



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.519/2



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

27 January 2022
English only

Fourth Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

Teleconference, 23 November 2021

Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Table of Contents

Report of the Meeting	1-6
Annex I: List of Participants	
Annex II: Agenda of the Meeting	
Annex III: Conclusions and Recommendations	

Provisional Agenda

1. At the invitation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean was established on the 6th September 2016 (hereafter referred to as Marine Litter Platform). It aims to provide coordinated support and guidance to the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (hereafter referred to as RPML) as well as to establish a forum for consultation, exchange of good practices, and solutions seeking. It is implemented through the establishment, on a voluntary basis, of an open-ended group of regional and international partners with mandates and activities contributing to the environmentally sound management of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

2. In this context, at the invitation of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, representatives of 16 organizations around the Mediterranean, actively involved on several aspects of marine litter management and assessment, participated in 4th Meeting of the Marine Litter Platform held by teleconference on 23 November 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review the progress achieved against the 2018 joint work plan, as well as to develop and agree on a joint work plan for the 2022-2023 biennium.

Participation

3. The following organizations attended the meeting: the European Environment Agency (EEA), GRID-Arendal, the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), the Institute of Water Slovenia (IWS), the International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITS) /COISPA Technology and Research, L'Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), the Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Ministry of Environment Morocco, Plastics Europe, RETORNA, the University of Siena (UNISI), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Turkey, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) along with the following Mediterranean Action Plan Components: the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

4. The full list of participants is included in **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

5. The Meeting was opened on Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 10:00 a.m. by Mrs. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

6. The Coordinator welcomed all participants and thanked them for their continued interest in supporting the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter and for their dedication to enhancing the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan towards a litter-free Mediterranean. The Coordinator informed members of the Platform on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter, and its upgraded version submitted for adoption to the upcoming COP 22 (7-10 December 2021, Antalya, Turkey). She explained the very ambitious package of reduction and prevention measures focusing on circular economy, as well having a strong role to protect the biodiversity and improve the monitoring of marine litter around the Mediterranean. The Coordinator also highlighted the new link of the RPML related to the use of plastic additives which are addressed in the framework of UNEP Stockholm Convention. She informed the meeting participants that a formal follow-up meeting will be organized in the framework of the Marine Litter Platform in early summer 2022.

7. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda. The Meeting Agenda is included in **Annex II** to the present report.

Agenda Item 2: Organizational matters

8. Recalling the Terms of References (ToRs) and relevant mandate of the Marine Litter Platform, Mr Mohamad Kayyal, UNEP/ MAP MED POL Programme Management Officer invited all participants for a *tour-de-table* whereby all participants briefly introduced themselves and explained the mandate of their respective organizations.

Agenda Item 3: Progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform's Joint Work Plan, and of activities by each Platform member

9. Under this agenda Item Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis, UNEP/MAP MED POL Associate Programme Management Officer, presented the 2018 Joint Work Plan of the Marine Litter Platform, and pointed out the respective six common areas of priority: (i) mapping of processes, initiatives and mandates to allow higher effectiveness and better coordination of the collective responses to marine litter challenges; (ii) harmonization and standardization of monitoring and assessment methodologies; (iii) contribution to and promote effective waste management schemes and use of prevention tools, taking of related socio-economic aspects; (iv) assessment and prevention of marine litter impacts on biodiversity, especially in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); (v) assess socio-economic impacts of marine litter, including microplastics, highlighting impacts of marine litter and microplastics on human livelihood; and (vi) education, awareness-raising and capacity building.

10. Following this introduction, Mr. Ioakeimidis invited participants to present the progress achieved and relevant developments on behalf of their organizations against the agreed 2018 Joint Work Plan. The participants were invited to provide a brief but comprehensive presentation on their organizations' mandates, recent activities, future plans and actions taken related to marine litter management.

