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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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Second Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean  
Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response  
to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

REMPEC/WG.58/ INF.2  
18 October 2024  
Original: English

Lija, Malta, 21 November 2024

**Agenda Item 2: Work of the Intersessional Working Groups**

**Reports of the Intersessional Working Groups**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only.  
Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

### **Note by the Secretariat**

This document provides the reports of the operational Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) during the 2022-2024 biennium, including the updated Joint Work Plans, as agreed by the IWGs.

**Annex**

**Reports of the Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs)**

## Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Intersessional Working Group Reporting Template

<b>Name of group:</b>	<i>Intersessional Working Group on preparedness and response to oil and chemical pollution (CSO 1) (IWG-RESPOND).</i>
<b>Coordinator</b>	<i>Julie RIGAUD</i>
<b>Participants:</b>	<i>The following experts were nominated to serve on IWG-RESPOND: Ms Julie RIGAUD (France and IWG-RESPOND coordinator), Ms Nacera HADJALI (Algeria), Ms Naoual ZOUBAIR (Morocco), Mr Themis EVRIVIADES (Cyprus), Ms Annabelle HABER, Mr Massimo FANARA, Mr Mevric ZAMMIT and Mr Robert VASSALLO (Malta), Mr Kossy QURAISH (Egypt), Ms Tiziana CHIERUZZI (Italy), Ms Ayşenur TURAN (Turkey), Didem UGUR (Turkey), Ms Asta Mackeviciute (EC), Mr Victor DIAZ SECO (EMSA), Ms Anna MARCONATO (CEI-ES), Mr Atef OUERGHI and Ms Anis ZARROUK (SPA/RAC), Mr Arnaud GUENA (Cedre), Ms Rhea SHEARS and Mr Rob HOLLAND (OSRL), Ms Daniela Barreras Biesot (Sea Alarm) and Mr Ahmed FATHY (YLE Foundation). REMPEC was represented by Mr Malek SMAOUI, Programme Officer (OPRC).</i>
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>To discuss the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant actions under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and propose and evaluate a joint programme of work to be agreed by the Second Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the Second Coordination Meeting, to be held tentatively on 19-20 November 2024.</i>
<b>Date of online introductory meeting:</b>	<i>Wednesday 17 July 2024. The following nominated experts serving on IWG-RESPOND attended the online meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 2024: Ms Julie RIGAUD (France and IWG-RESPOND coordinator), Ms Tiziana Chieruzzi (Italy), Ms Annabelle HABER (Malta), Ms Ayşenur TURAN (Turkey), Didem UGUR (Turkey), Ms Asta Mackeviciute (EC), Mr Victor DIAZ SECO (EMSA), Ms Anna Marconato (CEI-ES), Mr Atef OUERGHI (SPA/RAC), Ms Daniela Barreras Biesot (Sea Alarm). Mr Ahmed FATHY (YLE Foundation). REMPEC was represented by Mr Malek SMAOUI, Programme Officer (OPRC).</i>

The contribution of the IWG-RESPOND experts was articulated around three phases:

- Phase 1 (by Friday 19 July COB): nominated experts provided information on on-going activities (projects and initiatives) undertaken for the implementation of CSO 1 “[...] Prepare for, and respond to operational, illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships”. IWG-RESPOND coordinator reached out to the entities identified in the Joint Workplan in order to provide a status of implementation about activities undertaken under section 1 of the Joint Workplan;
- Phase 2 (by Friday 16 August COB): nominated experts proposed activities and support that could contribute to the implementation of CSO 1 (preparedness and response activities) by filling out section 2 and 3 of the Joint Workplan;
- Phase 3 (by Monday 2 September COB): nominated experts reviewed and commented IWG-RESPOND draft report.

The entities identified in section 1 of IWG-RESPOND workplan provided the latest up-to-date information about the status of the activities that have been identified at the First Coordination Meeting.

Contributions of IWG-RESPOND experts were less substantial and had various scope (comprehensive document on the national initiatives and relevant authorities, confirmation of the priority areas of action and recommendations about possible activities).

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Contributions of IWG-RESPOND experts were less substantial and had various scope (comprehensive document on the national initiatives and relevant authorities, confirmation of the priority areas of action and recommendations about possible activities).

### **Key points raised during discussions held within the IWG:**

*Experts requested further information about the terms of reference of IWG-RESPONSE and its working mode to the REMPEC Secretariat, more particularly on:*

- *the respective objectives, and Joint Workplan of IWG-RESPOND and IWG-PREVENT to enable nominated experts to get an overview of the actions that are covered by these two different working groups;*
- *the anticipated contributions of the contracting parties (format of these contributions) under phase 2 as well as some clarifications on who should make these contributions (nominated experts from the contracting parties that have identified a specific need for these actions or all IWG-RESPOND nominated experts?).*
- *the list of contracting parties that have identified specific needs under any specific actions (Joint Workplan/Section 1/column 5 of the table).*

*Some IWG-RESPOND members stressed that the drafting of the actions included in the IWGs Workplan is not clear enough given that it does not include verbs or a clear description of what the action is or what needs to be done.*

### **Identified gaps (actions where no activity is taking place):**

*Numerous initiatives target guidelines and manuals on emergency response. It is important to draw up a bibliography of existing publications produced by specialized institutions and partners (Cedre, Itopf, Ipieca) as well as to include hyperlinks in works and manuals requiring updating. In addition, the production of a leaflet identifying all these bibliographic resources and their content would be a useful tool that could be considered as an activity.*

### **Priority areas of action:**

*Some IWG-RESPOND experts (Sea Alarm) highlighted that:*

*- some of the actions are both included in IWG-RESPOND and IWG-PREVENT workplans (for example Section 2/Action No 1.12.3 Oiled Wildlife Response Manual (POSOW, 2013) or Section 2/Action No 1.3.3c exercises where previously identified lessons are tackled with new approaches). The Secretariat should clarify which group will pursue the implementation.*

*- some actions from the Strategy Action Plan are not reflected into the IWG-RESPOND Work Plan, nor in the IWG-PREVENT Work Plan (actions 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 about national/sub-regional/regional/ international exercises, action 1.3.4). Not all the actions classified with a "high priority" in the Strategy Action Plan have been included in the IWGs workplans.*

*Morocco confirmed that the actions that have been identified as priority areas of action at the First Coordination Meeting should be considered as such.*

### **Updated Joint Workplan:**

*The entities identified in section 1 of the workplan have provided an update on the progress made since the First coordination meeting.*

*Some activities have been suggested under section 2 and 3.*

### **Next steps for the IWG:**

*IWG-RESPOND cannot anticipate the next steps, without a feedback from the coordinators of the IWGs on their respective contributions and decisions of the participants to the Second Coordination Meeting.*

**Recommendations and conclusions to present to the Second Coordination Meeting:**

*It is crucial to seek synergies with existing initiatives/resources and to identify such initiatives/resources.*

*IWG-RESPOND recommends reviewing the way IWG-RESPOND works and suggests organizing another online meeting with IWG coordinators to seek their feedback.*

*IWG-RESPOND would suggest clarifying how to concretely implement the planned actions: how to ensure that Mediterranean countries benefit from the results of projects funded by external resources and how to involve them in ongoing initiatives.*

**Joint Workplan for the IWG-RESPOND****Section 1 – Priority Actions (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Progress made so far
1.1 Networks	1.1.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)</li> </ul>	2	2	<b>REMPEC &amp; WestMed offer</b> Correspondence Group (continuous delivery) - to continue supporting the process for the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System, during the biennium 2022-2023. - to coordinate the input and contribution, for the “Development of an operational guide on the response to spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)”, in the framework of the PPR.	<b>REMPEC</b>	Circular letter No 7/2024 issued on 28 May 2024 for the update of the list of members of the Correspondence Groups under MTWG and to remind of the tasks assigned to these groups, including the role in supporting the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean during the biennium 2024-2025
					Technical Group among the institutional representatives of the 10 Contracting Parties of the WestMed sub-basin, aiming at jointly tackling the environmental challenge, through the topic of Sustainable Maritime Transport and Alternative Fuels	<b>WestMed</b>	
1.5 Ratification	1.5.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of</li> </ul>	2	2	TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	<b>EMSA</b>	<b>No request for technical assistance was received both by SAFEMED and IPA beneficiaries</b>



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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		the Mediterranean Sea, (“2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”)			REMPEC Take every opportunity to promote ratification. Issues identified with country and assistance offered (for REMPEC PoW 2024-2025)	REMPEC	Within the framework of the preparation of the Adriatic Marine Pollution Incident Contingency Plan. (Montenegro, May 2024) the ratification of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol was highlighted, urging Contracting Parties (CPs) who have not yet ratified it to do so.
1.5 Ratification / Transposition	1.5.1h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the 2010 Protocol to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (The 2010 HNS Protocol).<i>(Still not into force)</i></li> </ul>	2	4	The two-day workshop on "Compensation for oil pollution damage". Explore with IOPC Funds additional workshop to increase level of ratification of Funds Conventions (REMPEC PoW 2024/2025)	REMPEC	The activity is planned for the POW 2024-2025, under MTS Programme 1, implementation in 2025 is contingent on the availability of funds.
					TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	EMSA	<b>No request for technical assistance was received both by SAFEMED and IPA beneficiaries for this Convention</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines revised and/or updated</li> </ul>	4	3	Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide	REMPEC	Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide, approved by the 15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (May 2023), and final version is published on REMPEC Website ( <a href="#">link</a> )
					TIER	EMSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Morocco supported to draft internal guidelines to mobilise EMSA SORVs</b></li> <li><b>Lebanon provided with draft maritime strategy according III Code</b></li> <li><b>Jordan is being supported with development of the maritime strategy according III Code</b></li> <li><b>Libya provided with guidelines to authorise and monitor Recognised Organisations</b></li> </ul>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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					Ipieca oil spill preparedness & response publications	IPIECA	<p><b>IPIECA has 18 good practice guide updates in progress at varying states of readiness. These updates aims to bring them to date with the latest science, technology and practices.</b></p> <p><i>Anticipated update: 2024</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial Observation of Oil Spills at Sea</li> <li>Dispersants - Surface Application</li> <li>Oil spills – Inland Response</li> <li>Oil spill Waste Minimization and Management</li> <li>Sensitivity Mapping for Oil Spill Response</li> <li>Wildlife Response Preparedness</li> <li>Oil Spill Contingency Planning for Oil Spills on Water</li> <li>Dispersants - Subsea Application</li> </ul> <p><i>Anticipated update: 2025-2026</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response Strategy Development using NEBA</li> <li>A guide to SCAT Surveys</li> <li>Guidelines on Implementing SIMA</li> <li>At-sea containment and recovery</li> <li>A guide to shoreline clean-up techniques</li> <li>Oil spill training</li> <li>Impacts of oil spills on marine ecology</li> <li>Tiered preparedness and response</li> <li>Controlled in-situ burning of spilled oil</li> </ul>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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					Cedre operational guides	<b>CEDRE</b>	<b>Manuals free downloadable from 2022: Diesels and biodiesels (2024), Vegetable oil (2024), Aerial observation (2024), Waste management (2023), Shoreline clean-up (2023), Coral reefs (2023), Pollution in ports (2022)</b> <b>Also available:</b> Condensates (2021), HNS response (2020), Wildlife rehabilitation (2020), Sorbents (2020), Mangroves (2017), Skimmers (2017), Dispersants (2015), Booms (2013), Local Authorities (2012), Sea professionals in the response (2012), Volunteers (2012), Custom-made barriers (2012), Containers (2011), Gasoline (2008), Ecological monitoring (2007), Shoreline survey (2006)
1.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	1.2.1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POSOW Model Courses (Train the trainer course, Volunteer management, Oiled Shoreline Assessment, Oiled Shoreline Cleanup, Oiled Wildlife response, Fishermen's Support in Oil Spill Response, Oil Spill Waste Management)</li> </ul>	5	3	Cedre training courses (annual)	<b>CEDRE</b>	<b>Annual catalogue available on <a href="https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Training/Standard-courses">https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Training/Standard-courses</a></b> <b>E-learning modules available :</b> IMO OPRC Level 2 refresher course on Oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, Behavior of HNS spilled on water, oiled shoreline survey <b>POSOW training course:</b> Volunteers management, MOIG, Tunisia, 2022 <b>Aerial Observation training course for Morocco:</b> 2023, funded by France <b>IMO level 3 training course:</b> MOIG, Tunisia, 2024
					REMPEC: Workshop on "Oiled Shoreline Assessment Technics (SCAT)" (2022)	<b>REMPEC</b>	<b>Done by Cedre in September 2022 in Israel.</b> The proposal for developing an electronic version of the Forms of the Guide was endorsed at the 15th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC in June 2023. On 15 July 2024, REMPEC finalized a contract with an editor to complete this deliverable.

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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					EMSA: 1. SAFEMED and IPA Projects 2. CleanSeaNet Service 1. Provision of trainings Provision of basic and advanced training and awareness sessions for CleanSeaNet Member States	<b>EMSA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CleanSeaNet services provided to – SAFEMED: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia – IPA: Albania, Montenegro – BCSEA: Turkiye</b></li> <li>• <b>Two awareness sessions for CSN operators with 16 participants</b></li> <li>• <b>Table Top exercise on Places of refuge with 7 participants</b></li> </ul>
					Sea Alarm: Providing first responder courses for wildlife response	<b>SEA ALARM</b>	2 countries provided courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Montenegro:</b> EUROWA Basic Responder Training (formerly called POSOW Oiled Wildlife Response) provided by Sea Alarm / EUROWA in 2022. 11 participants trained. Training requested to by Montenegro’s Authorities (Maritime Safety and Ports Management Administration / Prevention of Pollution from Ships Division)</li> <li>- <b>SPAIN:</b> EUROWA BASIC and ADVANCED trainings provided by SUBMON within the RESPONDER project, funded by Fundación Biodiversidad (under the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge) and the Authorities of the two different regions in Spain.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Region Catalunya: 2022 – 1 x BASIC (20 pax), 2 x ADVANCED Field (14+14 px), 1 x ADVANCED full (16); 2021 – 2 x BASIC (29pax + 23pax))</li> <li>- Region Asturias (Atlantic coast, not Mediterranean region) : 2021 – 3 x BASIC (12+20+21), 1 x ADVANCED Field (10PAX)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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					ITOPF: Training provided on OSR and related matters	ITOPF	Tunisia: Workshop on Claim preparation and Compensation in May 2022 (irt the XELO incident) and on Maritime Conventions, Claims and Compensation with IOPC Funds and International Group of P&I Clubs in Oct 2022. Cyprus: RETOS workshop in September 2022 Croatia: RETOS workshop in September 2022 Slovenia: RETOS workshop in September 2022 Israel: RETOS workshop in May 2023
1.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	1.2.1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management</li> </ul>	3	2	EMSA: 1. Provision of trainings 2. Provision of basic and advanced training and awareness sessions for CleanSeaNet Member States	EMSA	
					ITOPF: Training provided on waste management and related matters	ITOPF	No specific request received by ITOPF to date
					CLIA: Beyond the requirements of MARPOL, CLIA Members have agreed by industry-level policy to exceed regulatory requirements through implementation of enhanced waste management practices. The CLIA Waste management policy, among others, is available at <a href="https://cruising.org/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/cli-oceangoing-cruise-line-policies">https://cruising.org/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/cli-oceangoing-cruise-line-policies</a>	CLIA	<a href="https://cruising.org/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/cruise-industry-policies/environmental-protection">CLIA Oceangoing Cruise Line Policies   CLIA (cruising.org)</a>  <a href="https://cruising.org/en-gb/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/cruise-industry-policies/environmental-protection">https://cruising.org/en-gb/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/cruise-industry-policies/environmental-protection</a>
1.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	1.2.1i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EUROWA model wildlife courses (BASIC Responder, ADVANCED Responder, SPECIALIST Responder, Manager,</li> </ul>	2	3	EMSA: "1. Provision of trainings 2. Provision of basic and advanced training and awareness sessions for CleanSeaNet Member States"	EMSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two awareness sessions for CSN operators with 16 participants</li> <li>Table Top exercise on Places of refuge with 7 participants</li> <li>Common Core Curriculum for Sulphur Inspectors, 2 participants from Israel</li> </ul>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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		Wildlife Branch Director).			Sea Alarm: Provide wildlife courses with formal EUROWA accreditation (on demand)	Sea Alarm	2 countries provided courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Montenegro:</b> EUROWA Basic Responder Training (formerly called POSOW Oiled Wildlife Response) provided by Sea Alarm / EUROWA in 2022. 11 participants trained. Training requested to by Montenegro’s Authorities (Maritime Safety and Ports Management Administration / Prevention of Pollution from Ships Division)</li> <li>- <b>SPAIN:</b> EUROWA BASIC and ADVANCED trainings provided by SUBMON within the RESPONDER project, funded by Fundación Biodiversidad (under the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge) and the Authorities of the two different regions in Spain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Region Catalunya: 2022 – 1 x BASIC (20 pax), 2 x ADVANCED Field (14+14 px), 1 x ADVANCED full (16); 2021 – 2 x BASIC (29pax + 23pax)</li> <li>- Region Asturias (Atlantic coast, not Mediterranean region) : 2021 – 3 x BASIC (12+20+21), 1 x ADVANCED Field (10PAX)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.5 Ratification / Transposition	1.5.1e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC Convention)</li> </ul>	2	3	EMSA: TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	EMSA	<b>No request for technical assistance was received both by SAFEMED and IPA beneficiaries for this Convention</b>
					REMPEC: "The two-day workshop on "Compensation for oil pollution damage" XELO 2022: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training on Claims and Compensation (Tunisa)</li> <li>2. Initial discussion REMPEC/ISU for training on oil and wreck removal</li> </ol>	REMPEC	

