PRESS RELEASE

In Honor of 500th Anniversary of the First Circumnavigation of the World by Juan Sebastian Elcano and Ferdinand Magellan

Álvaro de Marichalar Sáenz de Tejada, September 8, 2022

On the 500th anniversary of the first Circumnavigation of the World by Juan Sebastian Elcano and Ferdinand Magellan Spanish explorer Álvaro de Marichalar Sáenz de Tejada, holder of 14 world records, is recreating this voyage around the world to raise awareness for marine conservation, fighting plastic pollution and illegal fishing.

He states "Urgent action is needed to protect the ocean. Our future is directly linked to the ocean and we cannot continue to treat it as a rubbish dump whilst fishing species to extinction."

Alvaro de Marichalar Sáenz de Tejada sails alone and always on his feet aboard his boat measuring just 3 meters long named NUMANCIA.

www.FirstWorldTour.com
www.PrimeraVueltaAlMundo.com

September 8 marks the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Juan Sebastián Elcano in Seville in 1522, together with 17 survivors out of 260 who had sailed three years earlier under the command of Ferdinand Magellan and sponsored by His Majesty King Carlos I of Spain.

It is the most important expedition ever achieved, unparalleled in widening our geographical knowledge of the Earth and demonstrating its spherical shape.

To celebrate and promote the First Tour of the World, Álvaro de Marichalar set sail three years ago from Seville on the historical date, August 10, 2019-1519

He was bid farewell by the Mayor of Seville together with the President of the Portuguese Commission for the V Centenary of the First Circumnavigation, Señor José Marqués.

After sailing around southern Spain, he navigated around the entire Portuguese coastline to honor Portugal; where Ferdinand Magellan was born and led the expedition until he died in the Philippines in 1521.

Alvaro continued to Galicia and navigated across northern Spain to Guetaria where he paid tribute to Juan Sebastian Elcano in front of his monument.

He continued sailing to the French border transporting his boat overland to Monaco from where he sailed to Marseilles, Barcelona, Valencia and Gibraltar. This stage was carried out without any support vessel.
He then crossed the Atlantic ocean from southern Spain (Gibraltar) to Guadeloupe Island. French exploration ship YERSIN supported Álvaro through the Atlantic refuelling his tiny boat and providing him with food and water before arriving in Guadeloupe on Christmas Day.

From Guadeloupe he continued alone without a support vessel, calling at the Caribbean islands all the way to Miami where he arrived on March 17, 2020.

The pandemic stopped his expedition until February 19, 2022, when he was able to restart his Challenge, sailing along the coasts of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Mexico, arriving a few days ago in Bacalar, southern Mexico (border with Belize). He is now weather dependent due to the hurricane season in the Caribbean.

God willing, Alvaro will continue to Panama to cross the Pacific Ocean and travel up the entire American west coast to Alaska where he will then cross over to Russia to continue along Asia and finally into the Mediterranean before arriving in Seville.

He has two years of navigation ahead of him.

CV of Álvaro de Marichalar Sáenz de Tejada:

Academic of the Royal Academy of the Sea.

Explorer, environmentalist and businessman.

Born in Pamplona, Navarra, Kingdom of Spain

Entrepreneur in the real estate and telecommunications sector since he was 21 years old who founded TeleSat in 1983, the first Spanish company of satellite dishes.

His passion is sailing. He has made forty maritime expeditions achieving 14 world records of navigation.
Among other achievements, he sailed from Rome to New York in 2002. From Barcelona to Odessa, Ukraine in 2004 or from Hong Kong to Tokyo in 2006.

For the last 40 years he has campaigned against plastic pollution in the sea and illegal fishing.

Lecturer, writer and political activist who founded the first pan-European political movement called OmniaEuropa.