11. The European Environment Agency (EEA) representative presented an overview of the work carried out in different areas, mostly linked with monitoring and the collection of marine litter data, and the EU-related frameworks i.e. Green Deal, Circular Economy, Zero Pollution Action Plan, and on other EU Directives under development including the one on microplastics. He stressed the importance that EEA is giving to the collection of marine litter data to be further integrated into knowledge and assessments and to provide policy-linked information in the EU context and framework. He also mentioned the current work on marine litter indicators supported by riverine indicators and connected to the source information, aiming to assess marine litter from source to sea.

12. The representative of the Ministry of Environment of Morocco stressed the importance of the support received from UNEP/MAP in the framework of various projects, including the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II project. Specific reference was made on the expansion in implementation of the Adopt-a-Beach and Fishing-for-Litter pilots projects, including the preparation of local waste management plans.

13. The representative of GRID-Arendal presented the organization to the members; a non-profit environmental communication center, partner of UNEP. He indicated that the organization transforms environmental data into science-based information products and provides capacity-building services. The organization works in collaboration with UNEP and other partners around the world. The team of waste and marine litter works to support global policy development, as for example in the framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, producing materials for UNEA, developing material for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), supporting the Regional Seas Conventions, UNEP/MAP RPML, Caspian Sea, contributing with national input to Norway, promoting clean-up campaigns, and TEDx talks. He stated that the pillar of the association is to advance knowledge transfer.

14. The representative of the Hellenic Marine Environment Protect Association (HELMEPA) presented the organization, based in Athens, with 40 years of operations working on environmental protection on maritime activities, performing seminars trainings and awareness-raising including on the topic of marine litter. He indicated that the organization is member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Committees for the Protection of the Marine Environment (MEPC) and Maritime Safety (MSC) as well as in Working Groups developing new legislation. He reported to the members the work on the development of best practices for fishing vessels, the delivery of Port Reception Facilities (PRF) and the certification from Cyprus maritime administration on the awareness of the Marine Litter. He mentioned the ongoing project for port authorities and local authorities and other entities to deliver marine environment awareness, the public awareness program in schools having marine litter as a major component and the pilot work with passengers' lines and cruise ships to separate the main waste streams to be recycled. The representative also presented the interest of the organization to collaborate with REMPEC and enhance the issues related to marine litter and port reception facilities.

The representative of the L'Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER) presented the information concerning the implementation of EU MSFD D10 Marine Litter and its contribution to the monitoring and the harmonization of protocols. IFREMER is co-chairing the EU MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML) and is supporting the development of knowledge on marine litter. He mentioned that their work also focuses on the management of marine litter datasets collected in within the framework of the national monitoring programme with a focus on seafloor and floating marine litter, microplastics, as well as on marine litter ingested by marine organisms. The representative also informed that IFREMER developed an application dedicated to store all datasets to facilitate their exploitation to produce regulatory assessments and that the organization is working on microplastics in a process to define threshold values and new indicators.

15. The representative of the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IWRS) informed about their work on monitoring microplastics in marine and freshwater environments and the development of methodologies for sampling on wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), biota and rivers. He gave a brief overview about the awareness raising project called Plastic Pirates and the promotion of beach clean ups executed by the organization. He also mentioned about current work on a technical study for a Marine Environmental Plan for the Ministry of Environment in Slovenia and that the Institute will focus its work on Fishing-for-Litter (FfL) and to prepare a study on how to close the loop of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in 2022.

16. The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) representative shared with the members the involvement of the organization on the work pertinent to documenting the impact of marine litter on sea turtles. He also mentioned their partnership on pilot projects to monitor macro litter in Greece, France Italy and Spain; the work to transfer the relevant guidelines and other protocols; as well the work on the collection of samples from sea turtles to analyze ingested marine litter by sea turtles along with their proposal for *caretta-caretta* to become a species indicator for marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean.