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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1.5 Ratification / Transposition	1.5.1f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the 2001 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (BUNKER Convention)</li> </ul>	2	3	REMPEC: "The two-day workshop on "Compensation for oil pollution damage" XELO 2022: 1. Training on Claims and Compensation (Tunisa) 2. Initial discussion REMPEC/ISU for training on oil and wreck removal	REMPEC	
					EMSA: TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	EMSA	<b>No request for technical assistance was received both by SAFEMED and IPA beneficiaries for this Convention</b>
1.5 Ratification / Transposition	1.5.1g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the 1992 International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (FUND 1992)</li> </ul>	2	2	EMSA: TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	EMSA	<b>No request for technical assistance was received both by SAFEMED and IPA beneficiaries for this Convention</b>
					REMPEC: "The two-day workshop on "Compensation for oil pollution damage" XELO 2022: 1. Training on Claims and Compensation (Tunisa) 2. Initial discussion REMPEC/ISU for training on oil and wreck removal	REMPEC	
1.10 Response	1.10.2	To establish a pool of oil and HNS pollution response means at sub-regional and regional level	3	4	REMPEC: Regular update of SCPs list equipment available to parties to the agreement	REMPEC	The list of equipment is an integral part of the Sub-regional Contingency Plans (SCPs). Within the Adriatic CP, the online list was reviewed during the Tabletop Exercise AdriEx 2024, (Montenegro, March 2024). For the SCP between Cyprus, Greece, and Israel, the list was updated during the Preparatory Workshop for the Joint Spill Response Exercise CypEx 2024, which took place in Greece in April 2024.

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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					EMSA: EMSA is mandated to provide additional response resources to MS, also available to third Contracting Parties sharing a regional sea basin with the EU	EMSA	<p><b><u>Request from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries should be channelled via ERCC (DG ECHO)</u></b></p> <p><b>Operational pollution response services, namely:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil spill response vessels.</li> <li>• Stand-alone oil &amp; HNS equipment and dispersant from EAS stockpiles.</li> </ul> <p>can be provided to 3<sup>rd</sup> countries, condition to agreement by MS in the regional sea basin and of the European Commission.</p> <p><b>HNS info tools:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAR-ICE service is available to all coastal EU Candidate Countries. For other 3<sup>rd</sup> countries (non-EU candidate) services can be provided only upon agreement of the service provider and of the European Commission. <i>Extension of MAR-ICE is in the pipeline.</i></li> <li>• MAR-CIS, BE-CHEM and Oil spill modelling can be provided to 3<sup>rd</sup> countries only upon agreement of the European Commission.</li> </ul>
					CEDRE: Audit of response stockpiles, identification of gaps, definition of tech. specifications	CEDRE	Assistance to TangerMed port Authority (Morocco, 2022-2024)



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

**Section 2 - Actions for which there is a need identified, but no activity offered (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.2	To consider regional host nation support guidelines (alternatively a dedicated chapter could be included in the the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance)		2	Could be developed in DG ECHO Manual the Mediteranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance	<b>DG ECHO?</b>				
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region (REMPEC, 2011)</li> </ul>		2		<b>REMPEC</b>				A cost estimate has been shared for an update of the guidelines

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response (REMPEC, 1992)</li> </ul>		2		REMPEC				<p>Is an update necessary considering that foams have evolved? Moreover, the WestMoPoCo Guide includes a dedicated section. We could look for further info from civil protection authorities/fire brigades with the support of DG ECHO.</p>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oiled Shoreline Assessment Manual (POSOW,2013)</li> </ul>		2						<p>Ongoing action following Israeli's request to benefit from a digital format.</p>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oiled Shoreline Cleanup Manual (POSOW, 2013)</li> </ul>		2	<p><b>Better dissemination of the Guide. Leaflet presenting REMPEC various guides and how they can be a support tool for the decision-makers and relevant stakeholders. Develop a database of trained experts. Develop a new training cycle.</b></p>					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oil Spill Volunteer Management Manual (POSOW, 2013)</li> </ul>		2						
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3n	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oiled Wildlife Response Manual (POSOW, 2013)</li> </ul>		2	<p>Update with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Oiled Wildlife response Manuals (EUROWA, 2020; EUROWA,2023 a&amp;b – birds and sea turtles; EUROWA 2022)</b></li> </ul> <p>Promote guidelines. Implementation of guidelines needs to be done following Oiled wildlife preparedness activities (EUROWA training courses, developing Oiled Wildlife response Plans, and Wildlife Exercises).</p>	REMPEC / Sea Alarm / EUROWA in conjunction with CP				Details on document names and source provided in Sea Alarm's report
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3o	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oil Spill Waste Management Manual (POSOW,2016)</li> </ul>		2						
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3p	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishermen's Support in Oil Spill response Manual (POSOW, 2016)</li> </ul>		2						

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HNS Response Manual (2021) adopted at the next meeting of focal point of REMPEC</li> </ul>		2	<p><b>Encourage the adoption of the WESTMoPoCo Guide by IMO and its translation into the UN official languages.</b></p> <p><b>Develop a training course for the potential users.</b></p>					
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3r	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual on oil spill risk evaluation and assessment of response preparedness (2010 edition)</li> </ul>		2	<p><b>Update of the Manual and inclusion of hyperlinks to other specialised publications produced by relevant stakeholders such as IPIECA.</b></p>					
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance document on the implementation of an incident management system (IMS) (2012 edition)</li> </ul>		2	<p><b>Update of the Guidance document and its adaptation to the Med context.</b></p>					<p><b>The experts from the industry are trained via MOIG.</b></p> <p><b>Is there a need for the national authorities to be trained as well?</b></p>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3u	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on the safe operation of oil pollution combating equipment (2017)</li> </ul>		2						<p><b>Fairly recent.</b></p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3v	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guideline for oil spill response in fast currents (2013 edition)</li> </ul>		2	<b>Update needed.</b>					<b>A lot of rapid development to combat fast currents. France is purchasing dedicated equipment.</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3w	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioremediation in marine oil spills (2004 edition)</li> </ul>		2						<b>Not a priority considering that little use is made of the guide.</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines for the development of shipboard marine pollution emergency plans (2010 edition)</li> </ul>		2						
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMO/FAO Guidance on managing seafood safety during and after oil spills (2002 edition)</li> </ul>		3	<b>Request an update to FAO.</b>	<b>FAO</b>				

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual on chemical pollution: Section 1 – Problem Assessment and Response Arrangements (1999 edition)</li> <li>Section 2 – Search and Recovery of Packaged Goods lost at Sea (2007 edition)</li> </ul>		3	Including hyperlinks to other guides.					This section has been updated in the context of the WESTMoPoCo project. There is a Guide developed by Cedre, available in French and English.
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3aa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field guide for oil spill response in Tropical waters (1997 edition)</li> </ul>		1						There is no tropical zone in the Med. Including hyperlink rather than developing new tools. Refer to Cedre's Guide on coral reefs and mangroves.
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guide on the implementation of the OPRC convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol (2020 edition)</li> </ul>		2						
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3cc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonn Agreement Helcom REMPEC Marine HNS Response Manual (2021)</li> </ul>		2	WestMoPoCo Guide adopted by REMPEC.					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3dd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other relevant guidelines as made available, alongside any relevant documents produced, including lessons learnt from accident experience.</li> </ul>		2	<b>Develop a “resources” page on REMPEC website with the list of existing manuals in various languages and update this page on a regular basis with the contribution of industry sector and pollution experts.</b>					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on illicit discharges on the MEDGIS-MAR</li> </ul>		4						<b>Clarify how national data are submitted and included into MEDGIS-MAR</b>
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition Assessment Scheme</li> </ul>		2						
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.2h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copies of bilateral or multilateral agreements.</li> </ul>		1						
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.3	To update MEDGIS-MAR with national inventory of response equipment		3	<b>Dedicated working Group.</b>					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.2 Capacity Building /	1.2.4d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution Response Services offered by EMSA</li> </ul>		2	<b>MAR-ICE Training course</b>	<b>Cedre</b>				<b>A MAR-ICE training course developed by Cedre exists.</b>
1.3 Operations	1.3.5	To establish systems and procedures for national and sub-regional monitoring and surveillance including regular individual or Coordinated Aerial Surveillance Operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED) in the waters under the jurisdiction of CPs, if the CPs so agree, and results reported to the Meeting of MENELAS;		2	<b>Dedicated working group</b>	<b>MENELAS</b>				
1.3 Operations	1.3.5b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detentions of vessels</li> </ul>		2						



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significance of a material safety data sheet (REMPEC, 2001)</li> </ul>		2						A section dedicated to the action to take in an event of contamination is part of the WESTMoPoCo Guide (p. 91-92), not a priority.
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies (REMPEC, 2003)</li> </ul>		2	<b>Hyperlink to the WESTMoPoCo Guide</b>					<b>Not a priority.</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents (REMPEC, 2018)</li> </ul>		2						<b>No need.</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMO/UNEP Guidance Manual on the assessment and restoration of environmental damage following marine oil spills (2009 edition)</li> </ul>		2	<b>Possible update</b>	<b>IMO/UNEP</b>				

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.1b	To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process through the maintenance, update, upgrade, development and inter-connection of technical and decision support tools (as above)		2	<b>Develop training on existing tools.</b>	REMPEC				<b>Tools exist. A lot of European projects are addressing this issue (IRA-MAR). Develop a training on MANIFEST.</b>
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPs using each decision support tool</li> </ul>		3						
1.11 Surveillance / Monitoring	1.11.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPs with adequate surveillance and monitoring capabilities</li> </ul>		3						
1.3 Operations	1.3.3c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>exercises where previously identified lessons are tackled with new approaches</li> </ul>		2						<b>Invitation of observers during RAMOGEPOL exercises.</b>
1.3 Operations	1.3.8	To organise and follow-up analysis of concentrated inspection campaigns on MARPOL-related deficiencies		2	<b>Develop a survey</b>	MENELAS				

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.7 Enforcement	1.7.1	To set-up a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting discharge offenders for infringements of MARPOL Annex I, II, III and IV		1	<b>On-going survey.</b>	<b>MENELAS</b>				
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide for Combating Accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. (REMPEC, 2000)</li> </ul>		1	<b>Identify whether there is a need for updating the guide.</b>					
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean Oiled Shoreline Assessment Guidelines (REMPEC, 2009)</li> </ul>		1						<b>No need</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Guidelines (REMPEC, 2012)</li> </ul>		2	<b>Hyperlink to other guides.</b>					<b>Waste management guide developed by Cedre as well as industry sector.</b>
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical Guide for Marine Chemical Spills (REMPEC, 2000)</li> </ul>		1	<b>Take this guide out of the REMPEC website (sas been replaced by WESTMoPoCo Guide).</b>					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3j	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents (REMPEC, 2018)</li> </ul>		1						
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs having updated national information for each decision support tool</li> </ul>		2						
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All incidents;</li> </ul>		1						<b>Cedre and France are producing incident reports.</b>
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presence, characteristics and extent of spillages of oil and HNS;</li> </ul>		1						
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately inform all CPs likely to be affected by the incident;</li> </ul>		1						
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to observe the situation for as long as possible;</li> </ul>		1						

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified needed	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation	Comments
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POLREP (POLWARN, POLINE and POLFAC); and</li> </ul>		2						
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.2c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution Prevention Equipment</li> </ul>		1						

**Section 3 - Actions for which there is high demand for support (3 or more CPs), but no support currently available (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMO/FAO Guidance on managing seafood safety during and after oil spills (2002 edition)</li> </ul>		3					
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual on chemical pollution: Section 1 – Problem Assessment and Response Arrangements (1999 edition)</li> <li>Section 2 – Search and Recovery of Packaged Goods lost at Sea (2007 edition)</li> </ul>		3					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on illicit discharges on the MEDGIS-MAR</li> </ul>		4					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.3	To update MEDGIS-MAR with national inventory of response equipment		3					
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPs using each decision support tool</li> </ul>		3					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.11 Surveillance /Monitoring	1.11.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs with adequate surveillance and monitoring capabilities</li> </ul>		3					

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**Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Intersessional Working Group (IWG) Report**

<b>Name of group:</b>	<i>Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on Prevention of Oil and Chemical Pollution (CSO 1) (IWG-PREVENT).</i>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	<i>Franck Lauwers (REMPEC)</i>
<b>Participants:</b>	<p><b><u>Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs):</u></b></p> <p><i>Algeria: Raouf HADJ AISSA</i></p> <p><i>Cyprus: Themis EVRIVIADES</i></p> <p><i>European Union: Anna MARCZAK, Maik SCHMAHL, Sergio ALDA</i></p> <p><i>France: Julie RIGAUD-MARÉCHAL</i></p> <p><i>Italy: Tiziana CHIERUZZI</i></p> <p><i>Malta: Kristina DARMANIN, Annabelle HABER, Robert VASSALLO, Mevric ZAMMIT</i></p> <p><i>Morocco: Hanane ATMANE, Mounia HAMDAOUI</i></p> <p><i>Türkiye: Ayşenur TURAN, Didem UĞUR</i></p> <p><b><u>Relevant stakeholders:</u></b></p> <p><i>DEHUKAM: Çağrı ÜNAL</i></p> <p><i>Sea Alarm: Daniela BARRERAS BIESOT, Hugo NIJKAMP</i></p> <p><i>SPA/RAC: Atef OUERGHI, Anis ZARROUK</i></p> <p><i>Youth Love Egypt Foundation: Ahmed FATHY</i></p> <p><i>WestMED Initiative: Celia MURCIA</i></p>
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>To discuss the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant actions under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as well as propose and evaluate a Joint Workplan to be agreed by the Second Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the Second Coordination Meeting, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.</i>
<b>Date of online introductory meeting:</b>	<i>10 July 2024.</i>



## Introduction

The work of the IWG-PREVENT was articulated around three phases, as follows:

- **Phase 1 (4-11 July 2024):** nominated experts serving on the IWG-PREVENT were requested to provide information on on-going activities (i.e. projects, initiatives, etc.) being carried out within their respective country or by their respective organisation in relation to the implementation of CSO 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on illicit ship pollution discharges. The compilation of the feedback and comments received as part of Phase 1 of the work of the IWG-PREVENT was disseminated to the nominated experts serving on the IWG-PREVENT.
- **Phase 2 (16 July 2024-9 August 2024):** nominated experts serving on the IWG-PREVENT were requested to contribute to the work of the IWG-PREVENT in a comprehensive manner and as defined in the Terms of Reference (ToRs), as follows:
  - Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT: by reviewing and completing Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Joint Workplan, as appropriate, considering any ongoing and future actions or activities (i.e. projects, initiatives, etc.) relevant to the implementation of CSO 1, which were (or would be) carried out within their respective country or by their respective organisation. Progress updates on the implementation of relevant actions under the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) (not necessarily listed in the Joint Workplan) and any further insights on the Joint Workplan could also be provided accordingly.
  - Key points: by sharing information on any key points, which they wished to raise in relation to the IWG-PREVENT and the implementation of CSO 1, including in terms of the necessary support to be provided by relevant stakeholders to CPs;
  - Gaps: by identifying any gaps in terms of the implementation of CSO 1 (i.e. relevant actions under the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) where no activity was taking place);
  - Priority areas of action: by identifying any priority areas of action that would facilitate the implementation of CSO 1;
  - Next steps: by sharing insights on the next steps for the IWG-PREVENT; and
  - Recommendations and conclusions: by proposing draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the IWG-PREVENT, which would eventually be presented to the Second Coordination Meeting.

