Relations Celebrated Through Film

April 29, 2026

The cultural dimension of the relationship was highlighted the day following the signing of the MoU with a private screening of *To Catch a Thief*, hosted by the Motion Picture Association in Washington, DC. The event paid tribute to Grace Kelly’s enduring legacy and celebrated the longstanding ties between Monaco and the United States.



Charles Rivkin, President & CEO, Motion Picture Association



(l – r) Ted Lehman, Paramount SVP-Head, US Public Policy & Government Affairs; René Augustine, Paramount SVP, Global Public Policy; H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle; Charles Rivkin, Chairman & CEO, Motion Picture Association; Gail MacKinnon, MPA Senior Executive VP for Global Policy & Government Affairs



H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle with Monaco’s Honorary Consuls Greg Lill (Seattle), Tom Horn (San Francisco) & Tomas Abreu (Miami)



Former Astronaut and NASA Administrator Bill Nelson Visits Monaco

May 11, 2026

Organized by the Government of Monaco and the Embassy of Monaco in Washington, former astronaut and NASA administrator **Bill Nelson** met with nearly **230 Monaco students** on May 11 during a special visit centered on space exploration, science and future careers...

The event formed part of Monaco's participation in celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of United States independence and included discussions between Nelson and representatives of the Principality's growing space sector.



During a two-hour exchange with students from Collège Charles III, Lycée Albert Ier and FANB, Nelson reflected on his distinguished career, from flying aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 1986 to serving as NASA Administrator from 2021 to 2025.

Students were inspired by his personal stories and passion for exploration. One particularly memorable moment came when Nelson described seeing Earth from space, noting that from orbit, humanity appears united on a single planet, without the divisions that often separate people on the ground.



Following the school visit, Nelson was received by Monaco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Isabelle Berro-Amadeï (pictured left) for discussions linked to Monaco's international cooperation and interest in the space sector.



New Orleans Launches Sail250 Celebrations

May 27, 2026

New Orleans welcomed the world as the inaugural host city for **Sail250**, officially launching the maritime celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary. For one unforgettable week, the Mississippi River waterfront was transformed into an international showcase of history, culture, and friendship, bringing together majestic tall ships and naval vessels from around the globe.

Among the participating vessels were the U.S. Coast Guard Barque **EAGLE**—known as "America's Tall Ship" and the only active square-rigger in U.S. government service—as well as the **USS Kearsarge**, **USS Farragut**, and international ships representing the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay. Together, they highlighted the spirit of international cooperation and shared seafaring traditions.



© New Orleans & Company



Carter Fayard; Commander David Schreuder, Commanding Officer, HNLMS Friesland (Royal Netherlands Navy); Honorary Consul Calvin Fayard

Honorary Consul of Monaco **Calvin Fayard** participated in several official events associated with the celebration, joining state and federal officials, ambassadors, and honorary consuls from numerous countries aboard the visiting vessels to meet with officers and crew members and commemorate this important milestone in the nation's history.

The voyage continues up the East Coast as part of the America 250 commemoration, culminating in the **Sail4th 250 Parade of Tall Ships on July 4 in New York City**. More than 30 tall ships from around the world are expected to sail along the Hudson River from the Verrazano Bridge to the George Washington Bridge. Monaco will proudly be represented by the **Yacht Club de Monaco's historic flagship, Tuiga**, which will participate in the parade, further highlighting the Principality's longstanding maritime tradition and its friendship with the United States.



Meridian Sports Diplomacy Forum in Washington DC: “Fast Lanes & Global Gains: Formula 1’s Economic and Diplomatic Growth”

January 29, 2026



Ambassador Maccario Doyle participated in the inaugural **Meridian Sports Diplomacy Forum**, held on January 29, 2026, in Washington, D.C., marking a new chapter for Meridian’s Center for Culture and Sports Diplomacy—where the universal language of sport meets the power of diplomacy to build bridges, inspire communities, and strengthen global understanding.

The Forum convened more than 200 leaders from diplomacy, business, and sport to explore how athletic excellence, innovation, and shared values can open markets, foster collaboration, and help shape more inclusive societies.