17. The International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITIS)/COISPA representative gave a brief overview about the organization's work, related to the coordination of bottom trawling surveys around the Mediterranean Sea. She indicated that the project assesses the spatial distribution of marine litter on the sea floor and that MEDITIS has developed a survey protocol in the form of an instruction manual to collect and analyze marine litter. She stressed that the collection of information is made on a voluntary basis noting that due to Covid-19 pandemic the surveys could not cover all the trawled areas last year. The representative introduced some information related to the surveys, remarking that marine litter presented a quite constant pattern in the South Adriatic Sea, and reached two peaks in 2014 and 2016. The representative also informed the members that plastic packaging is prevailing over the fishing gear in the sample areas and the most important items found are bags and bottles.

18. The representative of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) mentioned that the organization is working in the interface

of the Mediterranean region, engaging on the harmonization of protocols and data collection, is particularly active in the EU and follow the global process. She mentioned the broad scope of their work, which goes from advocating until performing ground implementation of pilot projects. She noted that MIO-ECSDE is contributing to most of the priority areas of the Marine Litter Platform, except from the monitoring-related aspects. The main project involved with is the Plastic Busters MPA Project which defines and tests methodologies to assess marine litter in MPAs around the Mediterranean. She also made reference to other projects, such as the SUP-free beach bars and to tackle waste generating from aquaculture and fisheries. Additionally, she mentioned the work on awareness raising and research on SUP, specifically to expand SUP Free Horeca scheme in coastal areas of the Mediterranean along with the research study on the quantity and determination of SUP used in hotels and the production and promotion of educational materials for students and educators.

19. The representative of PlasticsEurope informed the participants that she could not share a lot of information and it will only observe the meeting in order to further understand what kind of contribution it could be delivered by the plastic Industry and other sectors represented by the organization.

20. The representative of REMPEC briefed the members about their current work on marine litter, specifically within two major initiatives: (a) the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II project under which the activities for better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas around the Mediterranean, and Port and Reception Facilities (PRF) activities have been carried out; and (b) the cooperation agreement with the Italian Ministry of Environment (IMELS) under which work has been carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro Slovenia, and Albania. He informed the members about their different areas of work, including on policy oriented as well as on more operational. Regarding policy oriented work, reference was made on the development of the regional guidelines to determine the application of charges of reasonable cost for the use of Port Reception Facilities, as well as for the provision of port reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated waste, both approved by COP21 in December 2019. With regards to the operational aspects of work, he informed about the work carried out on the implementation of pilots related to PRF under the Marine Litter MED II project.

21. The representative of Retorna, attending the Marine Litter Platform meeting for first time, presented her organization, a Spanish environmental non-profit and non-governmental institution formed by several organizations with national and international areas of work focusing on advocacy and awareness-raising on zero waste and the problem of beverage container abandoned in the natural and urban environment. She complemented saying that work focuses on the advocacy for the Waste, Packaging Waste, Single-Use-Plastic (SUP) and other relevant legislative processes. She referred their work on the support and advise for the implementation of Deposit Refund Systems (DRS) and complemented mentioning that prevention, reuse and DRS are major instruments to avoid plastics in the Mediterranean, not only applied to plastic bottles but many other items. The representative of Retorna also indicated that along with Surfrider Foundation they are working on microplastics and gave a brief overview on a recent report related to microplastics pellets found in a beach region of Spain.

22. The representative of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (SCP/RAC) presented the work on marine litter which focuses on marine litter prevention from land-based sources of pollution. He pointed out the actions on reduction and prevention performed by SCP/RAC. He mentioned the work on plastic toxicity carried out in the framework of the Stockholm Convention, the work to promote the durability of products, the application of LCA and the work on innovation and promotion of sustainable business models. The representative also referred to their work on the policy framework, SUP guidelines, report on plastic toxicity, circular economy, and the contributions to the Basel Convention. Reference was also made on the work undertaken on capacity building pertinent to phasing out SUPs and the next year's intention to work on microplastic. Additionally, it was referred the activities on the southern countries of the Mediterranean under the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II project, specifically with Tunisia and Morocco and the work with green entrepreneurs performing

benchmark business cases to tackle plastic packaging and introduce preventive measures. He also informed the meeting about the technical assistance to food and beverage companies, and the pilots implemented on the ground such as public procurement in-house waste management practices, Spain reusable glasses, reward system for collection of beverage containers and the work on Blue Med Islands to create community transferring practices.