In parallel, the IWG-PREVENT coordinator reached out to relevant stakeholders that had not yet nominated experts to serve on the IWG-PREVENT but had provided an input to the preparation for the First Coordination Meeting, to enable the IWG-PREVENT to update the Joint Workplan accordingly.

- **Phase 3 (18-23 September 2024):** nominated experts serving on the IWG-PREVENT were requested to review the draft report of the IWG-PREVENT.

## Key points raised during discussions held within the IWG-PREVENT

The online introductory meeting of the IWG-PREVENT, which was held on 10 July 2024, was aimed at going through the ToRs and at planning the work accordingly. It was also aimed at taking stock of the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant priority actions, as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) (Malta, 29 November-1 December 2022), hereinafter referred to as the First Coordination Meeting, and set out in Section 1 of the Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT in order to enable the Secretariat (REMPEC) to prepare the biennial review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

Whilst attendance to the online introductory meeting was limited to eight (8) participants representing four (4) CPs and two (2) relevant stakeholders in addition to REMPEC in its capacity of IWG-PREVENT coordinator, no substantive discussion took place during the said meeting. However, it was a good opportunity to clarify the aim, activities and deliverables, as well as the working procedures, of the IWG-PREVENT. Follow-up actions were also agreed upon by participants identifying the roles and responsibilities for the next steps.

With contributions from two (2) CPs and five (5) relevant stakeholders during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the work of the IWG-PREVENT, it may be reported that, since the First Coordination Meeting, some work has been carried out at national, regional and international level in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges.

Progress was reported on the following actions that are directly related to the work of the IWG-PREVENT:

- *1.5.1 To ratify and implement the following legal instrument, to ensure their transposition into national law, and to cooperate to ensure full compliance with their provisions:*
  - a) the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, (“2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”)*
  - b) the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and its Annex I, Annex II, Annex III, and Annex IV*

REMPEC has taken every opportunity to promote ratification of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as well as MARPOL and its Annexes, amongst others.

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has also provided support to beneficiaries of the TIER project to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation, notably MARPOL.

One (1) CP referred to the implementation of relevant European Union legislation at national level, notably the Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>1</sup>, the EU Ship-Source Pollution Directive<sup>2</sup>, the new Environmental Crime Directive<sup>3</sup>, and the EU Directive on Port Reception Facilities<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive).

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2005/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements, as amended.

<sup>3</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directives 2008/99/EC and 2009/123/EC.

<sup>4</sup> Directive (EU) 2019/883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, amending Directive 2010/65/EU and repealing Directive 2000/59/EC.

- *1.8.1 To provide adequate reception facilities in Mediterranean ports, enabling their use as soon as they are available at a fee which should be reasonable and should not serve as a disincentive for those ships that use them for disposal of:*

*a) oily wastes*

*b) Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS)*

*c) sewage*

During the 2022-2023 biennium, REMPEC provided technical support to MED POL for the EU-funded “Marine Litter MED II” Project regarding the implementation of pilots related to the enhanced management of marine litter originating from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in 3 beneficiary countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).

EMSA has also been providing support for studies on Port Reception Facilities (PRFs) aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation, combined with the eventual development or update of the port waste plans.

One (1) CP referred to the disposal of ship generated waste and the online tracking system for MARPOL waste that is available in all its ports.

Although not mentioned by any of the nominated experts serving on the IWG-PREVENT, it is worth noting that progress was also achieved in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges during the biennium 2022-2023, notably on:

- *the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report*

It was reviewed by the Fifth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) (Floriana, Malta, 22-23 February 2023) and endorsed by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023); and

- *coordinated aerial surveillance operations for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED)*

The 2023 coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED 2023) was organised within the framework of the RAMOGE Agreement (Genoa, Italy, 21-23 November 2023), during which the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report was successfully tested.

Moreover, progress was reported on the following action, which is not directly related to the work of the IWG-PREVENT:

- *1.2.2 To attend workshops, seminars and trainings offered by REMPEC, EMSA and other established networks addressing other topics, for example: a) Circular economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production measures applying to maritime transport and the main maritime business Leisure (pleasure and entertainment cruise business), harvesting of raw materials (oil and gas, offshore mining, fishing), logistics (shipping of food, energy, containers, bulk material) and infrastructure (ferries, local shipping, ports).*

REMPEC organised a Training Course on Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, and on Guidelines related to the Use and Discharge of Harmful or Noxious Substances and Materials, including Chemical use plan for Offshore operations (Floriana, Malta, 7-8 November 2023).

Finally, it is worth noting that the following action was reported as being successfully completed during the biennium in 2022-2023, although it is more related to the work of the Intersessional Working Group on Preparedness and Response to Oil and Chemical Pollution (CSO 1) (IWG-RESPOND):

- *1.12.1 To promote, disseminate and revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, to develop new ones aimed at facilitating the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, MARPOL (Annex I, Annex II, Annex III, Annex IV), OPRC Convention, OPRC-HNS Protocol, CLC Convention, BUNKER Convention, The 2010 HNS Protocol*

*a) Guidelines revised and/or updated: Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide*

The Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide extended to the Mediterranean was indeed approved by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023) and published on REMPEC website.

### **Identified gaps (actions where no activity is taking place)**

There were a number of actions identified during the First Coordination Meeting for which a need had been identified, but no activity had been offered, as per Section 2 of the Joint Workplan. Only one such activity was updated (on-going offer from EMSA: Pollution Response Services, notably the CleanSeaNet (CSN) services and Satellite – Automatic Identification System (SAT-AIS) as well as the Marine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS)).

The situation remains unchanged in relation to the actions identified during the First Coordination Meeting for which there had been high demand for support (three (3) or more CPs), but no support was available, as per Section 3 of the Joint Workplan.

### **Priority areas of action**

The priority areas of actions of direct relevance to the work of the IWG-PREVENT remain unchanged, as per Section 1 of the Joint Workplan, with the following two actions having the greatest number of activities offered:

- *1.5.1 To ratify and implement the following legal instrument, to ensure their transposition into national law, and to cooperate to ensure full compliance with their provisions:*
  - a) the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, (“2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”)*
  - b) the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and its Annex I, Annex II, Annex III, and Annex IV*
- *1.8.1 To provide adequate reception facilities in Mediterranean ports, enabling their use as soon as they are available at a fee which should be reasonable and should not serve as a disincentive for those ships that use them for disposal of:*
  - a) oily wastes*
  - b) Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS)*
  - c) sewage*

It is worth noting that this action is related to similar actions that fall within the remit of the work of other IWGs, notably the Intersessional Working Group on Marine Litter from Ships (CSO 4) (IWG-LITTER) and, to a lesser extent, other IWGs such as the Intersessional Working Group on Climate Change and Air Emissions from Ships (CSO 2 and CSO 3) (IWG-CCAS).

There are other priority areas of actions having a great number of activities offered but they are not directly related to the work of the IWG-PREVENT, notably:

- 1.2.2 To attend workshops, seminars and trainings offered by REMPEC, EMSA and other established networks addressing other topics, for example: a) Circular economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production measures applying to maritime transport and the main maritime business Leisure (pleasure and entertainment cruise business), harvesting of raw materials (oil and gas, offshore mining, fishing), logistics (shipping of food, energy, containers, bulk material) and infrastructure (ferries, local shipping, ports).
- 1.12.1 To promote, disseminate and revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, to develop new ones aimed at facilitating the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, MARPOL (Annex I, Annex II, Annex III, Annex IV), OPRC Convention, OPRC-HNS Protocol, CLC Convention, BUNKER Convention, The 2010 HNS Protocol
  - a) Guidelines revised and/or updated

Based on the outcome of the First Coordination Meeting, it is evident that the work in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges during the biennium 2024-2025 should take the following into consideration:

- .1 to continue the cooperation between REMPEC, EMSA and the RAMOGE Agreement with respect to illicit ship pollution discharges, notably:
  - .1 the availability of CSN services by EMSA offered to CPs;
  - .2 the importance of real time surveillance through the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) or manned aerial means and AIS Maritime Traffic Live Ships Map for identification of potential polluters;
  - .3 the ongoing work of the MENELAS with respect to: (i) the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report; (ii) the criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL; (iii) the modalities of possible creation and operation, including in terms of governance and financing, of a regional “Blue Fund”; and
  - .4 the participation of CPs in OSCAR-MED and the possible further practical use of the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report.
- .2 to stress the need for judicial cooperation, possibly through the Union des Procureurs généraux de la Méditerranée (UPGM);
- .3 to highlight the need for CPs to report illicit ship pollution discharges, as appropriate; and
- .4 to stress the necessity to follow up on the revision of the EU Ship-Source Pollution Directive.

### **Updated Joint Workplan**

*See Annex to the report.*

It is worth noting that, following feedback and comments received from a nominated expert representing a relevant stakeholder serving on both the IWG-PREVENT and the IWG-RESPOND whereby there were duplications in terms of the actions listed in the respective Joint Workplans, some streamlining was done by deleting some of the actions set out in the Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT that were not directly related to its work, whilst they were already included in the Joint Workplan for the IWG-RESPOND, with a view to clarifying and facilitating their implementation.

Moreover, despite being reached out by the IWG-PREVENT coordinator, several relevant stakeholders that had provided input to the preparation for the First Coordination Meeting did not nominate experts

to serve on the IWG-PREVENT, hence did not contribute to its work. Therefore, there are areas of the Joint Workplan that could not be updated.

## **Next steps for the IWG-PREVENT**

### **1. Enhanced representation in the IWG-PREVENT**

The composition of the IWG-PREVENT (currently 8 CPs out of 22, and 5 relevant stakeholders in addition to REMPEC in its capacity of IWG-PREVENT coordinator) should be broadened by possibly re-inviting CPs and relevant stakeholders as well as extending invitations to additional relevant stakeholders who meet the required criteria. Representation of all CPs and relevant stakeholders should be ensured to succeed in the implementation of CSO 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on illicit ship pollution discharges.

### **2. Increased contribution to the work of the IWG-PREVENT**

Nominated experts serving on the IWG-PREVENT should contribute, as far as practicable and in a timely manner, to the work of the IWG-PREVENT with a view to ensuring its regional dimension. Participation by all CPs and relevant stakeholders should be ensured to succeed in the implementation of CSO 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on illicit ship pollution discharges.

### **3. Steering the work of the IWG-PREVENT**

Whilst the Secretariat (REMPEC) may be able to steer the work of the IWG-PREVENT, it seems preferable that it is led by either a CP or a relevant stakeholder. Although it is involved, as a relevant stakeholder, in the implementation of all CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), the role of REMPEC is essentially that of the Secretariat of the biennial coordination meetings and of all IWGs.

### **4. Adoption of the ToRs for the IWG-PREVENT**

Whilst ToRs for the IWG-PREVENT were prepared by the Secretariat (REMPEC), it seems advisable that these are adopted, as possibly amended, by the Second Coordination Meeting. Should the IWG-PREVENT be re-established by the said meeting, its tasks till the Third Coordination Meeting should be clearly defined, together with the related timeline.

### **5. Future updating of the Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT**

Not all the actions identified as having a “high priority” under the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) were included in the Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT because the actions listed in Section 1,2 and 3 thereof are the ones that were identified during the First Coordination Meeting. This approach may need to be reconsidered since many actions having a “high priority” are left out whilst relevant activities are carried out by CPs and relevant stakeholders.

Moreover, the way some of the actions are included in the Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT is not clear enough given that it does not include verbs or a clear description of what the action is or what needs to be done. Some renumbering appears to have been also made (e.g. adding a) or i) after the action number) compared to the numbering in the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which is confusing. These elements will need to be considered in the future.

### **6. Avoiding duplication of work between the IWG-PREVENT and IWG-RESPOND**

There are areas of action that are covered by the work of both the IWG-PREVENT and the IWG-RESPOND. The related Joint Workplans also originally listed the same actions in some instances, which brought confusion as to which IWG these actions related to. Duplication of efforts should be avoided, while synergy should be achieved by ensuring the necessary coordination between the IWG-PREVENT and IWG-RESPOND. It may be beneficial to consider having a unique IWG covering CSO 1, hence joining IWG-PREVENT and IWG-RESPOND to alleviate this situation.

**Recommendations and conclusions to present to the Second Coordination Meeting**

The IWG-PREVENT stresses that operational pollution and, particularly, illicit ship pollution discharges, are recognised as a major problem in the Mediterranean region. Hence, the implementation of CSO 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on illicit ship pollution discharges is paramount.

The above-mentioned next steps for the IWG-PREVENT, which may apply to other IWGs, should be considered by the Second Coordination Meeting.

The updated Joint Workplan proposed by the IWG-PREVENT should also be considered by the Second Coordination Meeting, bearing in mind the limited contribution received on its update.

The Second Coordination Meeting should decide on the future of the IWG-PREVENT and on how to proceed with the relevant work.

**Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT**

**Section 1 – Priority Actions (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.1 Networks	1.1.1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mediterranean AIS Experts Working Group (MAREX EWG)</li> </ul>	2	4	WestMED & EMSA offer Ensure communication between working groups: Pilot project on sharing AIS data	WestMED & EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, meetings, pilot project	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Regular communication with EMSA through DG MARE. Latest advancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation of DG MARE/WestMED at the SAFEMED Final Conference (Nov 2023); and</li> <li>Meeting between WestMED, EMSA, DG MARE and stakeholders from the Canary Islands to discuss a project proposal in the region (March 2024).</li> </ul> <p>Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Türkiye are participating in the pilot project.</p>



Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.5 Ratification / Transposition	1.5.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, (“2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”)</li> </ul>	2	2	TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy (WMU is current contractor)	Ongoing  Provision of the draft text of national law for MARPOL transposition for Lebanon and Morocco (ongoing).  Same action planned for Libya and suspended for Egypt because of the lack of replies from the country.
					REMPEC: Take every opportunity to promote ratification. Issues identified with countries and assistance offered (for REMPEC PoW 2024-2025)	REMPEC	Continuous	In-house expertise, meetings	Ongoing
1.8 Port Reception	1.8.1b(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS)</li> </ul>	2	2	EMSA: Studies on PRFs aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation. Eventually development or update of the port waste plans.	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy	Ongoing  EMSA is ready to provide studies on PRFs according to the interest showed by the beneficiaries.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

				<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.1.1.e) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.</p> <p>1.1.1.f) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.</p> <p>1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.</p>	<p>REMPEC</p>	<p>2023 onwards</p>	<p>In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Note 1:</b> This relates to activity 1.1.1. (Undertake national, subregional, regional actions to boost the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC has been liaising with the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project.</p> <p>During the period 2024-2026, within the framework of the EU-funded “Marine Litter MED PLUS” Project, REMPEC will implement pilots related to the enhanced management of marine litter originating from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in 3 beneficiary countries (Egypt, Lebanon and Libya) with a focus on: the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system.; and the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes.</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> During the 2022-2023 biennium, REMPEC provided technical support to MED POL for the EU-funded “Marine Litter MED</p>
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Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
									II” Project regarding the implementation of pilots related to the enhanced management of marine litter originating from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in 3 beneficiary countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).
1.8 Port Reception Facilities	1.8.1c(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sewage</li> </ul>	3	2	EMSA: Studies on PRFs aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation. Eventually development or update of the port waste plans.	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy	Ongoing  EMSA is ready to provide studies on PRFs according to the interest showed by the beneficiaries.
					REMPEC:  1.1.1.e) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.  1.1.1.f) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.  1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building	Ongoing  See <b>Notes 1 and 2</b> above.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
					Beyond the requirements of MARPOL, CLIA Members have agreed by industry-level policy to exceed regulatory requirements through implementation of enhanced waste management practices, including for sewage treatment. Port reception facilities that are adequate and available to meet the needs of ships are an integral component of cruise industry policy and ship operations. The CLIA Waste management policy, among others, is available at <a href="https://cruising.org/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/clia-oceangoing-cruise-line-policies">https://cruising.org/about-the-industry/policy-priorities/clia-oceangoing-cruise-line-policies</a>	CLIA			
1.12 Standards / Guidelines	1.12.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines revised and/or updated</li> </ul>	4	3	REMPEC: Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide	REMPEC	2022	In-house expertise, consultancy	Completed  The Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide extended to the Mediterranean was approved by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023), and the final version was published on REMPEC website ( <a href="#">link</a> )
					EMSA: TIER	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy (WMU is EMSA current contractor)	Ongoing  Provision of the draft text of national law for MARPOL transposition for Lebanon and Morocco (ongoing).  Same action planned for Libya and suspended for Egypt because of the lack of replies from the country.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
					Ipieca: Ipieca oil spill preparedness & response publications	<b>Ipieca</b>	2022-2028          2023-2024	Update of existing Ipieca oil spill preparedness and response good practice guide documents and development of new guidance on oil spill modelling.          Shore response fact sheets on alternative fuels will shortly be published: very low sulphur fuel oil, biomass-based diesels, condensates and non-floating oils.	Ongoing  Ipieca currently has 18 good practice guide updates in progress at varying states of readiness. It is expected that 8 of them will be published in 2024, the rest in 2025. In 2026, further guides will begin to be updated.  Undergoing final round of review prior to approval stage.
					Cedre: Cedre operational guides	<b>CEDRE</b>			

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

1.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	1.2.2	<p>To attend workshops, seminars and trainings offered by REMPEC, EMSA and other established networks addressing other topics, for example:</p> <p>Circular economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production measures applying to maritime transport and the main maritime business Leisure (pleasure and entertainment cruise business), harvesting of raw materials (oil and gas, offshore mining, fishing), logistics (shipping of food, energy, containers, bulk material) and infrastructure (ferries, local shipping, ports).</p>	5	3	<p>REMPEC: MTF - "OFOG Training Programme:</p> <p>a) Seismic survey</p> <p>b) Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings</p> <p>c) Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA)</p> <p>d) Guidelines for the Conduct of EIA</p>	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, online trainings, regional meeting (OFOG)	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>REMPEC organised a Training Course on Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, and on Guidelines related to the Use and Discharge of Harmful or Noxious Substances and Materials, including Chemical use plan for Offshore operations (Floriana, Malta, 7-8 November 2023).</p> <p>Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards, namely (a) Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings; (b) Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA) within the Framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, were adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Naples (Italy), 2-5 December 2019), through <a href="#">Decision IG.24/9</a>.</p> <p>Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting</p>
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Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
									<p>from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil were adopted by the Twenty-second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), through <a href="#">Decision IG.25/15</a>.</p> <p>Further training may be considered over the period 2026-2035, following the update of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (2016-2024), as defined by the Fourth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact (Floriana, Malta, 23-24 May 2023).</p>
					Ipieca: Ipieca Environment and Ipieca Oil Spill group participation	<b>Ipieca</b>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Started mid-2024</p>	<p>Ipieca members share oil spill training and exercise collaboration opportunities. Ipieca would be open to opportunities in the REMPEC region.</p> <p>Ipieca recently started a Marine Net Positive Impact task force, which will be looking at marine biodiversity aspects of Ipieca members' activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
					CLIA: CLIA Europe coordinates with regional cruise line members in Europe through advisory committees and working groups to share best practices, lessons learned and exchange information regarding environmental stewardship, and to participate in region for a, webinars and workshops.	CLIA			
					OSRL: Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) Regional Workshop	OSRL			
					UfM: "UfM Sustainable Blue Economy and Environment Dossier and agenda	UfM			
1.5 Ratification / Transposition	1.5.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and its Annex I, Annex II, Annex III, and Annex IV</li> </ul>	2	3	REMPEC: Take every opportunity to promote ratification. Issues identified with countries and assistance offered (for REMPEC PoW 2024-2025)	REMPEC	Continuous	In-house expertise, meetings	Ongoing
					EMSA: TIER project Support to the projects' beneficiaries to ratify, transpose and implement the international maritime legislation	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy (WMU is current contractor)	Ongoing  Provision of the draft text of national law for MARPOL transposition for Lebanon and Morocco (ongoing).  Same action planned for Libya and suspended for Egypt because of the lack of replies from the country.



Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.8 Port Reception Facilities	1.8.1a(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oily wastes</li> </ul>	2	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.1.1.e) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.</p> <p>1.1.1.f) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.</p> <p>1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.</p>	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building	Ongoing  See <b>Notes 1 and 2</b> above.
					EMSA: Studies on PRFs aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation. Eventually development or update of the port waste plans.	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy	Ongoing  EMSA is ready to provide studies on PRFs according to the interest showed by the beneficiaries.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.8 Port Reception Facilities	1.8.1a(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oily wastes</li> </ul>	2	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.1.1.e) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.</p> <p>1.1.1.f) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.</p> <p>1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.</p>	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building	Ongoing  See <b>Notes 1 and 2</b> above.
					EMSA: Studies on PRFs aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation. Eventually development or update of the port waste plans.	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy	Ongoing  EMSA is ready to provide studies on PRFs according to the interest showed by the beneficiaries.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.8 Port Reception Facilities	1.8.1b(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS)</li> </ul>	2	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.1.1.e) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.</p> <p>1.1.1.f) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.</p> <p>1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.</p>	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building	Ongoing  See <b>Notes 1 and 2</b> above.
					EMSA: Studies on PRFs aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation. Eventually development or update of the port waste plans.	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy	Ongoing  EMSA is ready to provide studies on PRFs according to the interest showed by the beneficiaries.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.8 Port Reception Facilities	1.8.1c(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sewage</li> </ul>	2	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.1.1.e) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.</p> <p>1.1.1.f) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.</p> <p>1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.</p>	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building	Ongoing  See <b>Notes 1 and 2</b> above.
					EMSA: Studies on PRFs aiming to define the adequacy of PRFs versus international and EU relevant legislation. Eventually development or update of the port waste plans.	EMSA	Ongoing	In-house expertise, consultancy	Ongoing  EMSA is ready to provide studies on PRFs according to the interest showed by the beneficiaries.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

**Section 2 – Actions for which there is a need identified, but no activity offered (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on illicit discharges on the MEDGIS-MAR</li> </ul>		4					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition Assessment Scheme</li> </ul>		2					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.2h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copies of bilateral or multilateral agreements.</li> </ul>		1					
1.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	1.2.4d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution Response Services offered by EMSA</li> </ul>	1	2	EMSA: Pollution Response Services	<b>EMSA</b>	Ongoing	CSN service and SAT-AIS information MAR-CIS	Ongoing Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Türkiye provided with CleanSeaNet (CSN) services and Satellite – Automatic Identification System (SAT-AIS) information.  All SAFEMED beneficiaries and Türkiye provided with access to Marine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS).

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.3 Operations	1.3.5	To establish systems and procedures for national and sub-regional monitoring and surveillance including regular individual or Coordinated Aerial Surveillance Operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED) in the waters under the jurisdiction of CPs, if the CPs so agree, and results reported to the Meeting of MENELAS;		2					
1.3 Operations	1.3.5b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detentions of vessels</li> </ul>		2					
1.12. Standards / Guidelines	1.12.3f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies (REMPEC, 2003)</li> </ul>		2					

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.1b	To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process through the maintenance, update, upgrade, development and inter-connection of technical and decision support tools (as above)		2					
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs using each decision support tool</li> </ul>		3					
1.11 Surveillance / Monitoring	1.11.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs with adequate surveillance and monitoring capabilities</li> </ul>		3					
1.3 Operations	1.3.8	To organise and follow-up analysis of concentrated inspection campaigns on MARPOL-related deficiencies		2					
1.7 Enforcement	1.7.1	To set-up a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting discharge offenders for infringements of MARPOL Annex I, II, III and IV		1					

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPs having updated national information for each decision support tool</li> </ul>		2					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All incidents;</li> </ul>		1					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence, characteristics and extent of spillages of oil and HNS;</li> </ul>		1					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediately inform all CPs likely to be affected by the incident;</li> </ul>		1					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to observe the situation for as long as possible;</li> </ul>		1					
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POLREP (POLWARN, POLINE and POLFAC); and</li> </ul>		2					



Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.2c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution Prevention Equipment</li> </ul>		1					

Joint Workplan for the IWG-PREVENT

**Section 3 – Actions for which there is high demand for support (3 or more CPs), but no support currently available (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
1.14 Monitoring and Reporting	1.14.1f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on illicit discharges on the MEDGIS-MAR</li> </ul>		4					
1.13 Decision Making Tools	1.13.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPs using each decision support tool</li> </ul>		3					
1.11 Surveillance / Monitoring	1.11.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPs with adequate surveillance and monitoring capabilities</li> </ul>		3					

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<b>Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)</b> <b>Intersessional Working Group (IWG)</b> <b>Reporting Template Name of group:</b>	<i>Intersessional Working Group on Climate Change and Air Emissions from Ships (CSO 2 and CSO 3) (IWG-CCAS).</i>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Cristina Farchi (Italy)
<b>Participants:</b>	<p><b><u>Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention</u></b></p> <p><b>Algeria:</b> Soumeya Amroune</p> <p><b>Cyprus:</b> Valentinos Mavroudis</p> <p><b>Egypt:</b> Israa Saber, Doaa Mohamed</p> <p><b>European Union:</b> Rosa Antidormi, Sergio Alda</p> <p><b>France:</b> Margot Parcaroli-Ruiz</p> <p><b>Italy:</b> Mauro Maurici, Gianluca Vetrari, Andrea Gagna</p> <p><b>Malta:</b> Marc'Andrea Cassar, Evangelia Pouli, Robert Vassallo</p> <p><b>Morocco:</b> Hamza Bezia, Mounia Hamdaoui</p> <p><b>Türkiye:</b> Fatih Senol, Özlem Özer, Onur Kale, Canan Esin Köksal</p> <p><b><u>Other stakeholders:</u></b></p> <p><b>Dehukam:</b> Mustafa Baskara</p> <p><b>SPA/RAC:</b> Atef Ouerghi, Anis Zarrouk</p> <p><b>UfM:</b> Alessandra Sensi, Francesc Carbonell, Adriana Salazar</p> <p><b>Youth Love Egypt Foundation:</b> Donia Elsaheed</p> <p><b><u>Secretariat (REMPEC)</u></b></p> <p>Ivan Sammut, Franck Lauwers</p>
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>To discuss the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant actions under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as well as propose and evaluate a Joint Workplan to be agreed by the Second Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the Second Coordination Meeting, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.</i>
<b>Date of online introductory meeting:</b>	17 July 2024

## **A. Key points raised during discussions held within the IWG:**

Since the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (First Coordination Meeting), a lot of work has been carried out at national, regional and international level in the field of climate change and air emissions from ships. Hence, several activities discussed during the First Coordination Meeting of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) were updated by the IWG, providing, where possible, the results achieved so far.

Particularly, it must be highlighted that the following two important actions were successfully completed in 2022 and December 2023 respectively:

- *the joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA) submitted to the IMO, its approval at the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) (London, United Kingdom, 6-10 June 2022), and the adoption of subsequent amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA at MEPC 79 (London, United Kingdom, 12-16 December 2022), with an expected date of entry into effective application of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA on 1 May 2025.;*
- *the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical COMMITTEE of Experts was established.*

Important steps forward were also made through the adoption of new European Directives and Regulations and their transposition into national laws by the Mediterranean coastal States that are EU Member States, such as:

- *Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport, and amending Directive 2009/16/EC;*
- *Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU; and*
- *Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652.*

The IWG was also able to add new activities relevant for the implementation of the priority actions set out in the Joint Workplan (Annex 1). Only few activities could not be updated as the relevant stakeholders who proposed the activities in 2022 were not represented in the IWG (i.e. CLIA, MedCruise, Ipeca, IOI).

The priority actions for which the greatest number of activities have been offered are reported below:

- *2.1.1 To actively participate in existing global and regional working groups established to reduce GHG emissions from ships (5 activities offered – 1 updated, 2 new);*
- *2.2.1.e) Development of port emissions reduction strategies (6 activities offered – 1 updated, 3 new)*

- *2.8.1b major port with collection and treatment procedures for ozone-depleting substances and exhaust cleaning residues in place* (5 activities offered – 3 updated, 2 new)
- *2.9.2 To promote a zero-emissions berth standard* (4 activities offered – 2 updated, 1 new)
- *2.9.3 To provide adequate onshore power supplies* (5 activities offered – 2 updated, 1 new)
- *3.1.1 To actively participate in existing global and regional working groups established to reduce SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from ships* (4 activities offered – 2 updated, 1 new)
- *3.2.1 To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emission control area requirements under MARPOL Annex VI by providing technical assistance and capacity building activities* (6 activities offered – 1 updated, 3 new)

**B. Identified gaps (actions where no activity is taking place):**

There were 12 priority actions identified by the first Coordination Meeting for which no activity was taking place, mainly related to monitoring and reporting and enforcement.

