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Roundtable “Enhancing Regional Coordination on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean”

Athens, Greece, 6 September 2016

**Agenda item 4: Partnership for implementing the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the need for coordinated action**

**Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter to facilitate the implementation of the “Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean” adopted by Decision IG.21/7 of COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention, Istanbul, Turkey 2013**

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**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ACCOBAMS</b>	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
<b>CIESM</b>	Mediterranean Science Commission
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention
<b>EEA</b>	European Environment Agency
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GFCM</b>	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
<b>GPA</b>	Global Programme of Action - UNEP
<b>GPML</b>	Global Partnership on Marine Litter
<b>HELMEPA</b>	Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association
<b>IMAP</b>	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>IWRS</b>	Institute of Water of the Republic of Slovenia
<b>JRC</b>	Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
<b>MEDASSET</b>	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
<b>MED POL</b>	UNEP/MAP Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
<b>MEDITS</b>	The International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean
<b>MIO-ECSDE</b>	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
<b>MSFD</b>	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
<b>MSSD</b>	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>RAC</b>	Activity Centers of UNEP/MAP
<b>REMPEC</b>	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
<b>SCP/RAC</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production Activity Centre
<b>SDSN</b>	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
<b>SEIS</b>	Shared Environmental Information System
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SPA</b>	Specially Protected Areas
<b>SPA/BD</b>	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
<b>SPA/RAC</b>	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

<b>SPAMIs</b>	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
<b>SWEEP-NET</b>	Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network in Mashreq and Maghreb countries
<b>TG ML</b>	Technical Group on Marine Litter of the EC MSFD
<b>UNSDS</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
<b>UNEP/MAP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan
<b>WFO</b>	Waste Free Oceans
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Introduction

1. Marine litter is a substantive and an emerging threat for marine and human life, being present in considerable quantities to world's oceans. This is also the case of the Mediterranean Sea where considerable quantities of marine litter are present on seafloor, floating in the water column or stranded on beaches. The Mediterranean Sea is very peculiar as it seems that there are no areas where marine litter permanently accumulate, whereas the constant circulation is favoured. Although useful data on marine litter exist for the entire region and has been recently improved (types, quantities, etc.) data are still inconsistent and geographically restricted in some areas.
2. UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat representing a long standing and unique legal framework for the protection of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean and its sustainable development has addressed marine litter management in its protocols and other different policy and regulatory tools, including assessment. In particular its Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) addresses different aspects of marine litter management including assessment, monitoring and programmes of measures. At the policy level, the 17th meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (COP 17) adopted 11 ecosystem approach-based ecological objectives (EO's) for the Mediterranean to achieve good environmental status of marine and coastal environment, including one EO for Marine Litter. They also adopted the Mediterranean Marine litter strategic framework addressing several aspects of Marine Litter management (COP 17).
3. In this context and with the view to specifically address the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean taking into account the most recent Marine Litter global agenda and commitments including the EU MSFD as appropriate, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat was the first ever Regional Sea Programme that developed and adopted a legally binding Regional Plan on the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, 2013, setting out measures and implementation timetables (here in after referred to as the ML Management Regional Plan).
4. Most of the Mediterranean countries have developed National Action Plans and or Programmes of Measures to address marine litter management as a national response to implement the ML Management Regional Plan to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) adopted by COP 18, Istanbul Turkey, December 2013, and where appropriate, the EU MSFD in line with the relevant global marine litter agenda and commitments.
5. Compared to the National Action Plans (NAPs) endorsed by COP 15 in 2005, the updated NAPs undertook four major innovations:
  - a) Consideration of marine litter issues as a high priority;
  - b) Development of programmes of measures aiming at pollution prevention and control to ensure compliance with the legally binding commitments under the Regional Plans adopted in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol; achieve the relevant ecosystem approach GES targets and the remaining SAP MED targets;
  - c) Identification of a set of indicators to regularly assess implementation of the updated NAP Programmes of Measures and their effectiveness in achieving GES; and
  - d) Application to the extent possible of cost benefit and or effectiveness analysis tools in identifying the most relevant programmes of measures to achieve GES with the view to enhance their financial sustainability and effectiveness.