23. The representative of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) presented their work conducted in the framework of the EU-funded in Marine Litter MED II Project, coordinating the activities to document the impact of marine litter on biota with a particular focus to marine turtles. She noted that the work carried out by the organization includes the definition of the most representative species to be used for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, including a regional protocol and a relevant operational strategy. She also reported on progress made in the development of national monitoring strategies in Lebanon and Tunisia for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator Litter CI 24, as well as in the current work for developing reporting templates, data standards and data dictionaries, baseline and threshold values for IMAP Cand. Indicator 24.

24. The World Wild Foundation – Turkey (WWF) representative presented the two principal areas of work which the organization is focusing on: UNEA.5.2 and plastic smart cities. He referred to the currently work on proposals, baseline studies and action plan related to plastic pollution and smart cities. Furthermore, he mentioned the several reports developed by the organization, including a Deposit Return System (DRS) in Turkey. He also gave a brief overview on the project study on plastic pollution on the coast of Turkey and its intention to extend to other countries and the initiation of a pilot project related to ghost nets in Turkey.

25. The representative of University of Siena and the Plastic Busters MPA project, informed the members about their leadership role in the Plastic Busters project for a Mediterranean free from litter. He indicated that the Plastic Buster project is monitoring marine litter mostly in MPA areas around the Mediterranean, working in 3 MPAs but also engaged with other MPAs conducting mitigation measures. He also stated that a new project called the plastic buster Cup will start soon.

Agenda Item 4: Recent global and regional developments on marine litter and plastic pollution monitoring assessment, prevention and control

26. Under this Agenda Item the UNEP/MAP Secretariat presented to the meeting: (a) the development of measures to combat marine litter at global and regional level, highlighting the upcoming resolution UNEA 5.2 that aims to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a mandate to negotiate a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution; (b) the development in the framework of UNEP's Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and Clean Seas Campaign; (c) how the international convention are linking their work with marine litter and plastic pollution; (d) IMO's action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships; (e) the Plastic Waste Partnership developed in the framework of the Basel Convention; (f) EU-policies on marine litter; and (g) a comprehensive update on the upgraded RPML and its ambitious measures to combat marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean be adopted during the upcoming COP 22 (7-10 December 2021, Antalya, Turkey).

27. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for delivering a comprehensive presentation on the global and regional developments and welcomed her active engagement in most of these developments.

Agenda Item 5: Priorities and activities for consideration in the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan for the Platform

28. Further to the progress presented under Agenda Item 3, the Secretariat presented and shared by e-mail to all meeting participants, a template and a draft proposal for a Joint Work Plan for the period 2022-2023. The template included a link of all presented progress and efforts with the specific measures of the upgraded RPML. Members of the Platform were invited to indicate their ongoing and planned activities for 2022-2023 in fulfillment of the listed activities presented in the template.

29. Furthermore, the Secretariat presented an updated version of the template consolidating all input received by the Meeting participants. The 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan Template will further serve as the basis to monitor the activities performed by the members and the developments on the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan.

30. Following the presentation of the draft Joint Work Template 2022-2023, the floor was opened for discussion. Meeting participants agreed to follow-up in line with the subsequent action points proposed by the Secretariat as presented and elaborated in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting included in **Annex III** to the present report.

31. The 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan Template is included in **Annex III** to the present report.

Agenda Item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

32. The Meeting reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations and adopted them as revised and presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

33. No other business was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

34. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 17:00 on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 by UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme Management Officer.