The situation remains unchanged with the exception of one activity offered by EMSA in relation to the use of RPAS to monitor ship emissions.

The IWG proposed the following activities to be possibly carried out in the near future in order to provide support on these topics to the countries which so request:

- To enhance and structure the sharing of information and experiences from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of policy measures to reduce GHG emissions from ships. Such activities could include promoting good practices and encouraging dialogue on possible common approaches or synergies;
- To provide information and trainings on the monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emissions from ships;
- To engage discussion on the development of new circular and sustainable business models to promote green fleet retrofit and renewal as well as actions to support operational efficiency improvements in the Mediterranean; and
- To support communication campaigns and capacity-building activities at the regional level to promote green shipping in the Mediterranean and to create green jobs, especially for young people and women.

**C. Priority areas of action:**

In order to facilitate the entry into effect of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA on 1 May 2025, a priority area of action is to support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI. Both technical support and capacity-building activities should be provided to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI. As reported in the joint workplan, three CPs will benefit from these activities by the end of 2024.

Based on the activities offered to date by the CPs and relevant stakeholders, another priority area of action is the reduction of emissions in ports through both projects and capacity-building activities. Several activities also concern the reduction of emissions (not only GHG) from ships and it is foreseen that they will continue in the following years.

**D. Updated Joint Workplan:**

*See Annex to the report.*

**E. Next steps for the IWG:**

**1. Enhance participation:**

It is important to broaden the composition of the IWG by re-inviting CPs and relevant stakeholders as well as by extending invitations to additional members who meet the required criteria. Participation of all CPs and relevant stakeholders should be ensured if we intend to succeed in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

**2. Reflect on how the IWG should continue its work:**

The second Coordination Meeting should decide if and/or how the IWG should continue its work. In the positive, the IWG should be provided with terms of reference that cover the entire biennium between the Second and Third Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

**F. Recommendations and conclusions to present to the Second Coordination Meeting:**

The composition of the IWG needs to be extended to ensure greater representation of CPs. The IWG stressed also the importance of having all relevant stakeholders represented in the IWG in order to ensure the necessary collaborations for a successful implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which relies on the coordinated and synergic efforts of all relevant entities since its adoption.

Having in mind the expected date of entry into effect of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA on 1 May 2025, the Second Coordination Meeting shall be a unique opportunity to discuss on further actions to support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI.

The activities proposed by the IWG to cover the current gaps need to be considered by the Second Coordination Meeting, in order to eventually start exploring how to implement them.

The IWG recommends that the Second Coordination Meeting should decide on the future of the group and on how to proceed with the relevant work.

**Joint Workplan for the IWG-CCAS**

**Section 1 – Priority Actions (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.1 Networks	2.1.1	To actively participate in existing global and regional working groups established to reduce GHG emissions from ships notably the IMO Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, and Global Network of Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (MTCC) and Regional Seas Programmes (HELCOM, OSPAR, Bonn Agreement)	5	2	WestMED Initiative: Online meetings to debate about sustainability of the maritime transport, sharing views and fixing common priorities; engaging Stakeholders to compose project partnerships for the pilot actions identified	WestMED	2023 onwards	Online and in-person meetings	Ongoing.  <u>Note 1:</u> Meetings of the WestMED Technical Group on Sustainable Maritime Transport and Alternative Fuels (Green Shipping) were held on 5 April 2023 (online), 22 June 2024 (in-person) in the margins of the WestMED Stakeholders Conference in Malta, on 13 November 2023 (online) and on 29 April 2024 (online), with presence of REMPEC representatives. A follow-up online meeting was also held on 5 September 2024.

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>CLIA: CLIA, on behalf of global and regional cruise line members, participates as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in relevant sessions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) including PPR and MEPC, intersessional working groups on Greenhouse Gas Reduction, correspondence groups, and HELCOM for environmental protection.</p>	<p><b>CLIA</b></p>			
						<p>CPs as full IMO members and the EC participate as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in relevant sessions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) including PPR and MEPC, intersessional working groups on Greenhouse Gas Reduction, correspondence groups, ... EC attends relevant meetings of the Regional Sea Conventions (HELCOM, OSPAR, Bonn Agreement)</p>	<p><b>EU CPs</b></p>			<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						EC/ European Sustainable Shipping Forum working on the implementation of the Fuel EU Maritime (to stimulate the demand of marine fuel appropriate to decarbonise the sector) and of the Emission Trading Scheme Regulation (for the EU as UN region)	EC			Ongoing
						Ipieca GHG Emissions Group	Ipieca			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO 2	2.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	2.2.1.d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of port emissions</li> </ul>	3	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> This relates to activity 3.2.2. (Mobilise and implement innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>A Project proposal is being developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation. If Project proposal is successfully financed, capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports will be implemented at national, subregional / regional levels during the lifespan of the Project, as appropriate.</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
										REMPEC is also carrying out a Study on the implementation of emission control and energy efficiency measures for ships in port areas in the Mediterranean region.
						CLIA, on behalf of global and regional cruise line members, participates as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in relevant sessions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) including PPR and MEPC, intersessional working groups on Greenhouse Gas Reduction, correspondence groups, and HELCOM for environmental protection.	<b>CLIA</b>			
						EC/ European Port Forum LRTAP convention, EU expert group on the NECD EMSA work on inventories based on real ship movements				Ongoing

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	2.2.1.e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of port emissions reduction strategies</li> </ul>	6	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.
						<p>Mediterranean Cruise: OPS IN THE MEDCRUISE'S PORTS: survey to all ports of our association and discussion with working group of technical environmental solutions to understand the situation of OPS</p>	MedCruise			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>The EC/EU is closely monitoring potential carbon leakage and it will report from 2024 biennially on the implementation of the International Maritime Organization with the objective to achieve ETS in respect of maritime transport, including on possible evasive trends notably with the objective to detect and prevent evasive behaviours and if appropriate, to propose measures to ensure the effective implementation of the legislation. The EU ETS already includes a specific anti-evasion measure to address the risk of relocation of transshipment activities, which consists in disregarding stops by container ships in the neighbouring container transshipment ports where the risk of evasion is considered the highest and where no measures equivalent to the ETS Directive is applied. Two ports have been identified so far, in line with the rules laid down in the EU ETS Directive.</p>	EC/EU			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						EC support EU MSs to deploy SSE in EU ports – requirements from the Fuel EU Maritime regulation currently being implemented	EC			
						Italy through EU funds is carrying out a series of projects (e.g. greenports) to reduce pollution and emissions in Italian ports.	ITALY	2022-2026		ongoing

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>In the framework of the bilateral cooperation between MASE and UNEP/MAP, Italy is financing a Study on Implementation of possible Green Shipping Routes (corridors) and maritime hubs (green hubs) actions to cut shipping GHG emissions in the Mediterranean, to be carried out by REMPEC.</p>	<p>ITALY REMPEC</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>In-house expertise, consultancy</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>This relates to activity 3.2.2. (Mobilise and implement innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC is carrying out a Study on the implementation of Possible Green Shipping Routes (Corridors) and Maritime Hubs (Green Hubs) to reduce GHG emissions from shipping in the Mediterranean region.</p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation	2.2.4	To contribute to the possible establishment of externally funded major projects under the auspices of IMO in support of the Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, such as the on-going IMO-Norway Green Voyage2050 Project, and their subsequent implementation in the Mediterranean, as appropriate	2	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.
						<p>CLIA: Recognizing the technological challenge facing the decarbonization of international shipping, CLIA Members actively promoted adoption by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of an International Maritime Research and Development Board and Fund (IMRB/F) to generate roughly \$5 billion USD over 10 years, funded by industry, to accelerate development and deployment of zero-carbon alternative fuels and propulsion technologies.</p>	CLIA			



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.4 Governance	2.4.1	To support the implementation of the 'Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships' (Res. MEPC.304(72))	3	2	CLIA: In support (and above and beyond the IMO Initial Strategy), CLIA Members have agreed to pursue net zero carbon cruising globally by 2050 and to reduce carbon intensity across the CLIA fleet 40% by 2030 compared to 2008 levels.	<b>CLIA</b>	2023		
						Ipieca: Ipieca GHG Emissions group	<b>Ipieca</b>			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

						<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	<p>REMPEC</p>	<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>In-house expertise, consultancy</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Note 3:</b> This relates to activity 3.2.2. (Mobilise and implement innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC prepared a draft Guidance Document on the preparation of National Action Plans to address GHG emissions from ships in the Mediterranean region.</p> <p>REMPEC is also carrying out a Study on the effective implementation of the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships in the Mediterranean region, as well as a Study to assess the legal and technical implications of the European Union</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
										Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) for shipping in the Mediterranean region.
CSO 2	2.5 Ratification / Transposition	2.5.1	To ratify and implement MARPOL Annex VI, to ensure its transposition into national law, and to cooperate to ensure full compliance with its provisions	2	1	REMPEC:  3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing  See <a href="#">Note 3</a> above.
						EMSA: SAFEMED V: EMSA can support upon request beneficiaries	EMSA			Provision of the draft text of national law for MARPOL transposition Lebanon, Completed  Provision of the draft text of national law for MARPOL transposition Morocco, On-going  Support to transpose MARPOL planned for Libya and suspended for Egypt because of the lack of replies from the country

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.6 Implementation	2.6.2	To comply with the mandatory technical and operational requirements which apply to ships of 400 GT and above, i.e. the EEDI, applicable to new ships, which sets a minimum energy efficiency level for the work undertaken (e.g. CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne-mile) for different ship types and sizes, and the SEEMP, applicable to all ships	2	2	WestMED: Assessment of adaptation costs for greening local infrastructures and vessels, so to have an overall cost assessment for their transition to fully sustainable sources of fuel and other energy/pulsion means.	WestMED	2023	3 EMFAF and 2 LIFE programme funded projects in support of such objective	Ongoing
						REMPEC:  3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.  3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing  See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.
CSO 2	2.8 Port Reception	2.8.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>major ports having established collection and treatment procedures for ozone-depleting substances and exhaust cleaning residues</li> </ul>	3	2	WestMED: Establishing a network of ports testing the concept of energy communities in the Mediterranean basin and beyond, through the energy modelling system	WestMED	2023-2024	Through EMFAF funded project Green Marine Med	ongoing

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

					<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.</p>	<p>REMPEC</p>	<p>2024-2026</p>	<p>In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity-building</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Note 4:</b> This relates to activity 1.1.1. (Undertake national, subregional, regional actions to boost the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas will be promoted at national, subregional/regional levels, whilst standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) will be developed, within the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED Plus Project over the period 2024-2026.</p>
					<p>UfM: In the context of the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, UfM member</p>	<p>UfM</p>	<p>2024</p>		<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Progress on the 10 priorities of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE /</p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

					<p>Contracting Parties have given the green light to begin concretely cooperating around 3 priority areas or 'groupings' of activities (the 10 Ministerial priorities remain, but Contracting Parties will begin advancing on these 'priority groupings' the short-term). This includes the diversification of small ports and marinas beyond transportation (including reception facilities).</p>				<p>the related Roadmap has by now been activated and will continue to be pursued, including the dedicated Ministerial priority on 'Sustainable, climate neutral, and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports'.</p> <p>In the framework of the short-term/immediate focus area (under the UfM SBE Roadmap/Ministerial) dedicated to the diversification of small ports and marinas beyond maritime transport, the UfM has (i.e.) provided support for relevant project consortia to engage with Eastern Mediterranean stakeholders, so as to further support the ability of local small ports, harbours, and marinas to act as 'innovation hubs' for a sustainable diversification of local business ecosystems, as well as</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

										<p>to strengthen the development of maritime clusters across the Southern shore of the Mediterranean (see EMFAF-funded Project CallMeBlue aimed at strengthening existing cluster alliances in the Mediterranean).</p> <p>The 2nd UfM Stakeholder Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy, hosted by Greece took place on 19-20 February. The Conference brought together over 350 Med SBE stakeholders to take stock of progress achieved since the adoption of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE; to discuss joint and pathways for the Sustainable Development of the sectors and activities of the Mediterranean SBE; to feed the UfM Roadmap on SBE and the related next steps; and to set the path</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
										<p>towards future deliberations at political level. A very rich and dynamic cross-section of Med SBE stakeholders from across the basin took part in the Conference, affirming the strong collaborative spirit of the Mediterranean cooperation on Sustainable Blue Economy, at both technical and political level.</p> <p>Furthermore, concerning maritime transport, in February 2023 the UfM Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean (2021-2027) was endorsed by the countries of the UfM in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport.</p>



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.8 Port Reception Facilities	2.8.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>major port with collection and treatment procedures for such substances and residues in place</li> </ul>	5	2	WestMED: Establishing a network of ports testing the concept of energy communities in the Mediterranean basin and beyond, through the energy modelling system	WestMED	2023-2024	Through EMFAF funded project Green Marine Med	ongoing
						REMPEC:  1.1.1.g) Best practices for the provision of reception facilities as well as the reception and handling of ship-generated waste in ports and marinas promoted at national, subregional/regional levels; standard Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) developed.	REMPEC	2024-2026	In-house expertise, consultancy, regional/sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity-building	Ongoing  See <a href="#">Note 4</a> above.

