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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

7 May 2021
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Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points

Videoconference, 27-28 May and 6-7 October 2021

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 adopted by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2021), the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points is organised in two sessions via videoconference: 27-28 May and 6-7 October 2021.
2. The main objective of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting is to review the progress on the implementation of PoW activities carried out during the 2020-2021 biennium, and the status of implementation of the pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention including its monitoring and assessment aspects which are under the MED POL Programme responsibility.
3. The Meeting will review and expected to approve a number of documents and address issues related to key aspects of the MED POL mandate such as:
 - a. Updated annexes of the LBS and Dumping Protocols.
 - b. Regional Plans for Wastewater Treatment, Sewage Sludge Management and the updating of the Marine Litter Regional Plan.
 - c. Mid-Term evaluation of the Implementation of the National Action Plans.
 - d. Implementation of IMAP for Pollution and Litter cluster including harmonization and standardization of IMAP pollution cluster monitoring, and cross-cutting issues related to integration and aggregation rules for IMAP Ecological Objectives 5, 9 and 10, as well as assessment criteria for contaminants, nutrients and marine litter.
 - e. Several technical guidelines to support sound marine pollution assessment of levels and loads addressing both LBS and Dumping protocols related activities.
4. The Meeting will also review proposed activities to be implemented during the next biennium for inclusion in the MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 under Thematic Programme (1) “Towards a Pollution and Litter Free Mediterranean Sea and Coast Embracing Circular Economy,” as well as Foundational Programme (5) “Governance” and Enabling Programme (6) “Together towards a Shared Knowledge and Foresight of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast” of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, which will be executed by MED POL.
5. For the first session of the Meeting in May, the agenda will include those items which are expected for submission to the MAP Focal Points and ECAP Coordination Group Meetings, while the second session in October will address all remaining agenda items.
6. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

7. The Meeting will be opened at 10:00 AM (EST) on Thursday 27 May 2021 by Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda items 2 and 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Organizational Matters

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/1</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/2</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.1/Rev.1</i>

a) Rules of Procedure

8. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present Meeting.

b) Election of Officers

9. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points will elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur.

c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

10. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.509/1 and annotated in the present document (UNEP/MED WG.509/2) will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the Meeting including the timetable presented at the end of the present document.

d) Organization of Work

11. The discussions are planned to be held in two separate main sessions (27-28 May and 6-7 October 2021). Each main session consists of two days with three two-hour plenary sessions opening daily at 10:00 AM and closing at 17:30 as per the Meeting Timetable included at the end of the annotated agenda.

12. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for all sessions. All documentation will be in English and French. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session. The Meeting will be recorded for future reference.

13. It is envisaged to close the first main session of the Meeting at 17:30 on 28 May 2021 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations. The second main session of the Meeting will open on Wednesday 6 October at 10:00 and will close on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 17:30 further to adopting its corresponding Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda item 4: Progress achieved regarding implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-2021 related to Land-Based Pollution and Governance Themes

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/3</i>
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14. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/3 which summarizes the status of implementation of the main activities carried out by the Secretariat (MED POL) during the current biennium.

15. The Meeting will be asked to review the progress and approve as appropriate the work carried out for the implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-2021.

Agenda item 5: Updates of the annexes of the pollution-related protocols:

- a) **Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol**
- b) **Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/4</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/5</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.3</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.4</i>

16. With regards to point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/4 on Proposals for Updating the Annexes to the LBS Protocol. This document was reviewed and agreed by the Expert Working Group Meeting held in 10 December 2020. The Secretariat conducted additional in-depth analysis, as requested by the Group, to ensure consistency throughout the changes introduced during and after the Working Group Meeting, particularly pertaining to Annex IV.

17. With regards to point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/5 on Proposals for Updating the Annex to the Dumping Protocol. The document was reviewed and agreed by the Expert Working Group Meeting held in 09 February 2021. The Working Group recommended its submission to MED POL Meeting for its consideration

18. The Meeting is expected to review and approve Documents UNEP/MED WG.509/4 and UNEP/MED WG.509/5 and recommend their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for their consideration.