The Ambassador contributed valuable perspective during the conversation “Fast Lanes & Global Gains: Formula 1’s Economic and Diplomatic Growth,” highlighting how the world’s most prestigious motorsport drives community engagement, tourism, investment, and diplomacy across continents. Her reflections on the Monaco Grand Prix as “a place that became sport,” and on the importance of continuity, authenticity, and convening in non-political spaces, underscored how tradition can evolve into enduring soft power.



The panel—also featuring Abdulla Al Khalifa, Ambassador of Bahrain, and Stefanie Williams, with moderation by Aba Bonney Kwawu (pictured above)—explored the transformative power of Formula One: its storied history, global reach, and cultural resonance. The discussion highlighted how the adrenaline-fueled sport transcends borders and languages, uniting generations, strengthening international ties, and driving economic growth.



State of the Union Address delivered by the President of the United States before Congress

February 24, 2026

The Ambassador of Monaco was among the distinguished guests at the U.S. Capitol on February 24 to hear President Trump deliver the first “State of the Union” address of his second term.



President Donald Trump delivered a particularly lengthy address, structured around three main themes: economic performance, firmness on immigration, and the assertion of American leadership on the international stage. Although still resolute, the tone was more measured than in some of his previous speeches.

On the economic front, he highlighted declining inflation, rising incomes, and the attractiveness of foreign investment, presenting these elements as confirmation of a recovery cycle. However, the announcements remained general in nature, without detailed technical explanations.

Immigration remained the central theme of his speech. He reaffirmed that the government’s primary responsibility is to protect American citizens, a position that continues to strongly mobilize his electoral base.

In foreign policy, the President outlined an approach combining firmness and diplomacy, expressing a preference for a diplomatic solution with Iran while reiterating the United States’ military capabilities. No major strategic shift was announced.



The speech clearly fit within a strategy of domestic political consolidation ahead of the upcoming midterm elections. It confirmed previously identified priorities—economic sovereignty, migration security, and an assertive international posture—without any substantial change to the transatlantic framework at this stage.

*Amb. José Miguel Alemán (Panama),
Amb. Mathilde Mukantabana (Rwanda),
Amb. Monica Crowley, U.S. Chief of
Protocol, Amb. Maguy Maccario Doyle*



“Women in Diplomacy”

January 21, 2026

Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian co-hosted a dinner with Washington, D.C.-based Diplomacy Matters at the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with 28 women members of Congress and Ambassadors. The event allowed for thoughtful and open exchanges on subjects of mutual interest, as well as the start of many new friendships and further strengthening of the connections already established.



Rep. Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ), H.E. Petra Schneebauer, Ambassador of Austria, Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-OH)

2026 Ambassadors’ Reception in Washington, D.C.

February 11, 2026



H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Ambassador of Monaco to the United States, attended the 2026 Ambassadors’ Reception hosted by **Mayor Muriel Bowser** on February 11 at the John A. Wilson Building in Washington, D.C.

The reception brought together members of the diplomatic corps and international representatives to celebrate and strengthen the District’s global partnerships.

During the evening, Ambassador Maccario Doyle met with Mayor Bowser and fellow diplomats in a spirit of friendship and international cooperation.



Strengthening Francophone Cooperation in a Time of Global Uncertainty

March 17, 2026



On March 17, Ambassador Maguy Maccario Doyle joined colleagues from across the Francophone community for a timely and substantive exchange, held in the presence of Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary-General of the **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)**. The discussion followed welcoming remarks by André François Giroux Wiseman, Ambassador of Canada, and took place under the chairmanship of Sidibé Fatoumata Kaba, Ambassador of Guinea and President of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Washington.

The gathering provided an important platform to reflect on the evolving priorities of the Francophonie. Key themes included the continued promotion of the French language, strengthening francophone representation within multilateral institutions, addressing the growing challenge of disinformation, and ensuring the visibility and vitality of French-language content in the digital space.

These discussions come at a moment of increasing global uncertainty, underscoring the importance of dialogue, solidarity, and cooperation among francophone nations. The exchange served as a powerful reminder of the shared values that unite the Francophone community across regions and cultures.