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

					<p>Malta has updated the MSFD Programme of Measures (PoMs) in 2024. The PoMs are geared towards the achievement of ‘Good Environmental Status’ in Malta’s marine waters, including with respect to marine litter. Such measures reflect measures implemented under regional agreements including, the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>PoM MICMTM084_NEW Implementation of ‘Fishing for Litter’ addresses activities related to the ‘fishing for litter activity’. The implementation of the ‘fishing for litter’ scheme in Malta has targeted bottom trawl fishers who endeavour to recover plastic that is recovered from the sea during routine bottom trawl operations and deliver same to land for recycling.</p> <p>On ‘adopt a beach,’ Malta has endeavoured to develop a mechanism to ensure effective collaboration with NGOs/Local organisations for coordination of clean-up event as referred under PoM MICMTM081_NEW. This was set up through two citizen science delivery services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine and Beach Clean-ups - which is being used to collect</li> </ul>	<b>MALTA</b>			<b>Ongoing</b>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

					<p>data on type and amount of litter collected through clean-ups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine and Beach Litter Sightings - which is used to collect data from the general public on litter accumulations.</li> </ul> <p>The citizen science delivery services will continue to be used to enable coordination of clean-ups in priority areas.</p> <p>In addition, Malta conducts monitoring of litter on beaches under the <a href="#">Malta's Monitoring Programme for marine litter</a> and implements regularly the '<a href="#">Saving our Blue</a>' campaign which also tackles awareness raising on marine litter, engages and collaborates with the public, and holds regular beach clean-up events.</p> <p>M063 - Provision of Port Reception Facilities for Ship-Generated Wastes and Cargo Residues, address activities related to waste management at ports. As per Port Notice No. 2 of 2022, the Authority for Transport in Malta notifies all concerned parties that Directive (EU) 2019/883 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships has been applicable</p>				
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						since 28th June 2021. The requirements of this Directive have been transposed through the Port Reception Facilities for the Delivery of Waste from Ships Regulations (S.L.499.71), also coming into force on the same date. The latter Regulations are currently being implemented and the Authority is continuously ensuring that local regulations are implemented in accordance with the Directive.				
						Implemented by Italy through the following instruments: Legislative decree 197/2021 transposing the European directive on port reception facilities; MSFD; Salvamare law	ITALY			implemented

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>UfM: In the context of the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, UfM member Contracting Parties have given the green light to begin concretely cooperating around 3 priority areas or 'groupings' of activities (the 10 Ministerial priorities remain, but Contracting Parties will begin advancing on these 'priority groupings' the short-term). This includes the diversification of small ports and marinas beyond transportation (including reception facilities).</p>	<p><b>UFM</b></p>	<p>2024</p>		<p><b>Ongoing</b>                      Close coordination with the WestMED Initiative (participation in mutual meetings including WestMED Steering Committees, and Technical Groups) is pursued and ensured on a continuous basis. So as to maximize resource efficiency, UfMS in close consultation with the UfM Co-Presidency and CINEA, aims to organize key in-person UfM and WestMED meetings back-to-back. For instance the UfM transport group representatives will be present in the next WestMED Hackathon for project development, in Faro (PT) in October 2024.</p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.9 Alternative Energy / New Technology	2.9.2	To promote a zero-emissions berth standard	4	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.
						<p>CLIA: CLIA Members have agreed that all ships calling at shoreside electricity (SSE)-capable ports will be equipped to either use SSE by 2035 or will use available alternative low carbon technologies in port.</p>	CLIA			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						WestMED: Establishing a regional observatory (starting from WestMED pilot) for sustainable energy for green shipping (ports & fleets). Objective is to assess the state of the art and future potentials in research and innovation, for technological chains and solutions aimed at fostering sustainable energy for Mediterranean ports and fleets.	WestMED	2023-2024	Through the EMFAF funded project Green Med (green shipping pathways towards a clean energy transition in the MED)	Ongoing, last meeting 29 April 2024
						Projects being implemented such as Greenports and cold ironing: implementation of measures aimed at reducing emissions from port facilities, including energy efficiency of buildings and replacement of fossil fuel-powered transport vehicles with low/zero GHG emissions fuels, as well as electric vehicles.	ITALY			Ongoing

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.9 Alternative Energy / New Technology	2.9.3	To provide adequate onshore power supplies	5	3	WestMED: Assessment of adaptation costs for greening local infrastructures and vessels, so to have an overall cost assessment for their transition to fully sustainable sources of fuel and other energy/propulsion means.	WestMED	2023-2024	3 EMFAF and 2 LIFE programme funded projects in support of such objective	ongoing
						REMPEC:  3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.  3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing  See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.
						MedCruise: DISTRIBUTE SURVEY TO CRUISE LINES AND PORTS	MEDCRUISE			



Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						EMSA: EMSA has developed a comprehensive guidance (port side) for OPS	EMSA			
						Cold ironing projects: Italy is financing the implementation of the cold ironing system for Italian ports. Funding is also provided for the installation of the Connection System on board existing vessels and for financing new vessels equipped with this System.	ITALY		Financing the building of the infrastructures and retrofit/buying ships equipped with OPS system.	Ongoing
CSO 2	2.12 Standards / Guidelines	2.12.3	To develop guidelines for alternative energy applications	2	3	EMSA: Guidance on use of batteries for propulsion	EMSA			
						WestMED: "Establishing a regional observatory (starting from WestMED pilot) for sustainable energy for green shipping (ports & fleets). Objective is to assess the state of the art and future potentials in research and innovation, for technological chains and solutions aimed at fostering sustainable energy for Mediterranean ports and fleets."	WestMED	2023-2024	Through the EMFAF funded project Green Med (green shipping pathways towards a clean energy transition in the MED)	Ongoing, last meeting 29 April 2024

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.15 Research and Development	2.15.1	To support research and development to improve energy efficiency of international shipping	3	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.</p> <p>REMPEC is also carrying out a Study analysing the impact of biofouling on the energy efficiency of ships and the GHG abatement potential of biofouling management measures in the Mediterranean region.</p>
						WestMED: Assessment of adaptation costs for greening local infrastructures and vessels, so to have an overall cost assessment for their transition to fully sustainable sources of fuel and other energy/propulsion means. (2023-2026)	WestMED	2023-2024	3 EMFAF and 2 LIFE programme funded projects in support of such objective	ongoing

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>EC/EU:                      Since January 2024, the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), has been revised to cover emissions from all large ships (of <math>\geq 5\,000</math> gross tonnage) entering EU ports, regardless of the flag they fly. This extension leads to the inclusion of maritime transport emissions in the overall ETS cap, and it creates a price signal that directly incentivise energy efficiency, low-carbon solutions, and reductions of the price difference between alternative fuels and traditional maritime fuels. With the extension of the ETS to the maritime sector, the Innovation Fund can also support breakthrough innovative technologies aiming at decarbonising the sector, including e.g. support for energy efficiency solutions, sustainable alternative fuels, electrification, or wind-propulsion assistance. It can also cover innovative infrastructure in the maritime sector.</p>	EC/EU			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO 3	3.1 Networks	3.1.1	To actively participate in existing global and regional working groups established to reduce SO <sub>x</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> emissions from ships notably the SO <sub>x</sub> /NO <sub>x</sub> Technical Committees of Experts, MENELAS, IMO Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, and Global Network of Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (MTCC) and Regional Seas Programmes (HELCOM, OSPAR, Bonn Agreement)	4	2	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.4.2.b) Joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA submitted to the IMO, and discussions at MEPC facilitated, as appropriate.</p> <p>1.4.2.c) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts established.</p>	REMPEC	2022-2023 (completed)	In-house expertise, consultancy	<p><b>Note 5:</b> This was completed during the biennium 2022-2023, as part of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2022-2023.</p> <p>The joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA was submitted by France, on behalf of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Member States of the European Union as well as the European Commission, to the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) (London, United Kingdom, 6-10 June 2022), and the subsequent amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA were adopted at MEPC 79 (London, United Kingdom, 12-16 December 2022).</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
										The MAP NO <sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area (ECA) Technical Committee of Experts (NECA TCE) was established in December 2023.
						<p><b>LIFE4MEDECA and LIFE4ECA projects</b>  <a href="http://bluemed-initiative.eu">BlueMed Initiative (bluemed-initiative.eu)</a>  <b>HORIZON EU Zero Emission Waterborne transport partnership</b></p> <p><b>Italy co-financed the LIFE4MEDECA project</b></p>	EC/EU			Ongoing
						WestMED Green Shipping Technical Group (Technical Group among the institutional representatives of the 10 countries of the WestMED sub-basin, aiming at jointly tackling the environmental challenge, through the topic of Sustainable Maritime Transport and Alternative Fuels)	UfM / WestMED	Continuous	In-house expertise	Ongoing See <a href="#">Note 1</a> above.

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						Ipieca Fuels group	Ipieca	continuous	In-house expertise	
CSO 3	3.2 Capacity Building /	3.2.1	To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of SO <sub>x</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> emission control area requirements under MARPOL Annex VI by providing	6	2	Ipieca: Ipieca Fuels group	<b>Ipieca</b>	2023		
						IOI: MA in Ocean Governance (2022)	<b>IOI</b>			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

			technical assistance and capacity building activities			<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.4.2.a) Technical support and capacity building provided up to 6 CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.</p> <p>1.4.2.b) Support provided for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA).</p> <p>1.4.2.c) Technical and Feasibility Study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI prepared under the guidance of the Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA Technical Committee of Experts; related roadmap prepared.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national workshops, conference services, venue, travel arrangements, regional meeting	<p><b>Note 6:</b> This relates to activity 1.4.2. (Support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, facilitating the entry into effect of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA), and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC continues to provide technical support and capacity-building to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.</p> <p>Support has already been provided by</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

										<p>REMPEC for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA, through the organisation of a Regional Workshop in May 2024 and the preparation of a draft Guidance Document; the contents of which was approved by the said workshop.</p> <p>REMPEC has partnered with a number of Governments and stakeholders in the Mediterranean to submit a Project Proposal under the INTERREG NEXTMED Programme, named Piloting Low Emissions in the Mediterranean (PLEINMED), with the aim to secure funding to implement capacity-building activities related to low emissions.</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
										<p>The work of the NECA TCE has also been coordinated by REMPEC in 2024 with Phases 1 to 2c so far completed.</p> <p>Following the preparation and validation of the related Terms of Reference (ToRs) by the NECA TCE, a detailed Technical and Feasibility Study to assess the relevant existing and on-going studies as well as to examine the possible designation of the Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, including health and socio-economic impacts on the Mediterranean region and the individual CPs, will be prepared in 2024.</p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>In the framework of the Bilateral cooperation between MASE and UNEP/MAP, Italy supported:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the Drafting of ToR for socio- economic studies related to a potential proposal on the designation of a Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA</li> <li>2) Technical support and capacity-building to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI</li> </ol>	<p><b>ITALY</b> <b>Plan Bleu</b> <b>REMPEC</b></p>	<p>2022-2023</p>		<p><u>implemented</u></p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

						<p>In the framework of the bilateral cooperation between MASE and UNEP/MAP, Italy is financing a Study on the impact of the use of Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) in the Mediterranean Sea, to be carried out by REMPEC.</p>	<p><b>ITALY</b> <b>REMPEC</b></p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>In-house expertise, consultancy</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>This relates to activity 1.4.2. (Support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, facilitating the entry into effect of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOX ECA), and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NOX ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC is carrying out a Study on the Environmental and Legal Impact of the Use of Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) in the Mediterranean Sea.</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						Malta is conducting a study on the Socio-Economic and Health Impacts of the Implementation of a NO <sub>x</sub> ECA in the Mediterranean Sea on the Maltese Islands.	MALTA	Possibly 2024	Consultancy	<u>In progress</u>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO 3	3.5 Ratification / Transposition	3.5.1	To ratify and implement MARPOL Annex VI, to ensure its transposition into national law, and to cooperate to ensure full compliance with its provisions	1		Through the Bilateral cooperation between MASE and UNEP/MAP Italy will co-finance National Workshops for Algeria and Egypt on the consistent implementation of IMO 2020 and the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO <sub>x</sub> ECA, to be carried out by REMPEC.	ITALY REMPEC	2024	In-house expertise, consultancy, national workshops / capacity-building	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>This relates to activity 1.4.2. (Support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, facilitating the entry into effect of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOX ECA), and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NOX ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC will be carrying out National Workshops on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI in Algeria (TBC) and Egypt, which will be financed by the voluntary contribution</p>
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
										<p>from the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE).</p> <p>In addition, REMPEC will be carrying out a National Workshop on the implementation of MARPOL Annex VI in Morocco, which will be financed by the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).</p>
CSO 3	3.9 Alternative Energy / New	3.9.1	To provide low-sulphur oxides fuels for international shipping	2	1	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.</p> <p>3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.</p>

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						WestMED: Establishing a regional observatory (starting from WestMED pilot) for sustainable energy for green shipping (ports & fleets). Objective is to assess the state of the art and future potentials in research and innovation, for technological chains and solutions aimed at fostering sustainable energy for Mediterranean ports and fleets.	WestMED	2024	Through the EMFAF funded project Green Med (green shipping pathways towards a clean energy transition in the MED)	Ongoing, last meeting 29 April 2024
CSO 3		3.9.3	To provide adequate onshore power supplies	3	2	REMPEC:  3.2.2.a) Project proposal developed for the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation.  3.2.2.b) Capacity-building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented at national, subregional/regional levels.	REMPEC	2024-2025	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops / capacity-building	Ongoing  See <a href="#">Note 2</a> above.
						EMSA: EMSA has developed a dedicated OPS guidance (port side)	EMSA			

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
						<p>WestMED: Establishing a regional observatory (starting from WestMED pilot) for sustainable energy for green shipping (ports &amp; fleets). Objective is to assess the state of the art and future potentials in research and innovation, for technological chains and solutions aimed at fostering sustainable energy for Mediterranean ports and fleets.</p>	<b>WestMED</b>	2024	Through the EMFAF funded project Green Med (green shipping pathways towards a clean energy transition in the MED)	ongoing



**Section 2 - Actions for which there is a need identified, but no activity offered (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.3 Operations	2.3.1	To organise campaigns to monitor ship emissions	1	2	EMSA offers drones monitoring (RPAS) free of charge to EU Member States, Candidate Countries and EFTA Member States. The areas of operation can be all sea areas surrounding the European Union with an EU or EFTA country as a starting point of the service.				
CSO 2	2.7 Enforcement	2.7.1	To define appropriate technical assistance, guidance and knowledge required for setting up national legal framework (regulations) for prosecuting offenders for infringements of MARPOL Annex VI, through MENELAS		1					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 2	2.14 Monitoring and Reporting	2.14.1	To comply with the mandatory reporting obligations under MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 22, taking into consideration the guidance notes as set out in MEPC.320(74), MEPC.282(70), MEPC.292(71), MEPC.293(71).		1					
CSO 2	2.7 Enforcement	2.7.2	To set-up a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting offenders for infringements of MARPOL Annex VI		1					
CSO 3	3.2 Capacity	3.2.5	To increase awareness / knowledge on sea acidification and its impact on marine ecosystems.		2					
CSO 3	3.6	3.6.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ships adhering to MARPOL Annex VI requirements</li> </ul>		3					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 3	3.6 Implementation	3.6.1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs' administrations being effective in carrying out all their responsibilities and obligations under MARPOL Annex VI</li> </ul>		3					
CSO 3	3.14	3.14.2	To establish monitoring systems in their ports and coastal region		1					
CSO 3	3.14	3.14.3			1					
CSO 3	3.7 Enforcement	3.7.1	To set-up a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting discharge offenders for infringements of the MARPOL Annex VI		2					

**Section 3 - Actions for which there is high demand for support (3 or more CPs), but no support currently available (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
CSO 3	3.6	3.6.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ships adhering to MARPOL Annex VI requirements</li> </ul>		3					

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

<p><b>CSO 3</b></p>	<p>3.6 Implementation</p>	<p>3.6.1c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CPs' administrations being effective in carrying out all their responsibilities and obligations under MARPOL Annex VI</li> </ul> <p><b>PROPOSALS BY EU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To enhance and structure the sharing of information and experiences from Med countries on the implementation of policy measures to reduce shipping GHG emissions. Such activities could include promoting good practices and encouraging dialogue between Med countries on possible common approaches or synergies.</li> <li>-To provide information and trainings on the monitoring.</li> </ul>		<p>3</p>					
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Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
			<p>reporting and verification of Greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>-To engage discussion on the development of new circular and sustainable business models to promote green fleet retrofit and renewal and actions to support operational efficiency improvements in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>-Support communication campaigns and capacity building activities at Med level to promote the green shipping in Mediterranean and to create green jobs, especially for young people and women.</p>							

Annex 2 – Joint Workplan

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**Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Intersessional Working Group (IWG) Report**

<b>Name of group:</b>	<i>Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on Marine Spatial Planning and Designation of Special Areas (CSO 6) (IWG-MSP).</i>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	<i>Franck Lauwers (REMPEC)</i>
<b>Participants:</b>	<p><b><u>Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs):</u></b></p> <p><i>Algeria: Moumen HAMMICHE</i></p> <p><i>France: Julie RIGAUD-MARÉCHAL</i></p> <p><i>Italy: Roberto GIANGRECO, Riccardo PIRACCINI</i></p> <p><i>Malta: Michelle BORG, Marta CURMI, Evangelia POULI, Robert VASSALLO</i></p> <p><i>Morocco: Naoual ZOUBAIR, Mounia HAMD AOUI</i></p> <p><i>Türkiye: Hatice SARIÇAM, Özgür Demirtola DEMIREL</i></p> <p><b><u>Relevant stakeholders:</u></b></p> <p><i>DEHUKAM: Büşra DENİZ</i></p> <p><i>Energeo Alliance: Ross COMPTON</i></p> <p><i>IOGP: Harvey JOHNSTONE, David BARTHELEMY, Ezzaini RAMLI</i></p> <p><i>SPA/RAC: Atef OUER GHI, Anis ZARROUK</i></p> <p><i>Youth Love Egypt Foundation: Hania MOHIER</i></p> <p><i>WestMED Initiative: Celia MURCIA</i></p>
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>To discuss the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant actions under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as well as propose and evaluate a Joint Workplan to be agreed by the Second Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the Second Coordination Meeting, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.</i>
<b>Date of online introductory meeting:</b>	<i>11 July 2024.</i>