Agenda item 6: Review of the new/upgraded Regional Plans in accordance with Article 15 of the LBS Protocol on:

- a) **Urban Wastewater Treatment**
- b) **Sewage Sludge Management**
- c) **Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/6</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/7</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/8</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.3</i>

19. With regards to point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/6 “Draft Regional Plan for Urban Wastewater Treatment” as concluded by the Second Working Group Meeting for the consideration of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

20. With regards to point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/7 “Draft Regional Plan for Sewage Sludge Management” as concluded by the Second Working Group Meeting for the consideration of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

21. With regards to point (c) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/8 “Draft Updated Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean” as concluded by the Second Working Group Meeting for the consideration of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

22. The Meeting is expected to discuss the comments raised and review the recommendations proposed by the Working Groups for each of the three Regional Plans; and approve their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting.

Agenda item 7: Indicator-based midterm evaluation of the implementation of National Action Plans/Programme of Measures (2015-2020)

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/9</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED.WG.509/Inf.19</i>

23. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/9, “Indicator-based Midterm Evaluation of the Implementation of National Action Plans/Programme of Measures (2015-2020)”, as requested by Decision IG.22/8 to monitor the progress of implementation of NAPs using NAP/H2020 Indicators.

24. The Meeting is expected to review and approve the document for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting.

Agenda item 8: Cross-Cutting Issues - the Integration and Aggregation Rules for IMAP Ecological Objectives 5, 9 and 10 and Assessment Criteria for Contaminants, Nutrients and Marine Litter

- a) **Integration and Aggregation Rules for Monitoring and Assessment of IMAP Pollution and Marine Litter Cluster;**
- b) **Updated Baseline Values and Proposal for Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22;**
- c) **Background (Assessment) Concentrations (BC/BAC) for Common Indicator 17 and Upgraded Approach for Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) for IMAP Common Indicators 17, 18 and 20;**
- d) **Assessment Criteria Methodology for IMAP Common Indicator 13: Pilot Application in Adriatic Sub-region.**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/10</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/11</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/12</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/13</i>

25. With regards to point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/10 “Integration and Aggregation Rules for Monitoring and Assessment of IMAP Pollution and Marine Litter Cluster.”

26. With regards to point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/11 “Updated Baseline Values and Proposal for Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22” with the view to further updating the marine litter assessment criteria and related baseline values for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10). The Secretariat will present the updated Baseline Values (BV) and will recommend Threshold Values (TV) for IMAP EO10 Common Indicator 22 (beach marine litter).

27. With regards to point (c) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/12 “Background (Assessment) Concentrations (BC/BAC) for Common Indicator 17 and Upgraded Approach for Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) for IMAP Common Indicators 17, 18 and 20.”

28. With regards to point (d) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/13 “Assessment Criteria Methodology for IMAP Common Indicator 13: Pilot Application in Adriatic Sub-region.”

29. Based on the discussions and agreement reached by the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (26-28 April 2021), the Meeting is expected to discuss the documents under points (a), (c) and (d), with a view to approving and recommending their submission to the 8th EcAp Coordination Group, acknowledging their status as evolving documents and the need for their further elaboration in close collaboration with CORMONs and online working groups.

30. Based on the discussions and agreement reached by the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring Marine Litter (30 March 2021), the Meeting is expected to discuss and endorse the document under point (b) and approve its submission to the 8th EcAp Coordination Group.

Agenda item 9: MED POL Programme of Work 2022-2023

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/14</i>
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31. Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/14 that lists and briefly describes the proposed MED POL Programme of Work for the biennium 2022-2023.

32. The Meeting will be asked to review and approve as appropriate the proposed Programme of Work and mandate the Secretariat to integrate it in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work proposal for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting.

Agenda item 10: Any other business (in relation to agenda items 1 to 10)

33. Under this Agenda item, the participants will be able to raise any other business related to the agenda items covered in Part I of the Meeting.

Agenda item 11: Conclusions and recommendations (in relation to agenda items 1 to 10)

34. Under this Agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations related to the agenda items covered in Part I of the Meeting that will result from the Meeting discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 12: Harmonization and standardization of IMAP Pollution Cluster Monitoring:

- a) **Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 23**
- b) **Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Analytical Quality Assurance and Reporting Monitoring Data for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20**
- c) **Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Floating Microplastics**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/15</i> <i>to</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/34</i>
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35. With regards to point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present documents UNEP/MED WG.509/15 to UNEP/MED WG.509/31 as agreed by the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (1-3 December 2020), and the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (26-28 April 2021).

