



PRESS RELEASE

IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO, THE OFFROAD CLUB MONACO BRINGS TOGETHER LEADING FIGURES FROM THE ACADEMIC, INSTITUTIONAL AND SPORTING WORLDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN FOR AN INTERNATIONAL

Monaco, March 16, 2026 - The Offroad Club Monaco (O.C.M.) organized an unprecedented international scientific and cultural workshop on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, entitled: "Historical Heritage, Cultural Traditions and Environmental Legacy of the Mediterranean, from the Foundation of the Principality of Monaco to the Sporting and Technological Challenges of Today."

Held under the Patronage of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, with the Patronage of the Embassy of Italy in Monaco and in partnership with the Municipality of Monaco, the international gathering brought together experts, officials, athletes, academics and institutional representatives from across the Mediterranean basin to explore the connections between heritage, environment, sport and innovation.

More than 150 participants gathered in the conference hall of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. Representatives of institutions, distinguished academics, entrepreneurs, as well as key figures from the worlds of sport and innovation took part in this unique event, held under the banner of dialogue and the exchange of ideas.

Throughout the day, the richness of the discussions emerged from the diversity of the speakers, who came from very different backgrounds yet shared common values. In this iconic venue - deeply connected to exploration, discovery and environmental preservation - the conversations echoed the philosophy promoted by the Offroad Club Monaco: fostering dialogue between disciplines, encouraging innovation and promoting a vision of sport in harmony with nature.

Among the most notable contributions were the speeches delivered by Monaco's institutional representatives. Pierre-Antoine Gérard, Chief Heritage Curator at the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, welcomed participants on behalf of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. Romain Ciarlet, Vice-President and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, highlighted the importance of environmental protection and raising awareness of sustainability challenges. Georges Marsan, Mayor of Monaco, emphasized the heritage and cultural value of the initiatives promoted in the Principality.

Thomas Brezzo, President of Monaco's National Council, recalled being present at the creation of the Offroad Club Monaco and delivered a heartfelt speech on Monégasque identity and community.

Jacques Pastor, Deputy Mayor for Sports at the Municipality of Monaco and Technical Director of the Monaco Ski Federation, together with Monégasque alpine skier Arnaud Alessandria — who represented Monaco at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games — underlined how sport extends far beyond competitive performance. It serves as a powerful catalyst for unity and the transmission of shared values. This message was echoed by Claudia Morandini, the official voice of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games, Italian alpine ski champion and television sports presenter.

International-level athletes also shared their perspectives, including Monaco's Francesco Castellacci, official Vista AF Corse driver in the FIA World Endurance Championship and ambassador for the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation. Castellacci spoke about his wake bike crossing between Corsica and Monaco. He was joined by Maxime Nocher, CEO of Team Monaco and twelve-time kitefoil world champion. Both emphasized sport as a journey of discipline, responsibility and commitment to future generations.

The world of entrepreneurship also offered valuable insights. Guido Giovannelli, General Manager of BPM Exclusive, reflected on the importance of restoring awareness and meaning in human relationships, highlighting the value of taking time — an approach that perfectly embodies the O.C.M. spirit, understood as the ability to step outside conventional paths in search of balance and authenticity.

Similarly, Alberto Domenico Vitale, CEO and founder of Vitale since 1913, spoke symbolically about the “trail of gems,” evoking the idea of conscious and ethical gold rooted in tradition while embracing a responsible vision for the future. His intervention was supported by François Alexandre Bertrand, recipient of the DEFENDER AWARD for the POULLUSUB project and founder of Platypus Craft & Blue Odyssey Initiative.

In perfect alignment with the philosophy of the Offroad Club Monaco, Matteo Mescolini, Chief Executive Officer of EFG Bank (Monaco), concluded with an engaging historical journey and a reflection on the origins of money and economic exchange, tracing a path that, from the early roots of trade, leads to the dynamics of contemporary finance, all founded on the essential value of trust.



The first international scientific workshop hosted by the Offroad Club Monaco

Organized by the permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco and coordinated by Professor Andrea Carteny (La Sapienza University of Rome), who also served as the event's moderator, the workshop aimed to explore — through an interdisciplinary approach — the history and the cultural and environmental heritage of the Mediterranean. The discussions traced a broad journey from the foundation of the Principality of Monaco to the contemporary challenges related to sport, technology and sustainability. Positioned at the crossroads of research, culture and environmental commitment, the initiative sought to highlight the importance of cultural heritage, environmental protection and respect for nature, as well as the values of outdoor sport and social responsibility that Monaco has long embodied for the Offroad Club Monaco.