## Introduction

The work of the IWG-MSP was articulated around three phases, as follows:

- **Phase 1 (4-11 July 2024):** nominated experts serving on the IWG-MSP were requested to provide information on on-going activities (i.e. projects, initiatives, etc.) being carried out within their respective country or by their respective organisation in relation to the implementation of CSO 6 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on Marine Spatial Planning and Designation of Special Areas. The compilation of the feedback and comments received as part of Phase 1 of the work of the IWG-MSP was disseminated to the nominated experts serving on the IWG-MSP.
- **Phase 2 (16 July 2024-9 August 2024):** nominated experts serving on the IWG-MSP were requested to contribute to the work of the IWG-MSP in a comprehensive manner and as defined in the Terms of Reference (ToRs), as follows:
  - Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP: by reviewing and completing Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Joint Workplan, as appropriate, considering any ongoing and future actions or activities (i.e. projects, initiatives, etc.) relevant to the implementation of CSO 6, which were (or would be) carried out within their respective country or by their respective organisation. Progress updates on the implementation of relevant actions under the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) (not necessarily listed in the Joint Workplan) and any further insights on the Joint Workplan could also be provided accordingly.
  - Key points: by sharing information on any key points, which they wished to raise in relation to the IWG-MSP and the implementation of CSO 6, including in terms of the necessary support to be provided by relevant stakeholders to CPs;
  - Gaps: by identifying any gaps in terms of the implementation of CSO 6 (i.e. relevant actions under the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) where no activity was taking place);
  - Priority areas of action: by identifying any priority areas of action that would facilitate the implementation of CSO 6;
  - Next steps: by sharing insights on the next steps for the IWG-MSP; and
  - Recommendations and conclusions: by proposing draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the IWG-MSP, which would eventually be presented to the Second Coordination Meeting.

In parallel, the IWG-MSP coordinator reached out to relevant stakeholders that had not yet nominated experts to serve on the IWG-MSP but had provided an input to the preparation for the First Coordination Meeting, to enable the IWG-MSP to update the Joint Workplan accordingly.

- **Phase 3 (18-23 September 2024):** nominated experts serving on the IWG-MSP were requested to review the draft report of the IWG-MSP.

### **Key points raised during discussions held within the IWG-MSP**

The online introductory meeting of the IWG-MSP, which was held on 11 July 2024, was aimed at going through the ToRs and at planning the work accordingly. It was also aimed at taking stock of the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant priority actions, as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) (Malta, 29 November-1 December 2022), hereinafter referred to as the First Coordination Meeting, and set out in Section 1 of the Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP in order to enable the Secretariat (REMPEC) to prepare the biennial review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

Whilst attendance to the online introductory meeting was limited to five (5) participants representing one (1) CP and three (3) relevant stakeholders in addition to REMPEC in its capacity of IWG-MSP coordinator, no substantive discussion took place during the said meeting. However, it was a good opportunity to clarify the aim, activities and deliverables, as well as the working procedures, of the IWG-MSP. Follow-up actions were also agreed upon by participants identifying the roles and responsibilities for the next steps.

With contributions from two (2) CPs and four (4) relevant stakeholders during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the work of the IWG-MSP, it may be reported that, since the First Coordination Meeting, some work has been carried out at national, regional and international level in the field of Marine Spatial Planning and Designation of Special Areas. One (1) CP confirmed the needs set out in its National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which was updated in March 2024, as well as the actions that had been identified as priority areas of action at the First Coordination Meeting (and the needs it had expressed at the time).

It is worth noting that the following action was reported as being successfully completed during the biennium in 2022-2023:

- *6.12.1 To promote, disseminate and revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, to develop new ones aimed at facilitating the establishment and management of special areas and routeing systems including the: a) Guidance Document for Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regard to identifying and designating Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean*

A Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), was indeed prepared by REMPEC, in cooperation with SPA/RAC.

Progress was also reported on the designation of special areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which also falls within the remit of the work of the Intersessional Working Group on Climate Change and Air Emissions from Ships (CSO 2 and CSO 3) (IWG-CCAS), namely:

- *the designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA).*

The related joint and coordinated proposal was submitted to the IMO and approved at the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) (London, United Kingdom, 6-10 June 2022), whilst the subsequent amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA were adopted at MEPC 79 (London, United Kingdom, 12-16 December 2022), with an expected date of entry into effective application of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA on 1 May 2025; and

- *the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI.*

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts (NECA TCE) was established in 2023. A detailed Technical and Feasibility Study to assess the relevant existing and on-going studies as well as to examine the possible designation of the Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, including health and socio-economic impacts on the Mediterranean region and the individual CPs, will be prepared in 2024.

Although not mentioned by any of the nominated experts serving on the IWG-MSP, it is worth noting that progress was also achieved regarding the designation of PSSAs in the Mediterranean with the designation of the North-Western Mediterranean Sea as a PSSA at MEPC 80 (London, United Kingdom, 3-7 July 2023), which is located between the coastline of France, Italy, Monaco and Spain.

### **Identified gaps (actions where no activity is taking place)**

There were a number of actions identified during the First Coordination Meeting for which a need had been identified, but no activity had been offered, as per Section 2 of the Joint Workplan. Only two such activities were updated (one completed by REMPEC, in cooperation with SPA/RAC: Guidance Document for the identification and designation of PSSAs in relation to SPAMIs; one continuous offer from EMSA: traffic density maps).

The situation remains unchanged in relation to the actions identified during the First Coordination Meeting for which there had been high demand for support (three (3) or more CPs), but no support was available, as per Section 3 of the Joint Workplan.

### **Priority areas of action**

The priority areas of actions remain unchanged, as per Section 1 of the Joint Workplan, with the following two actions having the greatest number of activities offered:

- *6.1.1 To actively participate in networks and groups, and strengthen synergies between relevant networks related to marine spatial planning and the designation of special areas in the Mediterranean, including through:*
  - a) the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) for other measure related to Marine Special Planning (MSP),*
  - b) the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) for other measure related to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Environmentally or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA)*
  - c) REMPEC, for other measures related to Special Areas under MARPOL and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)*
- *6.2.1 To implement targeted technical cooperation and Capacity-building activities, in the Mediterranean to address implementation issues related to designation of special areas namely:*
  - a) Special areas under MARPOL*
  - b) PSSAs*
  - c) Traffic separation schemes (TSS) and other ship routing systems*

Regarding activity 6.2.1, one (1) CP indicated that it would welcome initiatives aimed at identifying how such designations were to be taken into account in national MSP plans.

In order to facilitate the effective entry into application of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA on 1 May 2025, a priority area of action is to support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI. Both technical support and capacity-building activities should be provided to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI. As reported in the Joint Workplan, three CPs will benefit from these activities by the end of 2024.

Moreover, one (1) CP provided the following list of other priority actions, which are of particular relevance:

- 6.7.1 *To set-up a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting offenders for infringements of requirements of routing measures, PSSAs, and Special Areas under MARPOL;*
- 6.11.1 *To establish a robust surveillance and monitoring system including installation of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS);*
- 6.11.2 *To enhance maritime safety, maritime security and marine pollution prevention/ response by strengthening the cooperation on AIS matters and taking part in projects on AIS information sharing thorough the MAREΣ; and*
- 6.15.1 *To carry out the required studies for a submission to IMO addressing all criteria for the designation of a particular area as PSSAs and Special Areas under MARPOL.*

### **Updated Joint Workplan**

*See Annex to the report.*

Despite being reached out by the IWG-MSP coordinator, several relevant stakeholders that had provided input to the preparation for the First Coordination Meeting did not nominate experts to serve on the IWG-MSP, hence did not contribute to its work. Therefore, there are areas of the Joint Workplan that could not be updated.

### **Next steps for the IWG-MSP**

#### **1. Enhanced representation in the IWG-MSP**

The composition of the IWG-MSP (currently 6 CPs out of 22, and 6 relevant stakeholders in addition to REMPEC in its capacity of IWG-MSP coordinator) should be broadened by possibly re-inviting CPs and relevant stakeholders as well as extending invitations to additional relevant stakeholders who meet the required criteria. Representation of all CPs and relevant stakeholders should be ensured to succeed in the implementation of CSO 6 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on Marine Spatial Planning and Designation of Special Areas.

#### **2. Increased contribution to the work of the IWG-MSP**

Nominated experts serving on the IWG-MSP should contribute, as far as practicable and in a timely manner, to the work of the IWG-MSP with a view to ensuring its regional dimension. Participation by all CPs and relevant stakeholders should be ensured to succeed in the implementation of CSO 6 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan with a focus on Marine Spatial Planning and Designation of Special Areas.

#### **3. Steering the work of the IWG-MSP**

Whilst the Secretariat (REMPEC) may be able to steer the work of the IWG-MSP, it seems preferable that it is led by either a CP or a relevant stakeholder. Although it is involved, as a relevant stakeholder, in the implementation of all CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), the role of REMPEC is essentially that of the Secretariat of the biennial coordination meetings and of all IWGs.

#### **4. Adoption of the ToRs for the IWG-MSP**

Whilst ToRs for the IWG-MSP were prepared by the Secretariat (REMPEC), it seems advisable that these are adopted, as possibly amended, by the Second Coordination Meeting. Should the IWG-MSP be re-established by the said meeting, its tasks till the Third Coordination Meeting should be clearly defined, together with the related timeline.

#### **5. Coordination between the IWG-MSP and the IWG-CCAS**

There are areas of action that are covered by the work of both the IWG-MSP and the IWG-CCAS. One such is the designation of special areas under MARPOL, which is a priority area of action both under CSO 3 (Reduce and monitor air emissions from ships to a level that is not harmful to the marine environment, or the health of the coastal population of the Mediterranean) and CSO 6. Duplication of efforts should be avoided, while synergy should be achieved by ensuring the necessary coordination between the IWG-MSP and the IWG-CCAS.

#### **Recommendations and conclusions to present to the Second Coordination Meeting**

The IWG-MSP stresses that Marine Spatial Planning and the Designation of Special Areas are fundamental to the effective management of the Mediterranean sea basin, and therefore support all CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

The above-mentioned next steps for the IWG-MSP, which may apply to other IWGs, should be considered by the Second Coordination Meeting.

The updated Joint Workplan proposed by the IWG-MSP should also be considered by the Second Coordination Meeting, bearing in mind the limited contribution received on its update.

The Second Coordination Meeting should decide on the future of the IWG-MSP and on how to proceed with the relevant work.

**Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP**

**Section 1 – Priority Actions (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.1 Networks	6.1.1	To actively participate in networks and groups, and strengthen synergies between relevant networks related to marine spatial planning and the designation of special areas in the Mediterranean, including through: a) the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) for other measure related to Marine Special Planning (MSP), b) the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) for other measure related to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Specially Protected Areas of	3	1	UfM Blue Economy and Environment dossiers/agendas	UfM			
					Ipieca Environment group	Ipieca	Ongoing  Started mid-2024, and ongoing	In-house meetings expertise,	Ongoing  Ipieca’s Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services working group is joint with IOGP and IOGP have input to a consultation on protecting the marine environment.  Ongoing  Ipieca recently started a Marine Net Positive Impact task force, which will be looking at marine biodiversity aspects of Ipieca members’ activities.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

		<p>Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Environmentally or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA)  c) REMPEC, for other measures related to Special Areas under MARPOL and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)</p>			<p>Technical Group among the institutional representatives of the 10 countries of the WestMED sub-basin, aiming at jointly tackling the environmental challenge, through the topic of Sustainable Maritime Transport and Alternative Fuels</p>	WestMED	Ongoing	<p>In-house meetings expertise,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The WestMED established the Technical Working Group on Green Shipping whose achievement thus far is presented in this link: <a href="https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/green-shipping/">https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/green-shipping/</a>.</p> <p>REMPEC has joined meetings held by the TG since April 2023. Recently stakeholders within the WestMED established a project proposal (PLEINMED) submitted for funding under INTERREG Next Med, in which REMPEC is a partner.</p> <p>WestMED experts to also create the link with the Community of Practice on MSP in the Mediterranean. More info: <a href="https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/maritime-spatial-planning/">https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/maritime-spatial-planning/</a>.</p> <p>The WestMED TG of Aquaculture (AquaWEST) also involves MSP under its main priorities, through capacity-building. More info: <a href="https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/aquawest/">https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/aquawest/</a>.</p> <p>A new WestMED TG of Sustainable Tourism has been recently launched, whose goals are related to MPAs-SPAMIs-EBSA. More info: <a href="https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-tourism/">https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-tourism/</a>.</p>
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Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.2 Capacity	6.2.1	To implement targeted technical cooperation and Capacity-building activities, in the Mediterranean to address implementation issues	2	1	Ipieca Oil Spill group	Ipieca			Ipieca does not work on these topics.



Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

		<p>related to designation of special areas namely :</p> <p>a) Special areas under MARPOL</p> <p>b) PSSAs</p> <p>c) Traffic separation schemes (TSS) and other ship routeing systems</p>			<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>1.4.2.a) Technical support and capacity building provided up to 6 CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.</p> <p>1.4.2.b) Support provided for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA).</p> <p>1.4.2.c) Technical and Feasibility Study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI prepared under the guidance of the Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA Technical Committee of Experts; related roadmap prepared.</p>	REMPEC	2024-2025	<p>In-house expertise, consultancy, national workshops, conference services, venue, travel arrangements, regional meeting</p>	<p>This relates to activity 1.4.2. (Support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, facilitating the entry into effect of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA), and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO<sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025.</p> <p>REMPEC continues to provide technical support and capacity-building to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI. REMPEC will be carrying out National Workshops on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI in Algeria (TBC) and Egypt, which will be financed by the voluntary contribution from the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE). In addition, REMPEC will be carrying out a National Workshop on the implementation of MARPOL Annex VI in Morocco, which will be financed by the IMO's Integrated Technical</p>
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Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

									<p>Cooperation Programme (ITCP).</p> <p>Support has already been provided by REMPEC for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA, through the organisation of a Regional Workshop in May 2024 and the preparation of a draft Guidance Document; the contents of which was approved by the said workshop.</p> <p>REMPEC has partnered with a number of Governments and stakeholders in the Mediterranean to submit a Project Proposal under the INTERREG NEXTMED Programme, named Piloting Low Emissions in the Mediterranean (PLEINMED), with the aim to secure funding to implement capacity-building activities related to low emissions.</p> <p>The work of the NECA TCE has also been coordinated by REMPEC in 2024 with Phases 1 to 2c so far completed.</p> <p>Following the preparation and validation of the related Terms of Reference (ToRs) by the NECA TCE, a detailed Technical and Feasibility Study to assess</p>
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Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
									the relevant existing and on-going studies as well as to examine the possible designation of the Med NO <sub>x</sub> ECA pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, including health and socio-economic impacts on the Mediterranean region and the individual CPs, will be prepared in 2024.

Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

**Section 2 – Actions for which there is a need identified, but no activity offered (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.4	6.4.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs having coordinated with relevant national competent authorities</li> </ul>		1					
6.4	6.4.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPs concerned consulted</li> </ul>		2					
6.4 Governance	6.4.2a	to assess the feasibility to designate the Mediterranean region as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV Prevention of pollution by sewage, and to submit the related proposal to IMO, as appropriate including an assessment on the inclusion of black and grey water,		3					
6.4	6.4.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to continue assessing the feasibility of the designation of certain areas the Mediterranean, as PSSA, and to submit the related proposals to IMO, as appropriate,</li> </ul>		1					

Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.4 Governance	6.4.2c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to propose additional appropriate routing systems in the Mediterranean to IMO, where necessary, for possible adoption in accordance with international law;</li> </ul>		1					
6.4 Governance	6.4.2d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to draw up plans to deal with ships in distress, including, appropriate equipment and means, as required, and have defined the modalities of the response according to its nature and to the risk incurred;</li> </ul>		1					
6.4	6.4.3	To take into account conservation management recommendations as described in ACCOBAMS Resolution 7.12		2					
6.5 Ratification /	6.5.1	To ensure through appropriate national laws and regulations and institutional arrangements proper implementation, compliance monitoring and enforcement of domestic legislation of IMO measures related to PSSAs, routing systems and Special Areas under MARPOL		2					

Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.6	6.6.1	To develop a national work plan to execute the development and implementation of PSSA, routing systems and Special Areas under MARPOL		1					
6.12 Standards / Guidelines	6.12.1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance Document for Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regard to identifying and designating Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance</li> </ul>	1	1	<p>REMPEC:</p> <p>3.1.2.2 Technical assistance provided and capacities strengthened on the identification and designation of PSSA, if any, in strict compliance with the applicable IMO Guidelines.</p>	REMPEC-SPA/RAC	2021-2022	In-house expertise, consultancy	<p>Completed.</p> <p>This relates to activity 3.1.2.2 (Identify Particular Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)) of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2020-2021.</p> <p>REMPEC prepared a guidance document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), in cooperation with SPA/RAC, which was financed by the funds available under the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and the then Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection (IMELS). It is available at the following weblink: <a href="https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_spamis/rapport_guidance_spami_en.pdf">https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_spamis/rapport_guidance_spami_en.pdf</a>.</p>

Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.12	6.12.1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised guidelines for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) (resolution A.982(24));</li> </ul>		2					
6.12	6.12.1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance note on the preparation of proposals on ships' routing reporting systems (MSC.1/Circ.1060, as amended);</li> </ul>		2					
6.12 Standards /	6.12.1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedure for the submission of documents containing proposals for the establishment of, or amendments to, ships' routing systems or ship reporting systems (MSC.1-Circ.1608); and</li> </ul>		2					
6.12	6.12.1e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Guidelines for vessel traffic services, including Guidelines on Recruitment, Qualifications and Training of VTS Operators (A.857(20)).</li> </ul>		1					

Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.12 Standards / Guidelines	6.12.2	To consider the recommendations from the “joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop on how the data and process used to identify important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist in identifying areas of high risk for ship strikes” (6-7 April 2019, Messinia, Greece) as presented in Annex of the ACCOBAMS Resolution 7.12, and more particularly regarding (i) the process for the designation of a PSSA by IMO at a scale that includes the North West Mediterranean Sea, Slope and Canyon IMMA, plus potentially the Spanish corridor, and (ii) risk reduction measures in the Hellenic Trench .		1					
6.13	6.13.1b	To increase awareness of any decision-support tools available to CPs and industry		1					



Joint Workplan for the IWG-MSP

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.7 Enforcement	6.7.2	To set-up an effective compliance programme incorporating all of the following elements: a) Compliance monitoring through routine inspections, surveys, and/or examinations; b) Detection and policing “patrols“; c) Reporting procedures and incentives, including incentives for self-reporting; d) Adequate investigations of violations reported or otherwise detected; e) A system of adequate sanctions in respect of violations; f) Education and public awareness programmes; and g) Co-operation and co-ordination with other States parties.		1					
6.2 Capacity Building /	6.2.2	To increase awareness on and use, if needed, the Traffic Density Mapping (TDM) services developed and made available by EMSA and aimed at facilitating the marine spatial planning and designation of special areas, where shipping activity has or has no impact on the marine environment	1	1	EMSA:  Traffic density maps are made available to EU maritime authorities through the SafeSeaNet Ecosystem Graphical Interface (SEG), and to the public through the EMODnet Human Activities portal.	EMSA	Continuous	Traffic density maps	Ongoing

**Section 3 – Actions for which there is high demand for support (3 or more CPs), but no support currently available (as identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))**

Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
6.4 Governance	6.4.2a	to assess the feasibility to designate the Mediterranean region as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV Prevention of pollution by sewage, and to submit the related proposal to IMO, as appropriate including an assessment on the inclusion of black and grey water.		3					

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<p><b>Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Intersessional Working Group (IWG) Reporting Template Name of group:</b></p>	<p><i>Intersessional Working Group on Underwater Noise from Ships (CSO 7) (IWG-NOISE).</i></p>
<p><b>Coordinator:</b></p>	<p><i>Carlos Bravo and Valérie Pimentel (OceanCare)</i></p>
<p><b>Participants:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Contracting Parties:</u></b>                  Algeria: Samira Ousalem                  Egypt: Heba Shaarawy                  European Union: Rosa Antidormi, Samy Djavidnia                  France: Florian Expert                  Italy: Fabrizio Borsani, Cristina Farchi                  Malta: Christina Mallia, Kristina Darmanin, Brian Christie                  Morocco: Naoual Zoubair                  Türkiye: Furkan Yaman</p> <p><b><u>Other stakeholders:</u></b>                  Energeo Alliance: Ross Compton                  IMO: Sevtap Ozdogan                  IOGP: Ezzaini Ramli, David Barthelemy, Harvey Johnstone                  Youth Love Egypt Foundation: Noura Nabil                  OceanCare: Carlos Bravo, Lindy Weilgart, Valérie Pimentel                  SPA/RAC: Atef Ouerghi, Anis Zarrouk</p> <p><b><u>REMPEC Secretariat</u></b>                  Ivan Sammut                  Franck Lauwers                  Malek Smaoui</p>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p><i>To discuss the progress and coordination of implementation of relevant actions under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as well as propose and evaluate a Joint Workplan to be agreed by the Second Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the Second Coordination Meeting, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.</i></p>
<p><b>Date of online introductory meetings:</b></p>	<p><i>20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024</i></p>

**A. Key points raised during discussions held within the IWG-NOISE:****1. Importance of addressing a wide range of stakeholders**

Addressing the issue of underwater noise from shipping requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the activities to be developed by the IWG-NOISE. Special emphasis will be placed on considering the diverse perspectives of these stakeholders when developing initiatives, projects, and activities.

**2. IMO Revised URN Guidelines, Experience-Building Phase and GloNoise Partnership Project:**

Since the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (First Coordination Meeting), the IMO Revised Guidelines for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life (MEPC.1/Circ.906) (IMO Revised URN Guidelines) were approved at MEPC 80 in July 2023. In addition, MEPC 81 invited the IMO Member States and international organizations to start collecting information on lessons learned and best practices concerning the application and uptake of the IMO Revised URN Guidelines, using the draft guidance on the experience building phase (EBP) (for the next three years).

The GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Partnership (Project) is a 2-year global IMO initiative in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The objective of the Project is to establish a truly global stakeholders' partnership to assist developing countries in raising awareness, building capacity, defining baselines and collecting information to assist the policy dialogue on mitigation of underwater radiated noise (URN) from shipping. Furthermore, the IMO agreed in principle a draft Action Plan for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping and it will be further discussed for approval at MEPC 82 which will be held from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Participants, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) as well as international and regional organizations are encouraged to share valuable experience with the broader IMO community that can help inform pathways for reducing URN from shipping and consider submitting a paper to following MEPC meetings on their work on URN.

The GloNoise Partnership Project is keen to cooperate with the IWG-NOISE and extend their twin partners of the project with the Mediterranean countries.

**3. Comparative analysis of underwater noise thresholds:**

Since the First Coordination Meeting, the EU has continued its work on developing the implementation of the underwater noise threshold values in EU Member States. The importance of gaining a deeper understanding of the EU's underwater noise thresholds and their operational mechanisms was identified. This understanding is crucial for leveraging the positive experiences associated with these thresholds to support the process of adopting Common Indicators on noise within the framework of UNEP/MAP.

**4. Ship noise baseline measurement stations:**

Several participants emphasized the importance of establishing noise measurement stations to develop a comprehensive database and monitor the trends in noise levels, which are essential for defining the ship noise baseline of the Mediterranean fleet.

**5. Ongoing EU continuous noise monitoring programme /Mediterranean sound maps:**

An EU initiative that is currently in its final stages was presented by the EMSA/EU Commission representative. Sound maps for the entire Mediterranean region were developed by utilising actual underwater noise data and modelling.

Additionally, a foresight component by considering various scenarios for 2050 was incorporated: a. Business as usual; b. If GHG emission measures were effectively implemented; c. If underwater noise reduction measures were effectively implemented; d. If both, GHG and underwater noise emission measures were effectively implemented.

The report will be available in October. If CPs are interested in specific data, EMSA can provide them.

The possibility was considered that the IWG-NOISE could be provided with a comprehensive explanation of the study's results and potential collaboration opportunities following prior consultations with EMSA and the EU Commission.

**6. Importance of highlighting the interlinkages with other environmental impacts**

The need to focus on interlinkages between mitigation measures of underwater noise and reduction measures for other environmental impacts, such as GHG emissions was highlighted. This will enable to develop more efficient strategies and implement technical as well as operational measures with multiple environmental benefits. Two of the mentioned measures were wind propulsion and speed reduction measures, as such alternative technologies or operational measures would not only reduce noise but could also increase energy efficiency.

**7. Identification of best practices and benchmark initiatives and evaluation of their feasibility for the Mediterranean region**

The need for identifying benchmark projects globally as well as other programs of various types of incentives was identified to assess their viability for the Mediterranean region, such as the ECHO project in Vancouver.

**8. Raise awareness and increase knowledge with all potential stakeholders related to the maritime sector**

The importance of raising awareness and organizing informative events about underwater noise from shipping was highlighted, with a joint webinar for a broad range of stakeholders related to the maritime sector proposed as a potential activity.

**B. Identified gaps (actions where no activity is taking place):**

There was a very limited number of reported activities.

The IMO representative introduced the IMO Revised URN Guidelines, the ongoing EBP and the GloNoise Partnership Project.

The EMSA/EU Commission representative reported about the ongoing project on monitoring continuous underwater noise, which would be able to provide sound maps for the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, the EU Member States, are also obliged to implement the newly adopted EU underwater noise threshold values.

In this context, a need for development of new activities in all influence areas was agreed. In particular, the need for baseline ship noise measurement stations was commented by several members.

**C. Priority areas of action:**

The IWG-NOISE has so far focused exclusively on the continuous underwater noise from ships, therefore the priority activities proposed are within the framework of this issue: (see section F of this document).

Other new and emerging issues not covered by other IWGs may need to be considered in the future by the IWG-NOISE that would then need to be renamed accordingly to reflect this.

**D. Updated Joint Workplan:**

An updated Joint Workplan is appended. The number of identified activities in updated Joint Workplan is limited as the Action Plan associated with the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) had not identified any concrete actions related to underwater noise. Therefore, the IWG-Noise suggests adjusting the Joint Workplan with the recommendations in section F.

**E. Next steps for the IWG-NOISE:****1. Schedule Quarterly Meetings for the IWG-NOISE:**

Organize four regular meetings throughout the year, i.e. one at the start of each quarter to ensure consistent progress and coordination.

**2. Enhance Participation:**

Broaden the group's composition by re-inviting CPs and relevant stakeholders as well as extending invitations to additional members who meet the required criteria.

**3. Execute Approved Activities:**

Implement the activities outlined in the Joint Workplan that would be submitted to the Second Coordination Meeting, for consideration, focusing on the recommendations provided below.

**F. Recommendations and conclusions to present to the Second Coordination Meeting:****Conclusions:**

The composition of the group needs to be extended to ensure greater representation of CPs and relevant stakeholders.

Very limited ongoing activities were reported. There is a need and great potential to develop activities in all “areas of influence” to address underwater radiated noise from shipping.

A need to advance in the harmonization of measures for measuring underwater noise was identified.

Importance of taking advantage of other environmental benefits that could be achieved through the implementation of different technical and operational measures to reduce underwater radiated noise from shipping.

**Recommendations:****1. Establishment of regular meetings**

The IWG-NOISE recommends holding regular meetings throughout the year, i.e. one at the start of each quarter to coordinate joint activities and ensure consistency. Additionally, extraordinary meetings may be convened for special occasions, such as presentations, upon prior consultation with the IWG-NOISE members.

**2. The IWG-NOISE recommends adjusting the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) regarding continuous underwater noise from shipping under CSO 7, as appropriate:****7.1-3 People / Capacity Building**

Organisation of a webinar on mitigation of underwater noise from shipping for any potential stakeholders related to the maritime sector to learn about the issue of underwater noise from shipping and from the EBP data.

**7.4-7 Institutions / Implementation:**

Within the framework of the EBP of the IMO Revised URN Guidelines, it is important to share valuable insights with the broader IMO community to help shape effective pathways for reducing URN from shipping.

Consider submitting a paper to upcoming MEPC meetings detailing the IWG-NOISE members' work on underwater noise from shipping. The IWG-NOISE can serve as a coordinating body to facilitate the drafting of this joint paper for MEPC 83, consolidating the experiences of CPs and other relevant stakeholders.

**7.8-11 Infrastructure / Port Facilities / Surveillance and Monitoring:**

Mapping of existing ship noise baseline measurement stations and assessment of implementation of new ones in CPs.

Propose studying the creation of Quiet Corridors on certain maritime routes with the aim of progressively reducing the emission of underwater noise on these routes (this could also be both

Quiet and Green Corridors, noting the interlinkages between URN mitigation measures and GHG reduction measures).

**7. 12-15 Information and Knowledge sharing / Standards and Guidelines:**

Invite the EU Commission (TG-Noise) to give an in-depth explanation to the IWG-NOISE and have a discussion on the EU underwater noise thresholds and assess the possibility of conducting a comparative analysis with the UNEP/MAP candidate common indicators for underwater noise.



## Joint Workplan for the IWG-NOISE

Section 1 –Actions to be identified by the IWG (no priority actions identified during the First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031))

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
7	7.2	7.2.1	<b>Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation</b>			GloNoise Partnership Project	IMO	2023-2025	Workshops, reports, experience and knowledge sharing	ongoing
7	7.6		<b>Implementation</b>			Implementation of threshold values in EU countries	EU Member States / European Commission	2023 - tbd	Member States decide at (sub) regional level on the LOBE specific parameters (habitats, indicator species) to assess good environmental status (D11)	ongoing
7	7.15		<b>Research and Development</b>			IMO Revised Guidelines Experience Building Phase	IMO	2023-2026	Workshops, reports, experience and knowledge sharing	ongoing

CSO	Section	Action No.	Action Description	No. activities offered	No. CPs identified need	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of Implementation
7	7.14 7.15		<b>Monitoring and Reporting Obligations / Research and Development</b>		1	Collection of continuous underwater noise data for eventual assessment of related impacts in the marine environment in accordance with the relevant criteria in EU Commission Decision 2017/848/EU laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment	Environment & Resources Authority, Malta	2026 - 2031	Passive acoustic monitoring system	To initiate relevant procurement processes

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