



AGENDA ITEM 3: Biennial Review Report Summary of Key Outcomes

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

Lija, 21 November 2024



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Objectives of analysis

- a review of the key provisions and goals of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- a summary of surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders, including CPs (e.g. maritime authorities), academic institutions, intergovernmental organisations, industry actors, non-governmental organisations, civil society, general public;
- an analysis of the role and contribution of relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- a review of the capacity-building efforts, training programs, and awareness-raising initiatives undertaken by relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031); and
- an identification of the gaps, emerging threats and challenges, as well as areas for improvement in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), including regulatory compliance, enforcement mechanisms, and resource allocation.



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Review informed by

- analysis undertaken in first biennium (2021-2022) following adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- discussions and information gathered on current status of action by the seven Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) which were established by the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), held in Malta, from 29 November to 1 December 2022;
- a qualitative desk-based study to review the sufficiency of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and to identify potential areas for improvement; and
- stakeholder feedback collected through online discussions within the IWGs, REMPEC, and through written feedback on the progress made in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).



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Conclusions

- **The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) is approximately 30 % of the way through; as a new and ambitious approach to address the challenges of ship source pollution in the Mediterranean, it will need time to reach its full potential;**
- **Activities are widespread, but disjointed and uncoordinated;**
- **Many opportunities to increase collaborative working, improving efficiencies and avoiding duplication of efforts;**
- **Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) remains a key tool in tackling some of these issues in the region, however its success is reliant on appropriate engagement and support from all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders; and**
- **huge potential to further improve cooperation on efforts to tackle the main sources of pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, but has also highlighted that there is still much to be done to implement the actions of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and to achieve its vision.**

Recommendations

- .1 There is a need for greater ownership of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and the actions to deliver the seven CSOs, amongst Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders;**
- .2 There is also a need for greater recognition of the ambition behind the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), i.e. that this is not a REMPEC led strategy, but a strategy for all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders, and its success is dependent on taking collective action to address ship source pollution in the Mediterranean;**
- .3 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders should support and encourage active engagement in the IWGs;**
- .4 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should consider the specific and targeted recommendations on the work recommended as set out in the reports of the IWGs;**



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Recommendations

- .5 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should consider the IWGs required to support the delivery of the various CSOs, and if there is a need to combine existing groups (for example to have a unique IWG for CSO 1 instead of the current 2 groups: IWG-PREVENT and IWG-RESPOND due to overlapping and duplication of efforts), or if there is a need to revisit the ToRs for all of the IWG to ensure they are able to be operationalised and support the delivery of the CSOs;**
- .6 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders should consider the upcoming opportunity to define new CSOs during the mid-term review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);**
- .7 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders should consider the reporting approach and additional division of actions in the reporting format of the Action Plan associated to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), seeking to manage the expected workload of reporting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) in future biennium;**

Recommendations

.8 Contracting Parties should consider how the IWGs could be organised so that they are able to review and update the Action Plan and associated actions, to discuss identified support needs raised by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, alongside activities being organised / offered by relevant stakeholders (including training opportunities, funding, and capacity-building), considering how best to raise awareness of existing opportunities, and also how to highlight requirements for additional support, towards better implementation of the actions of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

.9 Contracting Parties should take note of the work being undertaken in other regional and international organisations, considering if there is a need to revisit any of the CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) to reflect developments in understanding in readiness for the mid-term review; and

.10 To support better coordination nationally, regionally and internationally, relevant stakeholders should regularly engage in the IWGs set up under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).



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Thank you

Jennifer Godwin
Marine Environmental Consultant
jennifergodwin@jkgmarine.com