By bringing together scholars and institutional stakeholders from Monaco and across the Mediterranean region, the workshop created a platform for dialogue and exchange around key issues shaping the future of both the Mediterranean and the Principality.

"The Wake of Monaco": the OCM philosophy at the heart of the event

The workshop was fully aligned with the philosophy of the Offroad Club Monaco, expressed through the concept "The Wake of Monaco." This vision reflects the idea of charting new routes and embarking on adventures starting from Monaco, inspired by the interaction between peoples and by the unifying passion for outdoor sport. Drawing on the legacy of historical pioneers and explorers, the concept encourages participants to venture outward while always returning to Monaco — the home of the Offroad Club Monaco. Through this approach, OCM highlighted a vision that brings together outdoor sport, culture, science and environmental responsibility, in continuity with Monaco's longstanding tradition of scientific exploration, initiated by Prince Albert I and carried forward today by Prince Albert II.



Professeur Andrea Carteny, Prof. Fabio Attorre, Museo Orto Botanico di Roma, Erminia Fezia Mordenti, Romain Ciarlet, Massimiliano Mordenti





M. Thomas Brezzo, Président du Conseil National de Monaco

“This was a deeply emotional moment for me, seeing the first academic and scientific workshop of the O.C.M. Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee come to life so successfully. An outstanding panel of professors, institutional representatives, entrepreneurs and internationally renowned athletes from Italy and Monaco came together to share not only their professional experiences, but also the deeper value of sporting and social activities, which represent an important cultural and human heritage.

I hope this moment of exchange will leave a tangible mark reflecting the authentic values of the Principality of Monaco: its heritage, its social, cultural and sporting commitment, as well as its dedication to environmental sustainability. Through this workshop, the Offroad Club Monaco aims to share these values with the world and with future generations.

It was also a great pleasure to share the stage with personalities with whom I share a commitment to cultural, social and sporting initiatives that go beyond the purely professional dimension. A commitment inspired by a vision of the ‘sustainable human being’: a person who cultivates physical, cultural, mental and social well-being, and who through their activities encourages encounters between different cultures while respecting the environment that surrounds them.

This approach contributes not only to the protection of nature, but also to the construction of a harmonious coexistence between peoples, guided by the values of peace. Whether on land or at sea, these experiences promote both the physical and mental well-being of individuals and the protection of the ecosystems in which they take place.”

Massimiliano Mordenti - CEO & Founder, Offroad Club Monaco



M. Pierre-Antoine GERARD, Conservateur en chef du patrimoine.

“The Wake of Monaco is not merely a scientific workshop; it is, above all, an expression of vision. It reflects the philosophy of a wake that begins in Monaco and grows beyond its own boundaries through encounters between peoples, united by shared values and respect for the environment. Inspired by the pioneers of history and their legacy, this journey always returns to Monaco, which for the Offroad Club Monaco represents a home — a place that carries and promotes these values of peace.

Through this workshop, O.C.M. aims to encourage the scientific exploration of themes that are particularly close to our hearts. Our ambition is to trace a path that begins with the history and identity of the Mediterranean and leads toward today’s challenges, including sport, sustainable technology and the broader human dimension.

For the Offroad Club Monaco, Monaco represents both a home and a starting point. It is here that we envision new cultural connections, renewed environmental, social and economic responsibilities, and an international community united by the desire to push beyond its limits while respecting natural balances and common sense.”

“The Offroad Club Monaco was created to chart new paths — not only in sport, but also in reflection and collective responsibility. The wake we aim to leave through The Wake of Monaco represents a concrete commitment to building a new alliance between culture, sporting performance and environmental protection.

We are convinced that the Mediterranean can become a true laboratory for sustainable innovation and international cooperation. As the Offroad Club Monaco, we are ready to turn this vision into action by engaging institutions, universities, communities and entrepreneurs in a project focused on the future, while never forgetting its roots.”

Erminia Fezia Mordenti - Co-founder, Offroad Club Monaco & Project Manager





M. Georges Marsan, Maire de Monaco, Massimiliano Mordenti, Mme Marjorie CROVETTO, 2ème Adjointe au Maire, M. Arnaud Alessandria, Skieur alpin monégasque, M. Jacques Pastor, Adjoint aux sports à la Mairie de Monaco

“The first Offroad Club Monaco workshop explored themes ranging from historical and cultural heritage to environmental sustainability, as well as the role of sporting achievements within the cultures of the Mediterranean basin. It was a great success and an important moment of dialogue and enrichment among participants from very different backgrounds — in terms of origin, interests, languages and professions.