The conversation also set the stage for the celebration of International Francophonie Day on March 20. This annual occasion honors the French language and the rich cultural diversity it represents, bringing together more than 369 million speakers across five continents in a shared commitment to cooperation and mutual understanding.



Monaco's Representatives Across North America Featured by Monaco Info

Monaco's national news channel, Monaco Info, recently highlighted Monaco's diplomatic and consular presence in North America through a series of interviews with the Principality's representatives across the region.

The series features Consul General Gildo Pallanca Pastor in **New York**, as well as Honorary Consuls Raffaella de Laurentiis (**Los Angeles**), Calvin Fayard (**New Orleans**), Greg Lill (**Seattle**), Tom Horn (**San Francisco**), Tomas Abreu (**Miami**), Warren Tolman (**Boston**) and Bitá Cattelan (**Montreal**).

In these conversations, each representative shares insights into their role, their connection to Monaco, and their efforts to strengthen ties between the Principality and their respective communities.

The interviews are available on the Embassy's YouTube channel by clicking on the pictures below.



New York



Los Angeles



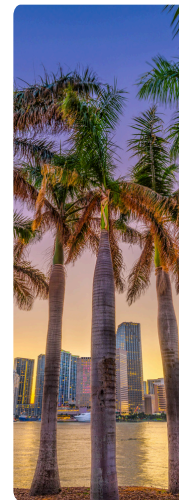
New Orleans



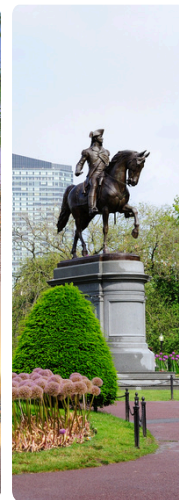
Seattle



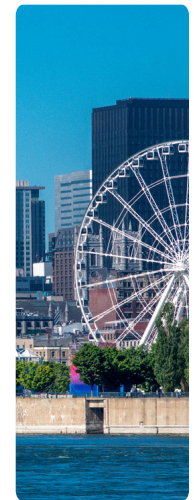
San Francisco



Miami



Boston



Montreal



Venturi Space: Monégasque Innovation Reaches for the Moon

May 26, 2026

In a remarkable milestone for space exploration and for innovation in Monaco, congratulations are in order for **Venturi Space** and **Venturi Astrolab, Inc.** on **NASA's** selection of the **CLV-1 lunar rover** for the Artemis program and the return of astronauts to the Moon.

The fact that technologies designed and developed by teams in Monaco, France, and Switzerland – from hyper-deformable lunar wheels to advanced battery systems – will help support human mobility on the lunar South Pole is an extraordinary achievement.

This announcement reflects years of vision, perseverance, and technological excellence led by Venturi Astrolab, Inc., as prime contractor, with Venturi Space – its strategic partner – contributing critical technologies developed in Monaco, France, and Switzerland.

Read official press release [here](#).





An Evening Inspired by Monaco's Heritage and Generosity

January 17, 2026



The Embassy of Monaco in Washington was pleased to support a private gathering inspired by the history and heritage of Monaco, hosted by Karan Keith Agarwal and family.

Bringing together members of the local community, the evening celebrated the Principality's unique story through a light-hearted Monte Carlo-themed experience featuring recreational gaming tables and hospitality inspired by Monaco's renowned art of living.

Guests were also invited to learn about the remarkable vision of Prince Charles III, whose decision in the 19th century to legalize and structure gaming as part of a broader strategy of culture, elegance, and hospitality helped transform Monaco's future and shape its modern identity.



The event also highlighted the importance of giving back, with voluntary raffle proceeds benefiting Children's National Hospital. By linking an evening of friendship and entertainment to a charitable cause, the gathering reflected Monaco's longstanding commitment to solidarity and community engagement.



The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation USA Celebrates 10 Years of Impact in the United States

May 2026

The **Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation USA** celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2026, marking a decade of commitment to water safety and drowning prevention across the United States. The U.S. branch of the Foundation was officially launched in May 2016 in Los Angeles, California, by **HSH Princess Charlene of Monaco**, whose lifelong dedication to water safety inspired the organization's mission to save lives through education and prevention.