The updated NAPs considered the Marine Litter Ecological Objective and related GES targets as an important objective and have set up operational reduction targets as well as a variety of marine litter

prevention and reduction measures at policy, regulatory, institutional set up, including enforcement, monitoring as well as and capacity building.

6. In addition to UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat, several regional programmes, organisations, actors and initiatives including the civil society also contribute to the sound management of marine litter in the Mediterranean addressing specific aspects such as monitoring, data collection, research, assessments, management measures on marine litter prevention and reduction, education and awareness.

7. As such, the coordinated work of all regional stakeholders based on comparative advantages and respective competencies and mandates is highly desirable and welcomed with the view to streamlining all efforts and maximizing results in further advancing the marine litter agenda in the region and promote and facilitate the implementation of the ML Management Regional Plan. The need for such coordination among the different actors at regional and national levels is clearly highlighted and provided for the ML Management Regional Plan.

8. The purpose of this document is three fold:

- a. To describe in a summarized but comprehensive way, the key regional/international actors addressing marine litter in the Mediterranean;
- b. To facilitate a discussion among key partners on commonalities and specificities of their mandates and identify the needs for establishing and/or enhancing concrete regional collaboration;
- c. To recommend the main elements for a cost-effective collaboration and coordination mechanism on marine litter and its modalities.

9. The present document aims at stimulating the discussion among all relevant actors and is open for inputs and comments by the partners.

### **Main Marine Litter Management Actors in the Mediterranean**

10. Attempts to prevent, reduce and manage marine litter require the synergy and coordination among all different actors at regional level so that a vast amount of activities, sectors, and sources of marine litter are included so as to put in place effective management measures. For this reason it is very important to have a clear and comprehensive picture on the main marine litter management actors at regional level. There are numerous actors in the Mediterranean which are already contributing and making efforts for a better marine litter management in the region covering different aspects so as to ensure effective implementation of the ML Management Regional Plan. A non-exhaustive list of regional and sub-regional actors with clear mandates on marine litter management is described in Annex I to the present document.

### **Main obligations under the ML Management Regional Plan**

11. UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention is the first ever Regional Sea Programme adopting a legally binding ML Management Regional Plan that addresses marine litter management in a comprehensive and integrated manner with obligations to take different measures at regional and national level. The ML Management Regional Plan is based on Art. 15 and 5 of the LBS Protocol but also on legal obligations deriving from other Protocols of the Barcelona Convention like the Dumping, Prevention and Emergency, SPA and Biodiversity, Offshore and ICZM Protocols, and on COP decisions regarding the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach by MAP.

12. The main objectives of the ML Management Regional Plan are to prevent and reduce marine litter generation and its impact on the marine and coastal environment in order to achieve good environmental status (GES) as per the relevant Mediterranean ecological objectives and ecosystem approach based Marine Litter related targets adopted by UNEP/MAP in 2012 and 2013 (COP 17 and 18).

13. The ML Management Regional Plan aims at achieving the following specific **objectives** (Decision IG.21/7, Art.4):

- a. Prevent and reduce to the minimum marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean and its impact on ecosystem services, habitats, species in particular the endangered species, public health and safety;
- b. Remove to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally respectful methods;
- c. Enhance knowledge on marine litter; and
- d. Achieve that the management of marine litter in the Mediterranean is performed in accordance with accepted international standards and approaches as well as those of relevant regional organizations and as appropriate in harmony with programmes and measures applied in other seas.

14. The objectives are expected to be achieved through the implementation of a set of **measures** and **operational targets** (Decision IG.21/7, Art.6-10) from the Contracting Parties and actions to enforce them in accordance with their national regulations. All Contracting Parties shall make best effort that the specific measures are implemented, as specified in the respective articles, in a coherent manner to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) and relevant marine litter targets. Various actors shall be involved in the development and implementation of the agreed measures including local and national authorities, maritime and tourism sectors, fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture industry, civil society, private sector (producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.), and other stakeholders as appropriate.