The Wake of Monaco provided the guiding thread throughout the workshop and will continue to evolve through new initiatives and off-road activities.

I would like to thank the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco for its participation and support, as well as my fellow professors for their contributions highlighting the central role of the Mediterranean and, within it, the place of Monaco. It was a moment of exchange and reflection that reminded us of the fundamental values of tolerance, sustainability and peace.”

Professor Andrea Carteny (CEMAS, Universite' La Sapienza de Rome), Coordinator of the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco.



An interdisciplinary programme dedicated to the Mediterranean

Adopting an interdisciplinary “off-road” approach that brought together the humanities, environmental studies, maritime economics and sport, the workshop’s scientific and academic sessions explored the major historical, cultural and environmental dynamics of the Mediterranean, as well as their contemporary implications in Monaco and across the wider Mediterranean region.

The discussions highlighted the interactions between territories, heritage and innovation through several key thematic areas:

- The history and cultural traditions of the Mediterranean
- Environmental heritage and biodiversity
- Exchanges between the Mediterranean shores
- Maritime economy: evaluating sporting performance in relation to environmental protection and its sociological value
- Sociology, sport and sustainable innovative technologies
- Local and international cultural, economic and social dynamics

The workshop brought together a prestigious panel of researchers and academics from leading Mediterranean and European institutions, reflecting the international and interdisciplinary scope of the event. Among the institutions represented were Sapienza University of Rome, the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, the University of Genoa, the University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli, Université Côte d’Azur, the University of Naples L’Orientale, the Polytechnic University of Turin, the University of Salento, the International University of Monaco, the University of Rome “Foro Italico,” the Botanical Garden of Rome, as well as Link University and Barleti University of Tirana in Albania.

Institutions and leading figures gathered in Monaco

Prominent Monégasque personalities and institutional representatives took part in this international gathering alongside academics, committed economic stakeholders and leading figures from the world of sport, illustrating the dialogue between institutions, research and entrepreneurial and social initiatives at the heart of the Mediterranean dynamic promoted by the Offroad Club Monaco. Held at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco — an iconic venue for marine research founded by Prince Albert I and shaped by the legacy of Jacques Cousteau — the event was fully aligned with Monaco’s longstanding tradition of dialogue between science, exploration and ocean conservation.



Gareth Wittstock, Massimiliano Mordenti, Georges Marsan, Maire de Monaco, Erminia Fezia Mordenti, Sandra Marsan, Francesco Castellacci, Pilote officiel Vista AF Corse – Championnat du Monde d’Endurance FIA WEC





The Offroad Club Monaco embraces the famous words of Jacques Cousteau: “People protect what they love, and they love what they understand,” to express its commitment to raising awareness about the protection of the seas, the importance of heritage, the unifying spirit of sustainable outdoor sports, and the cultural, social and sporting value of the Principality of Monaco. In the same spirit, through the workshop “The Wake of Monaco,” OCM seeks to highlight the importance of heritage, sustainable outdoor sport, the essential role of preparation before action, and the interaction between cultures — encouraging people to understand these values so that they may appreciate and protect them, while fostering peace.

Students from partner universities were also able to follow the discussions live remotely, including from Barleti University in Tirana, Albania. Professor Artan Shyiaj, Vice-Rector and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Tourism and Sport, together with Professor Aleksander Xhuvani, Vice-Rector for Research and Development, joined the event via live streaming. This first edition represents an important milestone ahead of the second international workshop of the Offroad Club Monaco, dedicated to the concept of the “Sustainable Human Being” - a person who, by taking care of themselves, becomes better equipped to protect the environment. The event is scheduled for 2027–2028.

The conference brought together numerous personalities from the academic, institutional, sporting and entrepreneurial worlds. Among the speakers were:

- Pierre-Antoine Gérard, Chief Heritage Curator and Head of the Heritage & Exhibitions Department at the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco
- Romain Ciarlet, Vice-President and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Georges Marsan, Mayor of Monaco
- Massimiliano Mordenti, CEO and Founder of the Offroad Club Monaco

The scientific introduction of the conference was delivered by Professor Andrea Carteny (CEMAS, Sapienza University of Rome), coordinator of the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco. The remainder of the event was moderated by Diego Nargiso, Senior Sport Manager at the Polytechnic University of Turin. An international exchange in streaming also allowed the participation of Barleti University of Tirana (Albania), represented by Professor Artan Shyiaj, Vice-Rector and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Tourism and Sport, and Professor Aleksander Xhuvani, Vice-Rector for Research and Development.