Since 2016, the Foundation has been led by Ambassador **Maguy Maccario Doyle**, who serves as President, and **Karla Modolo**, Senior Officer at the Consulate General of Monaco in New York, who serves as Secretary and Treasurer. They are joined on the board by Olympic champions **Greg Louganis** and **Dara Torres**, along with **Susan Kelly**, **Catharina Elliott**, and **Patton Howell Caldwell**.



© Christopher Morris-Palais Princier 2016

(L - R) Patton Howell Caldwell, Wallis Annenberg, Karla Modolo, Dara Torres, Susan Kelly, H.S.H. Princess Charlene of Monaco, H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Catharina Elliott.

Founding board member and philanthropist **Wallis Annenberg**, whose generosity and vision helped shape the Foundation's early impact and whose support was instrumental in the successful launch of the U.S. chapter, passed away in 2025. The Foundation also mourns the recent passing of Gary Pudney, who, though not a board member, was an invaluable friend and supporter whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in organizing the Foundation's launch events and advancing its early mission.



The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation USA Celebrates 10 Years of Impact in the United States - Cont'd

May 2026

The inaugural launch took place on May 11, 2016, at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, where Princess Charlene was joined in the water by Olympic champions Greg Louganis and Dara Torres, as well as professional big-wave surfer Nic Lamb, and more than 40 local children participating in water safety activities. The event highlighted the Foundation's commitment to teaching swimming, promoting water safety, and preventing drowning through community-based education programs.



Greg Louganis, Wallis Annenberg, H.S.H. Princess Charlene of Monaco, H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle.



Greg Louganis, H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, TV personality Mary Hart, H.S.H. Princess Charlene of Monaco, Noelle Wolf.

Over the past decade, the Foundation has worked to expand access to water safety education and swimming instruction for children and communities nationwide, supporting “learn to swim” and drowning prevention programs with a strong presence in California, Florida, and New York.

Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation USA Programs Featured on Monaco Info

February & March 2026

Earlier this year, Monaco Info spotlighted two key initiatives supported by the **Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation USA**, highlighting the Foundation's ongoing commitment to drowning prevention and water safety education across the United States.

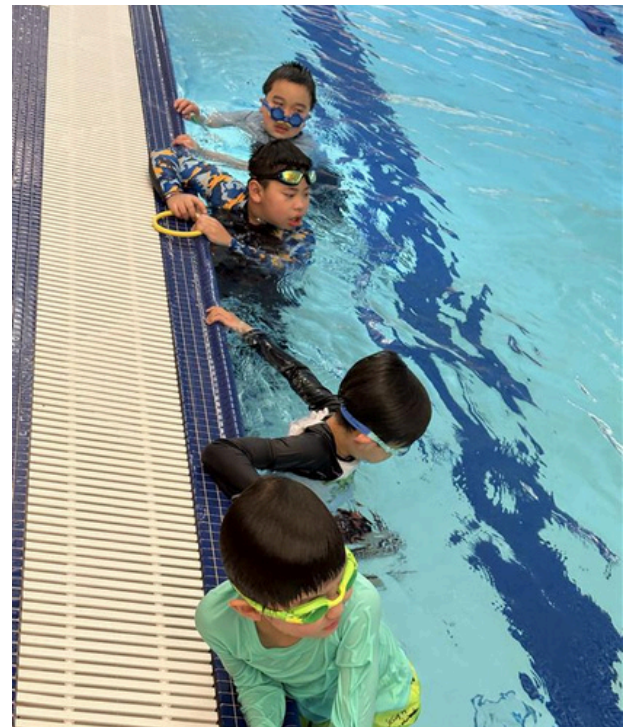


On February 14, Monaco Info visited **Florida Swim School** in Boca Raton to showcase the “Learn to Swim for Children in Foster Homes” program. Sponsored by the Foundation and led by Florida Swim School for the past six years, the initiative provides children in foster care with essential swimming and water safety skills, helping them build confidence and stay safe around water.

A second segment aired on March 7 from the **Chinatown YMCA of San Francisco**, featuring the “Safety Around Water” program. Through swimming lessons and water safety education, local children gain valuable skills designed to prevent drowning and encourage lifelong confidence in aquatic environments.