36. With regards to point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce documents UNEP/MED WG.509/32 and UNEP/MED WG.509/33 as agreed by the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (26-28 April 2020).

37. With regards to point (c) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/34 “Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Floating Microplastics” as agreed by the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine (March 2021).

38. The Meeting is expected to review and approve the Monitoring Guidance/Protocols under (a) and (b) in order support application of integrated comprehensive analytical practices to ensure the representativeness and accuracy of the analytical results needed for generation of quality assured monitoring data.

39. The Meeting is expected to discuss and endorse the document under point (c) and approve its submission to the 8th EcAp Coordination Group.

Agenda item 13: Common methodologies on estimation techniques for the National Baseline Budget (NBB) of pollutants related to:

- a) **Non-point source releases from agriculture**
- b) **Point source releases from aquaculture**
- c) **Non-point source releases from catchment runoffs**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/35</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/36</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.509/37</i>
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40. With regards to point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/35 “Guideline on estimation techniques and applied methodologies for non-point source releases from agriculture.”

41. With regards to point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/36 “Guideline on estimation techniques and applied methodologies for point source releases from aquaculture.”

42. With regards to point (c) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/37 “Guideline on estimation techniques and applied methodologies for non-point source releases from catchment runoffs.”

43. Further to the review and agreement on documents under Agenda items (a), (b) and (c) by the Meeting of National Baseline Budget Methodologies, Assessments of new Regional Plans and Evaluation of National Action Plans under the LBS Protocol (22-23 April 2021), the Meeting is expected to review and approve the three guidelines and recommend their use at the national level.

Agenda item 14: Review of assessments for development of three new Regional Plans in accordance with Article 15 of the LBS Protocol for the biennium 2022-2023 on:

- a) **Agricultural practices and discharged pollutants reaching the Mediterranean marine environment**
- b) **Aquaculture practices in the Mediterranean and their impact on the marine environment**
- c) **State of urban storm water management in the Mediterranean**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/38</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/39</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/40</i>

44. With regards to point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/38 “Agricultural practices and discharged pollutants reaching the Mediterranean marine environment” with the aim of providing data and information fit for purpose of elaborating appropriate measures for development of the new Regional Plan for Agriculture Management.

45. With regards to point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/39 “Aquaculture practices in the Mediterranean and their impact on the marine environment” with the aim of providing data and information fit for purpose of elaborating appropriate measures for development of the new Regional Plan for Aquaculture Management.

46. With regards to point (c) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.509/40 “State of urban storm water management in the Mediterranean” with the aim of providing data and information fit for purpose of elaborating appropriate measures for development of the new Regional Plan for Urban Storm Water Management.

47. Further to the review and agreement on documents under Agenda items (a), (b) and (c) by the Meeting of National Baseline Budget Methodologies, Assessments of new Regional Plans and Evaluation of National Action Plans under the LBS Protocol (22-23 April 2021), the Meeting is expected to review and approve the three documents, as appropriate, to be used as “background documents” in the preparation of the corresponding new Regional Plans for Agriculture, Aquaculture and Storm Water Management in the Biennium 2022-2023.

Agenda item 15: Methodologies and techniques for the assessment and monitoring of adverse impacts of dumping activities

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/41</i>
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48. Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/41 “Methodologies and techniques for the assessment and monitoring of adverse impacts of dumping activities.”

49. Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.509/42 “Compendium of Best Environmental Practices for Implementation of Dumping Protocol.”

50. Further to the review and agreement of the two documents by the Joint Meeting with IMO on Sharing the Best Practices for Implementation, Compliance and Enforcement related to Dumping Protocol (2 March 2021), Meeting expected to review and approve the both documents and recommend their use at national and regional level.

Agenda item 16: Any other business

51. Under this Agenda item, the participants and the Secretariat will be able to raise any other business related to the subject of the Meeting.

