


# PSI Colloquium

Friday, September 22, 2017, 11:00 h, WHGA/001

**Marco Simeoni**  
**Foundation "Race for Water"**

A red, 3D-style oval graphic with a white border, containing the text 'Coffee before the colloquium' in a white, sans-serif font.

Coffee  
before the  
colloquium

## Race for Water: the Odyssey of hope

In 2010, the Swiss entrepreneur, Marco Simeoni, created the Foundation in Lausanne and devoted all of his entrepreneurial spirit to the service of the oceans. With his passion for the sea, he decided in 2015 to launch a scientific and environmental expedition, the Race for Water Odyssey, to make the first one-swoop global assessment of our ocean's plastic pollution. The conclusions were clear: "plastic islands" do not exist. In effect, the idea of collecting plastic waste at sea turns out to be an utopian dream. Instead, in the middle of the oceans there is a "soup" of microplastics that swirls in the oceanic gyres. "We quickly realized that the long-term solution was here, back on land," Simeoni says. "It is absolutely essential to prevent plastics from leaking into the ocean." This year, Race for Water is embarking on a second oceanic tour with this new Odyssey. We aim to provide concrete, technology based solutions for the preservation of the ocean. "In 2015, we were, in the final analysis, powerless up against the scale of the problem of plastic pollution of the ocean. With the 2017-2021 Odyssey, and its integrated mixed solar-hydrogen-kite-powered vessel, we want to demonstrate that sustainable solutions for ocean conservation can be realized thanks to innovative technologies."

## Race for Water Odyssey 2017-2021 missions

- To promote innovative solutions capable of transforming plastic waste into energy resources
- To accelerate the clean energy transition by improving the mixed solar-hydrogen-kite power of our ambassador vessel, the Race for Water
- To contribute to science by hosting international teams of researchers and educational science projects on our vessel
- To raise awareness among decision-makers, the general public and younger generations about the urgent need to conserve the oceans



[www.raceforwater.org](http://www.raceforwater.org)