Annex I
List of Participants

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS

<p>EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (EEA)</p>	<p>Mr. Mustafa Aydin Zero Pollution Expert European Environment Agency (EEA).</p>
<p>GRID-ARENDAL</p>	<p>Mr. Thomas Maes Senior Scientist GRID-Arendal Website: https://www.grida.no/</p> <p>Mr. Clever Mafuta Head of Programme, Waste and Marine Litter GRID-Arendal Tel: +47 468 19 240 Website: https://www.grida.no/</p>
<p>HELLENIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION - GREECE (HELMPEA).</p>	<p>Mr. Constantinos Triantafyllou Head of Strategy & Development Website: https://www.helmepa.gr/</p> <p>Mr. Ioannis Pematzoglou Marine Biologist Website: https://www.helmepa.gr/</p>
<p>INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE RECHERCHE POUR L'EXPLOITATION DE LA MER (IFREMER)</p>	<p>Mr. Francois Galgani Laboratoire Environnement Ressources Provence-Azur-Corse Website: https://wwz.ifremer.fr/</p>
<p>INSTITUTE FOR WATER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA (IWRS)</p>	<p>Mr. Uros Robič Website: http://www.izvrs.si/o-institutu/?lang=en</p>
<p>MEDITERRANEAN ASSOCIATION TO SAVE THE SEA TURTLES (MEDASSET)</p>	<p>Mr. Georgios Sampson Managing Director Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET). Website: https://www.medasset.org/el/</p>
<p>MEDITIS</p>	<p>Mrs. Maria Teresa Paola Spedicato Senior researcher International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITIS)/COISPA</p>
<p>MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE</p>	<p>Mrs. Anastasia Roniotes Head Officer</p>

AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MIO-ECSDE)	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) Website: https://mio-ecsde.org/
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF MOROCCO	Mr. Mohammed El Bouch Secrétariat Général Département de l'Environnement Mr. Soudi Brahim Professor at Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II
PLASTICS EUROPE	Mrs. Sutura Noemi Plastics Europe – Italia.
RECIRCULA	Mr. Eusebio Martínez de la Casa Presidente de Recircula Website: http://recircula.com/ Mr. Andoni Uriarte Technical Director Recircula Website: http://recircula.com/
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)	Gabino Gonzalez Head of Office Website: https://www.rempec.org/en Mr. Franck Lauwers Programme Officer Website: https://www.rempec.org/en
RETORNA	Mrs. Ana Gutierrez Dewar Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer Retorna/Alianca Residuo Cero/Seas At Risk
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP/RAC).	Mr. Enrique Villamore Director Website: http://www.cprac.org/ Mr. Pedro Fernandez Bautista Project manager Website: http://www.cprac.org/
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	Mrs. Lobna BEN NAKHLA Programme Officer - Species Conservation Website: https://www.rac-spa.org/

	<p>Mrs. Marwan ABDERRAHIM Projects Assistant: Species Programme Website: https://www.rac-spa.org/</p>
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UFM)	<p>Mrs. Cristina Cardenete Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). Website: https://ufmsecretariat.org/contact/</p>
UNISI PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAS	<p>Mr. Alessandro Galli Project Manager University of Siena - Plastic Busters MPAs Website: https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu/</p>
WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE - TURKEY	<p>Mr. Tolga Yucel Plastic Projects Manager World Wild Foundation – Turkey Website: https://www.wwf.org.tr/</p>

Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Provisional Agenda

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational matters
- Agenda Item 3:** Progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform's Joint Work Plan, and of activities by each Platform member
- Agenda Item 4:** Recent global and regional developments on marine litter and plastic pollution monitoring assessment, prevention and control
- Agenda Item 5:** Priorities and activities for consideration in the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan for the Platform
- Agenda Item 6:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 7:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 23 November 2021, the 4th Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean was held by videoconference. The meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (MED POL Programme). The Meeting was attended by representatives of the European Environment Agency (EEA), GRID-Arendal, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEA), Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IWS), International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITS) /COISPA Technology and Research, L'Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Ministry of Environment Morocco, Plastics Europe, RETORNA, University of Siena (UNISI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Turkey, as well as MAP Components (SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC and REMPEC), in addition to UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit/ MED POL Programme (Barcelona Convention Secretariat).