Agenda item 17: Conclusions and recommendations

52. Under this Agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the Meeting discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 18: Closure of the Meeting

53. The Chair will close the Meeting at 17:30 hours on 7 October 2021.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Thursday 27 May, 2021		Related documents
09:45 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:15 – 10:30	Agenda items 2 & 3: Election of Officers, Adoption of the Agenda and Organizational of Work	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/1 UNEP/MED WG.509/2 UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.1</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda item 4: Progress achieved regarding implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-2021 related to Land-Based Pollution and Governance Themes.	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/3</i>
10:30 - 12:00	Agenda item 5: Updates of the annexes of the pollution-related protocols: a) Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol. b) Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea.	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/4 UNEP/MED WG.509/5 UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.4</i>
<i>12:00 – 13:00</i>	<i>Break</i>	
13:00 – 15:00	Agenda item 6: Review of the new/upgraded Regional Plans in accordance with Article 15 of the LBS Protocol on: a) Urban Wastewater Treatment. b) Sewage Sludge Management. c) Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/6 UNEP/MED WG.509/7 UNEP/MED WG.509/8 UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.3</i>
<i>15:00 – 15:30</i>	<i>Break</i>	
15:30 – 17:30	Agenda item 6 (continued): Review of the new/upgraded Regional Plans	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/6 UNEP/MED WG.509/7 UNEP/MED WG.509/8 UNEP/MED WG.509/Inf.3</i>
Friday 28 May, 2021		Related documents
10:00 – 11:00	Agenda item 7: Indicator-based midterm evaluation of the implementation of National Action Plans/Programme of Measures (2015-2020)	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/9</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Agenda item 8: Cross-Cutting Issues - The Integration and Aggregation Rules for IMAP Ecological Objectives 5, 9 and 10 and Assessment Criteria for Contaminants, Nutrients and Marine Litter	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/10 UNEP/MED WG.509/11 UNEP/MED WG.509/12 UNEP/MED WG.509/13</i>
<i>12:00 – 12:30</i>	<i>Break</i>	
12:30 – 14:30	Agenda item 8: Cross-Cutting Issues - The Integration and Aggregation Rules for IMAP Ecological Objectives 5, 9 and 10 and Assessment Criteria for Contaminants, Nutrients and Marine Litter	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/10 UNEP/MED WG.509/11 UNEP/MED WG.509/12 UNEP/MED WG.509/13</i>
<i>14:30 – 15:30</i>	<i>Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda item 9: MED POL Programme of Work 2022-2023	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/14</i>
16:30 - 16:45	Agenda item 10: Any other business (<i>in relation to agenda items 1 to 10</i>)	
16:45 – 17:30	Agenda item 11: Conclusions and recommendations (<i>in relation to agenda items 1 to 10</i>)	

6 October, 2021		
10:00 – 12:00	Agenda item 12: Harmonization and standardization of IMAP Pollution Cluster Monitoring: a) Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 23. b) Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Analytical Quality Assurance and Reporting Monitoring Data for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20. c) Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Floating Microplastics.	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/15 to UNEP/MED WG.509/34</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>	
12:30 – 14:30	Agenda item 12 (continued): Harmonization and standardization of IMAP Pollution Cluster Monitoring	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/15 to UNEP/MED WG.509/34</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>	
15:30 - 17:30	Agenda item 12 (continued): Harmonization and standardization of IMAP Pollution Cluster Monitoring	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/15 to UNEP/MED WG.509/34</i>
7 October, 2021		
10:00 – 12:00	Agenda item 13: Common methodologies on estimation techniques for the National Baseline Budget (NBB) of pollutants related to: a) Non-point source releases from agriculture. b) Point source releases from aquaculture. c) Non-point source releases from catchment runoffs.	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/35 UNEP/MED WG.509/36 UNEP/MED WG.509/37</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>	
12:30 – 14:00	Agenda item 14: Review of assessments for development of three new Regional Plans in accordance with Article 15 of the LBS Protocol for the biennium 2022-2023 on: a) Agricultural practices and discharged pollutants reaching the Mediterranean marine environment. b) Aquaculture practices in the Mediterranean and their impact on the marine environment. c) State of urban storm water management in the Mediterranean.	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/38 UNEP/MED WG.509/39 UNEP/MED WG.509/40</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Agenda item 15: Methodologies and techniques for the assessment and monitoring of adverse impacts of dumping activities	<i>UNEP/MED WG.509/41</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>	
15:30 – 15:45	Agenda item 16: Any Other Business	
15:45 – 17:30	Agenda item 17: Conclusions and recommendations	
17:30	Agenda item 18: Closure of the Meeting	