Watch the segments:

- [Florida Swim School – Boca Raton](#)
- [Chinatown YMCA – San Francisco](#)



American Irish Historical Society in New York Celebrates Princess Grace's Enduring Legacy

June 10, 2026



Amb. Geraldine Byrne Nason

On June 10, the American Irish Historical Society (AIHS) in New York City inaugurated its new exhibition, “**Grace Kelly: Drumilra’s Irish-American Princess,**” as part of its Irish-America 250 Program.

The opening event featured remarks by **Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland’s Ambassador to the United States**, who reflected on the longstanding ties between Ireland and Monaco and the role of cultural diplomacy in strengthening international relationships. Guests also enjoyed guided viewings of the exhibition led by the Society’s curator.

The exhibition commemorates Princess Grace’s historic return to her family’s ancestral home in County Mayo, Ireland, on June 10, 1961, highlighting the enduring connections between Ireland, the United States, and Monaco.

Through this tribute, AIHS celebrates Princess Grace not only as a beloved cultural icon, but also as a symbol of the deep historical bonds linking Ireland, the United States, and the Principality of Monaco.



Prince Rainier III & Princess Grace with Ireland’s President & Mrs. de Valera in June 1961



A Landmark Papal Visit to Monaco

March 28, 2026

Their Serene Highnesses Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene welcomed **His Holiness Pope Leo XIV** to Monaco on March 28, 2026, for a landmark Apostolic Visit—his first to Europe since his election.



The visit underscores the longstanding ties between the Grimaldi dynasty and the Holy See, as well as Monaco’s deep-rooted Catholic heritage. It followed invitations from the Sovereign Prince and Archbishop Dominique-Marie David, highlighting both the diplomatic and pastoral significance of the occasion.

Arriving by helicopter from the Vatican, the Holy Father was received at the Prince’s Palace before visiting Monaco Cathedral. A central moment of the visit was a pontifical Mass at Stade Louis II, attended by 15,000 faithful, including members of the Princely Family.

Taking place 488 years after the last papal visit to Monaco, this historic occasion served as a powerful symbol of dialogue, peace, and shared responsibility, reaffirming the Principality’s spiritual identity while embracing the contemporary world.





Strengthening Dialogue Between Monaco and California

March 31, 2026

On March 31, Ambassador Maguy Maccario Doyle welcomed a **California legislative delegation** to Monaco for a visit that went beyond protocol, offering a valuable opportunity to engage on the evolving role of public leadership.



Jose Atilio Hernandez, Isabelle Rosabrunetto, Maguy Maccario Doyle, Sharon Quirk-Silva

Discussions at the Ministry of State featured a macroeconomic overview by Ludmilla Raconnat Le Goff, CEO of Invest Monaco (former Attractiveness Unit), and a presentation on Monaco’s foreign and cooperation policy by Isabelle Rosabrunetto, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. These exchanges, along with visits across the Principality—including Mareterra, a notable example of sustainable urban development—highlighted shared challenges faced by both Monaco and California.

From sustainability and economic resilience to regulatory effectiveness and institutional adaptation, the dialogue underscored common priorities despite differences in scale. Monaco’s unique strength lies in its role as a platform where innovative ideas can be tested, partnerships forged, and solutions developed with broader global relevance.

This visit represents an important step toward building a more structured and forward-looking partnership between Monaco and the Golden State.





Blue Economy and Finance Forum 2026: Turning Ocean Solutions into Investment Opportunities

May 28-29, 2026



Held under the presidency of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and co-organized by the Oceanographic Institute, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and the Government of Monaco, the **2026 Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF)** brought together leaders from finance, industry, government, and innovation to accelerate investment in a sustainable ocean economy.



Caroline Mindus & H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle

Representing 47 nationalities and featuring 56 high-level speakers across 20 sessions, the Forum focused on demonstrating that ocean-positive solutions are not only viable but ready to scale.

Through investor pitches and innovation showcases, entrepreneurs presented scalable solutions in ocean intelligence, restoration, sustainable shipping, fisheries, and plastic pollution reduction. Building on the momentum of previous editions, BEFF continues to position Monaco as a leading platform for mobilizing capital and advancing a regenerative blue economy.





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