15. The measures and operational targets are based on the following four pillars:

- a. Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs);
- b. Strengthening of legal and institutional set up;
- c. Reduction and prevention of marine litter from Land-based and Sea-based Sources;
- d. Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal.

16. As a pioneering legal instrument, the ML Management Regional Plan contains a package of concrete legally binding programmes of measures and implementation timetables to prevent and reduce the adverse effects of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean. These include innovative and traditional measures of a policy, regulatory (including incentive economic instruments) and technical nature, addressing different aspects of marine litter prevention and management from land and sea based sources. The ML Management Regional Plan measures impose clear obligations regarding the waste management hierarchy, closure of illegal dumping/dumpsites, shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, removal of existing marine litter using environmental sound practices such as fishing for litter and clean up campaigns, provision of adequate port reception facilities at possibly applying the no-special fee system, and monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of measures as well as enforcement of national legislation. The majority of the ML Management Regional Plan measures should be implemented by the Contracting Parties by 2020.

17. Decision IG 21/7 also adopted a detailed work plan to guide the implementation of the ML Management Regional Plan, including all relevant articles, tasks, timetable and cost for the

implementation of the measures and operational targets. This work plan is presented as Annex II to this document for information purposes.

18. The ML Management Regional Plan has several provisions addressing the need for institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives. Competent international and regional organizations and relevant scientific institutions are invited to cooperate in order to offer technical advice and assistance when and where needed to the Contracting Parties. Moreover the ML Management Region Plans provides for enhancing social co-responsibility, public awareness, environmental education and education for sustainable development on the problem of marine litter. The Contracting Parties are requested to ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders (local authorities, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders as appropriate), which will lead to the effective implementation of the ML Management Regional Plan.

### **Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean**

19. In the context of a wide range of activities being implemented in the Mediterranean region and with the ultimate common objective to implement the ML Management Regional Plan, marine litter management requires efforts and contribution of all regional partners and actors. Effective coordination of actions, as appropriate, of all relevant actors will maximize results and enhance the impact on marine litter management. The establishment of a Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean can be instrumental in providing coordinated support and guidance to the implementation of the Regional Plan and a forum for consultation, exchange of good practices, and solutions seeking.

20. The Regional Cooperation Platform will be 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. The cooperation platform will offer to its members the opportunity to provide, on an equal footing and as appropriate, concrete contributions and inputs for the implementation of the Regional Plan based on their individual mandates, expertise, work plans, and the decisions and recommendations of their respective governing bodies.

21. The following priorities will be considered by the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean:

- a. Enhance a better understanding and provide advice on the further development of policy related issues including where appropriate the harmonization of measures taking into account the strong transboundary dimension of marine litter impacts (Points 7-17, 41 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- b. Support the coordinated and coherent implementation of priority measures, including prevention, favoring the integration and cooperation among the various sectoral branches of national administration and administrative stakeholders at different levels and regional/national scales (Points 5, 6-15, 17-20, 27, 39 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- c. Provide support for potential common and/or harmonized monitoring tools to improve standardization, comparability, ensure validation and appropriate quality assurance and control of datasets, and organize marine litter data exchange through appropriate formats and databases based on the SEIS principles (Points 26, 29, 31-34 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);

- d. Contribute to the preparation/update/adjustment/implementation of specific technical guidelines addressing different aspects of marine litter management in line with international rules and standards taking into account existing guidelines where appropriate (Points 1, 30, 36 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- e. Encourage coordinated and focused research on Marine Litter with the view to advise as appropriate on research needs related to marine litter management (Point 35 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- f. Encourage data collection from existing monitoring programmes and scientific cruises at large spatial scale (i.e. MEDITS Programme, which operates at European Mediterranean scale, involving 2 cooperating countries) and capitalization of existing data sets (Point 28 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- g. Support actions in order to identify and locate marine litter accumulation zones and hot-spot areas in the Mediterranean Sea (Points 21, 22, 26 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- h. Promote coordinated action of regional cleanup programmes and involve large numbers of national actors at different levels in such programmes (Points 16, 23, 24, 25 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document);
- i. Undertake coordinated public awareness-raising campaigns and education activities with regard to marine litter management (Points 24, 38 of the Work Plan provided in ANNEX II to this document).