The Meeting reviewed progress made by the members of the Platform concerning the implementation of the 2018 Joint Work Plan. An overview of global and regional developments on marine litter was provided by the Secretariat followed by an overview presentation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean to be adopted by the upcoming COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021). Further to its deliberations, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

- The Meeting noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the 2018 Joint Work Plan by the members of the Platform and recommended the adoption of a new Joint Workplan for the Biennium 2022-2023.
- Following a survey of ongoing and planned activities by present members of the Platform vis-à-vis the legal, institutional, policy and technical measures of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, the Meeting agreed to base the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan on the measures included in the updated Regional Plan. A draft copy of the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan is appended to the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting.
- Members of the Platform agreed to indicate their ongoing and planned activities in fulfillment of the listed activities in the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan onto a template prepared by the Secretariat for that purpose. A first version of the template for the 2022-2023 Joint Workplan will be shared by the Secretariat to members of the platform. This template would serve for networking and coordination purposes.
- The completed first Joint Workplan Template constitutes the basis upon which members of the platform will report work progress for indicated activities in the next Platform meeting. The completed template is updated by members of the platform at the end of every Platform Meeting.
- The Meeting agreed to circulate through mail correspondence the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan and its template to the complete list of members of the Platform for input with a deadline of a 10-day period.

- The Meeting agreed that members of the Platform would submit a short report to the Secretariat summarizing progress achieved in implementation of the indicated activities in the Joint Workplan Template one month prior to convening of the next planned Platform Meeting. Provided information will be compiled by the Secretariat for distribution to members of the Platform prior to the meeting.
- The Meeting agreed to convene the 5th Platform Meeting in the 2nd half of June 2022. Specific date would be agreed between members of the platform at least two months before the meeting.

Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

2022-2023 Joint Work Plan Template

Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean <i>2022-2023 Joint Work Plan Template</i>	
Prevention and reduction to the minimum of marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean through legal and institutional frameworks:	<i>Name of contributing organization</i>
1. To contribute to the development of legislation to ensure efficient plastic waste and microplastics reduction and prevention of its generation	
2. To contribute to the establishment of adequate institutional arrangements to ensure efficient plastic waste and microplastics reduction and prevention of its generation	
3. To contribute to the integration of the informal sector ¹ into regulated waste collection and recycling schemes	
4. To contribute to the establishment of regulatory framework for compostable plastics to be integrated into national waste management policies	
5. To contribute to regulating the use of primary microplastics, as appropriate, by promoting voluntary commitments (e.g. certification schemes) or other actions (e.g. legal instruments)	
Application of prevention measures aiming to tackle land- and sea-based sources promoting, to the extent possible and where applicable, a circular economy for plastics:	
6. To phase out consumption and production of single-use plastic products and minimise the risk to end up in the marine environment	
7. To phase-out chemical additives used in plastic products, that may have serious and often irreversible effects on human health and to the environment, and in particular those chemicals already listed under the Stockholm Convention contained as Annex II of the updated Regional Plan	
8. To use recycled plastics and disincentivize the use of plastic, resins and additives which hinder products recyclability	

¹ Informal recycling sector (IRS) refers to individuals or community enterprises who are involved in the recovery of material and waste management activities which are not necessarily sponsored, financed, recognized, supported, organized, or acknowledged by the formal solid waste authorities.

9. To substitute plastics causing substantial impacts on the marine environment with materials with net positive impacts verified by life cycle assessment	
10. To dedicate collection and recycling schemes supported by Extended Producer Responsibility approach for end-of-life products	
11. To contribute to the closure of existing illegal dump sites on land	
12. To contribute to the prevention or reduction of leakage of marine litter during flood seasons and other extreme weather events into the Mediterranean	
13. To explore and implement ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities, or when applicable, apply a No-Special-Fee system	
14. To support efforts for providing ships using ports with updated information relevant to the obligations arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field	
15. To support efforts for preventing and reducing marine litter impact in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)	
16. To contribute to the implementation of “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced fishing catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept”	
17. To contribute to efforts for ensuring that cruise ships flying their flag or entering their ports implement the procedures for minimizing, collecting, storing, processing and disposing of garbage	
18. To promote best practices to prevent plastic waste and particularly single use plastic products in tourism and leisure activities including cruise shipping	
19. To support implementation of measures on prevention, response and remediation regarding marine litter from maritime accidents, including containers lost at sea	
20. To assist in identification of accumulations/hotspots of marine litter at sea	
21. To contribute to the implementation of regular National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns	
22. To participate in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes; ²	
23. To apply ‘Adopt-a-Beach’ and/or ‘Fishing for Litter’ aiming to enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management	
24. To promote best practices aiming to create incentives for fishing vessels to retrieve derelict fishing gear, collect other items of marine litter, and deliver it to port reception facilities	