The academic sessions notably brought together the following speakers:

- Professor Fabio Attorre, Botanical Garden Museum of Rome
- Professor Giacomo Montanari, University of Genoa
- Professor Claudine Cohen, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris
- Professor Sébastien Quenot, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli

The conference also welcomed the participation of Thomas Brezzo, President of the National Council of Monaco.

A panel dedicated to entrepreneurs and sports champions included:

- Jacques Pastor, Deputy Mayor for Sports at the Municipality of Monaco and Technical Director of the Monaco Ski Federation
- Arnaud Alessandria, Monégasque alpine skier
- Matteo Mescolini, CEO of EFG Bank (Monaco)
- Claudia Morandini, Italian alpine ski champion, sports presenter and official speaker of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games
- Alberto Domenico Vitale, CEO and Founder of Vitale since 1913
- Francesco Castellacci, official Vista AF Corse driver in the FIA World Endurance Championship and ambassador of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation
- Maxime Nocher, CEO of Team Monaco and twelve-time Kitefoil World Champion
- François-Alexandre Bertrand, recipient of the Defender Award for the Poullusub project and founder of Platypus Craft & Blue Odyssey Initiative
- Guido Giovannelli, General Manager of BPM Exclusive
- Massimiliano Mordenti, CEO and Founder of the Offroad Club Monaco

The academic dimension of the workshop was further enriched by contributions from:

- Professor Annalisa Tarquini, International University of Monaco
- Professor Jenna El Hilali, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli
- Professor Francesca Romana Lenzi, University of Rome “Foro Italico”



M. Georges Marsan, Maire de Monaco.





Claudia Morandini, Championne italienne de ski alpin, Erminia Fezia Mordenti, Massimiliano Mordenti, Arnaud Alessandria, Skieur alpin monégasque.

The conference concluded with a roundtable bringing together all the speakers and the members of the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco, alongside Massimiliano Mordenti, CEO and Founder of the Offroad Club Monaco, Erminia Fezia Mordenti, Founder and Chief Operating Officer of OCM, and Professor Andrea Carteny, coordinator of the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee.

Massimiliano Mordenti, CEO and Founder of the Offroad Club Monaco, together with Erminia Fezia Mordenti, Project Manager of the Offroad Club Monaco, would like to express their sincere gratitude to all participants, institutions and partners who contributed to the success of the first workshop organized by the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco.

Special thanks are extended to the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, its Director Robert Calcagno and the entire team for their warm welcome and support throughout the event, and in particular to Pierre-Antoine Gérard, Chief Heritage Curator at the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, who welcomed the Offroad Club Monaco workshop from the stage.

The organizers would also like to thank the Embassy of Italy in Monaco for its patronage and for the presence of H.E. Manuela Ruosi, as well as the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for its patronage, represented by Romain Ciarlet, Vice-President and CEO, who also took part in the discussions. Particular thanks are also addressed to Georges Marsan, Mayor of Monaco, for his institutional address, and to the Municipality of Monaco for its partnership, as well as to the representatives present and to Diane Ortolani, Director of the Exotic Garden of Monaco.

Gratitude is also extended to Thomas Brezzo, President of the National Council, for his valuable participation and remarks, as well as for the longstanding support he has shown over the years to the Offroad Club Monaco, whose creation and development he has closely followed, expressing from the stage his strong connection to the activities and philosophy that drive this initiative. Thanks are also extended to Fulvio Gazzola, Mayor of Dolceacqua, and Cyril Piazza, Mayor of Peille, for their presence.



The workshop benefited from outstanding scientific contributions thanks to the participation of numerous academic institutions and their speakers, including Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Corsica “Pasquale Paoli,” the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, the Botanical Garden of Rome, the University of Rome “Foro Italico,” the University of Genoa, the University of Naples “L’Orientale,” the Polytechnic University of Turin, Université Côte d’Azur in Nice, the University of Salento, the International University of Monaco and Link Campus University, as well as the participation via streaming of Barleti University of Tirana.

Special thanks are extended to Professor Andrea Carteny, coordinator of the Permanent Academic and Scientific Committee of the Offroad Club Monaco, for his support and commitment, as well as for his role in moderating the academic sessions.

Among the academic and scientific speakers who took part in the workshop were Professor Fabio Attorre (Botanical Garden Museum of Rome), Professor Giacomo Montanari (University of Genoa), Professor Claudine Cohen (EHESS Paris), Professor Sébastien Quenot (University of Corsica “Pasquale Paoli”), Professor Annalisa Tarquini (International University of Monaco), Professor Jenna El Hilali (University of Corsica “Pasquale Paoli”), and Professor Francesca Romana Lenzi (University of Rome “Foro Italico”).