### **Proposed composition**

22. Based on the state of play analysis of regional programs, initiatives and organizations<sup>1</sup> with clear mandates on marine litter management presented in ANNEX I to this document, the following non-exhaustive list of regional and sub-regional actors were invited and expressed their interest to participate and contribute to the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean. Further adjustment of the list shall be considered when appropriate.

- UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat (including MEDPOL) supported by the relevant RACs (i.e. REMPEC, SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC) and in consultation with UNEP/GPA
- GFCM
- ACCOBAMS
- CIESM
- EEA
- IWRS
- IUCN/ IUCN-MED
- SWEEP-NET
- GRID-ARENDAL
- SDSN-MED

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<sup>1</sup> Particular attention will be given to programmes, initiatives and organizations addressing waste management and relevant industrial sectors.

- HELMEPA
- MEDASSET
- MIO-ECSDE
- WASTE FREE OCEANS
- PRINCE ALBERT II MONACO FOUNDATION
- JRC/MSFD TG ML
- MEDITS
- PLASTICSEUROPE
- DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH

Other potential Actors:

- Representatives of FISHERMEN ORGANIZATIONS, TOURISM INDUSTRY SHIPPING-MARITIME, PORTS, AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE, EUROPEAN BIOPLASTIC, WASTE MANAGEMENT

a. Modalities of work:

- Via correspondence through a web based communication tool.
- Annual face-to-face meetings pending availability of resources to review progress and ensure coordination of actions.

**Annex I**  
**Main Marine Litter Management Actors in the Mediterranean**

## **Main Marine Litter Management Actors in the Mediterranean**

1. UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat: UNEP/MAP, including all MAP components i.e. MEDPOL, REMPEC, SCP/RAC, RAC/SPA, provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for marine litter in the Mediterranean addressing almost all aspects of marine litter management and play a leadership role in the region. Different provisions under the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention address marine litter management. On this basis several activities have been undertaken, assessment reports prepared and technical guidelines developed followed by the adoption of a Strategic Framework on Marine litter by COP 17 in 2012. The ML Management Regional Plan for the Mediterranean, adopted in 2013, represents an important milestone as UNEP/MAP was the first ever Regional Sea Programme to develop a set of legally binding programmes of measures and implementation timetables to prevent and reduce the adverse effects of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment. The adoption of the SPA/BD Protocol in 1992, the Offshore Protocol in 1994, the preparation of the Guidelines on Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in 2009 and the adoption of the SCP Action Plan in 2013 brings most aspects of marine litter management on a priority basis. (Visit: [www.unepmap.org](http://www.unepmap.org)).
2. UNEP/GPA: Following the recommendations contained in the Manila Declaration, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) was launched in June 2012 at Rio + 20 in Brazil. The GPML is a voluntary multi stakeholder coordination mechanism in which all partners agree to work together to further reduce and better manage marine litter. (Visit: <http://www.unep.org/gpa/gpml/gpml.asp>).
3. GFCM: The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) established under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. The main objective of the GFCM is to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea. GFCM adopts binding recommendations addressing fisheries and aquaculture activities, based on the scientific and technical advice provided by its subsidiary bodies, and including measures addressing the conservation of habitats, species and ecosystems within its area of competence. The GFCM plays a critical role in fisheries governance in the region, implementing and promoting the use of principles such as the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, and more recently Blue Growth and Sustainable Development. (Visit: [www.fao.org/gfcm](http://www.fao.org/gfcm)).
4. ACCOBAMS: The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is a cooperative tool for the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Black Seas with main purpose to reduce threats to cetaceans in Mediterranean and Black Sea waters. Since 2010, ACCOBAMS has agreed on the “contribution from ACCOBAMS to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive” (Res. 4.8) with particular focus to cetacean conservation. Moreover, since 2012 (UNEP/MAP COP17) ACCOBAMS took note of the Decision IG.20/10 regarding the “Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Marine Litter management” in respect to marine debris and cetaceans as well the development of projects concerning the potential impact of microplastic on cetaceans. (Visit: [www.accobams.org/](http://www.accobams.org/)).
5. CIESM: The Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM) consists of 23 Member States creating a network of several thousand marine researchers, applying the latest scientific tools to better understand, monitor and protect a fast-changing, highly impacted Mediterranean Sea. CIESM runs expert workshops, collaborative programs and regular congresses, delivering authoritative, independent advice to national and international agencies. The Commission integrates a broad spectrum of marine disciplines, encompassing geo-physical, chemical and biological processes, along