² e.g. International Coastal Clean-Up Day; the Ocean Day; etc.

25. To support fishing vessels to retrieve derelict fishing gear, collect other items of marine litter, and deliver it to port reception facilities	
26. To support schemes aiming to deliver waste in port reception facilities such as the non-special fee system	
Ensuring that management of marine litter in the Mediterranean is performed in accordance with internationally recognized standards and approaches such as:	
27. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	
28. Safe/formal markets for recycled plastics	
29. Fiscal and economic incentives or other equally effective measures (e.g. market restrictions) to promote the phasing out, of light weight plastic carrier bags and other single-use plastic items	
30. Innovative business practices to prevent plastic waste generation in line with the Extended Producer Responsibility approach	
31. Deposit/Refund System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors	
32. Deposit/Refund System for food and beverage packaging, prioritizing when possible their reuse and recycling including deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastic and aluminium)	
33. Standards for product labelling (including on packaging) to provide consumers with clear and reliable information on sustainable choices	
34. Sustainable Procurement Policies prioritizing the phase out of single-use plastic products and promoting reuse options	
35. Voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of light weight plastic carrier bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers	
36. Procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with the plastic industry in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic and reduce microplastic	
Enhancing Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring based on the ecosystem approach ecological objectives and integrated monitoring programmes:	
37. To promote harmonization and consistency with the regional/national Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programmes (IMAP)	
38. To address aspects and/or support efforts related to litter monitoring originating from riverine inputs	
39. To undertake litter monitoring in high sensitivity areas (e.g., endangered species, key habitats, etc.) and in Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)	
Enhancing knowledge and understanding on marine litter and its impacts:	
40. To undertake initiatives contributing to the involvement of, and partnerships with, various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector (e.g., producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.) and other stakeholders	

41. To support the dissemination of practical tools, such as greening practices and information for entrepreneurs, businesses, civil society organizations and administrations to effectively tackle marine litter problem with specific examples	
42. To encourage the identification of plastic producers in the Mediterranean with the aim of reducing and preventing the generation of plastic waste	

Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

2022-2023 Joint Work Plan

The 2022-2023 Joint Work Plan for the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean consists of measures clustered around five (5) themes aiming to contribute to the implementation of measures in the Updated Marine Litter Regional Plan (submitted for adoption by COP22 (Antalya 7-10 December 2021):

II. Prevention and reduction to the minimum of marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean through legal and institutional frameworks:

1. To contribute to the development of legislation to ensure efficient plastic waste and microplastics reduction and prevention of its generation;
2. To contribute to the establishment of adequate institutional arrangements to ensure efficient plastic waste and microplastics reduction and prevention of its generation;
3. To contribute to the integration of the informal sector³ into regulated waste collection and recycling schemes;
4. To contribute to the establishment of regulatory framework for compostable plastics to be integrated into national waste management policies;
5. To contribute to regulating the use of primary microplastics, as appropriate, by promoting voluntary commitments (e.g. certification schemes) or other actions (e.g. legal instruments).