M. Massimiliano Mordenti, CEO et Fondateur de l'Offroad Club Monaco.



Maurizio Mordenti, Ginevra Mordenti, Franca Berardi Mordenti, Avv. Marta Campellone Mordenti, Erminia Fezia Mordenti, cofondatrice et Project Manager Offroad Club Monaco, Lucrezia

Special thanks are also extended to the representatives from the worlds of sport and entrepreneurship who enriched the workshop through their testimonies and experiences: Jacques Pastor, Deputy Mayor for Sports at the Municipality of Monaco and Technical Director of the Monaco Ski Federation; Arnaud Alessandria, Monégasque alpine skier; Claudia Morandini, Italian alpine ski champion and official speaker of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games; Francesco Castellacci, official Vista AF Corse driver in the FIA World Endurance Championship and ambassador of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation; Maxime Nocher, CEO of Team Monaco, twelve-time kitefoil world champion and E1 Series champion; and François Alexandre Bertrand, founder of Platypus Craft & Blue Odyssey Initiative. The “offroad” contributions of Matteo Mescolini, CEO of EFG Bank Monaco, Alberto Domenico Vitale, CEO and founder of Vitale 1913, and Guido Giovannelli, General Manager of BPM Exclusive, also marked the day.

Finally, particular thanks are extended to the partners who supported the initiative and contributed to its success: BPM Exclusive, Vitale 1913, EFG Bank Monaco and Fiuggi, Official Water Partner of the event, as well as the Monaco Powerboating Federation, represented by its President Gianfranco Rossi, its Secretary General Gérard Pouget and its Vice-President Philippe Orecchia.

It is also important to acknowledge the presence of Gareth Wittstock; Virginie Cotta, Secretary General of the SBM Group; Marco Simone, Italian football champion, former coach of AS Monaco and currently President and Head Coach of the Monaco United Women’s Football Club; as well as Diego Nargiso, Senior Sport Manager at the Polytechnic University of Turin, who also served as moderator during the event.

Finally, thanks are extended to the Offroad Club Monaco team: Cristina Veronese, Daniele Castellaro, Creative Director and media partner of the Offroad Club Monaco, and Arianna Berra. The combined contribution of institutions, academia, sport and the business world helped create a moment of international dialogue and exchange dedicated to culture, sport, sustainability and cooperation among the communities of the Mediterranean basin.





S.E. Mme Manuela Ruosi, Ambassadeur d'Italie en Principauté de Monaco, Erminia Fezia Mordenti, Massimiliano Mordenti, M. Matteo Mescolini, Directeur Général EFG Bank (Monaco).

About Offroad Club Monaco

Founded in the Principality of Monaco, the Offroad Club Monaco (O.C.M.) was created by Massimiliano Mordenti and Erminia Fezia Mordenti. An entrepreneur and passionate advocate of outdoor sports, Massimiliano Mordenti has been based in Monaco since 2011 and, together with his wife Erminia, is an active member of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and involved in several philanthropic initiatives.

Together, the founders promote a strong vision of outdoor sport: a practice that goes beyond pure performance to become a powerful vehicle for personal growth, innovation and environmental preservation. In this spirit, O.C.M. embraces a deeply human and contemporary approach, viewing sport as a tool for personal transformation, dialogue between cultures and collective progress, while remaining respectful of natural ecosystems.

Inspired by the legacy of great pioneers - including Monégasque figures such as Prince Albert I, a pioneer of oceanography - O.C.M. interprets off-road as both a physical and philosophical experience: a space for exploration and human connection beyond conventional paths.

Its philosophy, expressed through the concept "The Wake of Monaco," seeks to create new routes and adventures starting from Monaco, enriched by encounters between peoples and by the unifying passion for outdoor sport, always guided by respect for the environment. These journeys may extend far beyond Monaco, yet they always return to it - because Monaco is, and will remain, the home of the Offroad Club Monaco.

Deeply rooted in a human and contemporary vision, the initiative reflects the founders' belief that sport can serve as a catalyst for personal transformation, cultural dialogue and collective engagement, looking toward the future while preserving the balance of the natural world.

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“The Wake of Monaco”

Atelier scientifique-culturel du Comité académique et scientifique
permanent de l'Offroad Club Monaco

11 mars 2026

Sous le patronage:



Avec le partenariat:



**« Héritage historique, traditions culturelles et patrimoine
environnemental de la Méditerranée, de la fondation de la
Principauté de Monaco aux défis sportifs et technologiques
du temps présent. »**