III. Application of prevention measures aiming to tackle land- and sea-based sources promoting, to the extent possible and where applicable, a circular economy for plastics:

6. To phase out consumption and production of single-use plastic products and minimise the risk to end up in the marine environment;
7. To phase-out chemical additives used in plastic products, that may have serious and often irreversible effects on human health and to the environment, and in particular those chemicals already listed under the Stockholm Convention contained as Annex II of the updated Regional Plan;
8. To use recycled plastics and disincentivize the use of plastic, resins and additives which hinder products recyclability;
9. To substitute plastics causing substantial impacts on the marine environment with materials with net positive impacts verified by life cycle assessment;
10. To dedicate collection and recycling schemes supported by Extended Producer Responsibility approach for end-of-life products;
11. To contribute to the closure of existing illegal dump sites on land;
12. To contribute to the prevention or reduction of leakage of marine litter during flood seasons and other extreme weather events into the Mediterranean;
13. To explore and implement ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities, or when applicable, apply a No-Special-Fee system;
14. To support efforts for providing ships using ports with updated information relevant to the obligations arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field;
15. To support efforts for preventing and reducing marine litter impact in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs);

³ Informal recycling sector (IRS) refers to individuals or community enterprises who are involved in the recovery of material and waste management activities which are not necessarily sponsored, financed, recognized, supported, organized, or acknowledged by the formal solid waste authorities.

16. To contribute to the implementation of “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced fishing catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept;”
17. To contribute to efforts for ensuring that cruise ships flying their flag or entering their ports implement the procedures for minimizing, collecting, storing, processing and disposing of garbage;
18. To promote best practices to prevent plastic waste and particularly single use plastic products in tourism and leisure activities including cruise shipping;
19. To support implementation of measures on prevention, response and remediation regarding marine litter from maritime accidents, including containers lost at sea;
20. To assist in identification of accumulations/hotspots of marine litter at sea;
21. To contribute to the implementation of regular National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns;
22. To participate in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes;⁴
23. To apply ‘Adopt-a-Beach’ and/or ‘Fishing for Litter’ aiming to enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management;
24. To promote best practices aiming to create incentives for fishing vessels to retrieve derelict fishing gear, collect other items of marine litter, and deliver it to port reception facilities;
25. To support fishing vessels to retrieve derelict fishing gear, collect other items of marine litter, and deliver it to port reception facilities;
26. To support schemes aiming to deliver waste in port reception facilities such as the non-special fee system.

IV. Ensuring that management of marine litter in the Mediterranean is performed in accordance with internationally recognized standards and approaches such as:

27. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);
28. Safe/formal markets for recycled plastics;
29. Fiscal and economic incentives or other equally effective measures (e.g. market restrictions) to promote the phasing out, of light weight plastic carrier bags and other single-use plastic items;
30. Innovative business practices to prevent plastic waste generation in line with the Extended Producer Responsibility approach;
31. Deposit/Refund System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors;
32. Deposit/Refund System for food and beverage packaging, prioritizing when possible their reuse and recycling including deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastic and aluminium);
33. Standards for product labelling (including on packaging) to provide consumers with clear and reliable information on sustainable choices;
34. Sustainable Procurement Policies prioritizing the phase out of single-use plastic products and promoting reuse options;
35. Voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of light weight plastic carrier bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers;
36. Procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with the plastic industry in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic and reduce microplastic.

⁴ e.g. International Coastal Clean-Up Day; the Ocean Day; etc.

V. Enhancing Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring based on the ecosystem approach ecological objectives and integrated monitoring programmes:

37. To promote harmonization and consistency with the regional/national Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programmes (IMAP);
38. To address aspects and/or support efforts related to litter monitoring originating from riverine inputs;
39. To undertake litter monitoring in high sensitivity areas (e.g. endangered species, key habitats, etc.) and in Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs).

VI. Enhancing knowledge and understanding on marine litter and its impacts:

40. To undertake initiatives contributing to the involvement of, and partnerships with, various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector (e.g. producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.) and other stakeholders;
41. To support the dissemination of practical tools, such as greening practices and information for entrepreneurs, businesses, civil society organizations and administrations to effectively tackle marine litter problem with specific examples;
42. To encourage the identification of plastic producers in the Mediterranean with the aim of reducing and preventing the generation of plastic waste.