with high-resolution mapping of the sea-bottom and marine litter. CIESM has included marine litter into the Committee on Marine Biogeochemistry with significant outputs (e.g. the 46th CIESM Monograph) as well as dedicating a marine litter related session into the 40th and the upcoming 41st CIESM Conference. (Visit: [www.ciesm.org](http://www.ciesm.org)).

6. EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA): The European Environment Agency has developed “Marine LitterWatch” (MLW) to strengthen Europe’s knowledge base and thus provide support to European policy making. MLW is both an ICT platform (including a mobile app) and a network of communities working on marine litter activities. It aims to collect data on marine litter on beaches relevant for the MSFD to support official monitoring, with the help of interested citizens and communities. It also allows the collection of data from non-official initiatives such as clean-ups. MLW builds on the MSFD monitoring guidelines developed by the Technical Group on Marine Litter. Items found on the beach can be reported through surveys made with MLW app. With time, the data collected by the public should improve the understanding of marine litter distribution and composition, and thus help tackle marine litter better.
7. INSTITUTE OF WATER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA (IWRS): IWRS is specialized in water resources management, freshwater and maritime engineering and ecological engineering. It is a leading professional body for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, Flood Directive and the Bathing Water Directive for the Republic of Slovenia. IWRS participates in many expert working groups, including the EU Task group on Marine litter. IWRS is also intensively involved in marine litter issues as EEA/ETC/ICM partner. The work of IWRS on marine litter includes the preparation of marine litter indicator and Marine LitterWatch (MLW) development and promotion, analysis of microplastic in the Adriatic region for the, performing beach litter assessment since 2007 and being an active partner of the DeFishGear project.
8. IUCN and IUCN/MED: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. IUCN’s work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN has been actively involved on marine litter, having published the 2014 “Plastic Debris in the Ocean” report and through its Global Marine and Polar Programme has constantly supported the “Ocean and Plastic Platform”. Its ultimate goal is to establish a roadmap to reduce the flow of Plastics into the Marine Environment. (Visit: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)).
9. SWEEP NET: SWEEP-Net is the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network which works on reinforcing the institutional and personal capacities for integrated resource and solid waste management in Mashreq and Maghreb countries and in all the network’s member countries. SWEEP-Net’s objective is to set-up a common regional platform for exchange on best practices, expertise and experiences and technical assistance, and policy advice in the field of resource and solid waste management. Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Tunisia and Yemen comprise the Steering Committee of the network, which is open to public and private institutions, local authorities, private sector, NGOs and civil society as well as academia and individual professionals working in resource and solid waste management. (Visit: <http://www.sweep-net.org>).
10. GRID-ARENDAL: GRID-Arendal is a collaborating Center with the UNEP. Its mission is to create environmental knowledge enabling positive change. This is achieved by organizing and transforming available environmental data into credible, science-based information products, delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity-building services targeting relevant stakeholders. GRID-

Arendal in collaboration with UNEP has recently published the Marine Litter Vital Graphics report. The aim of the report is to increase awareness on the topic of marine litter and improve the understanding of its causes, sources, pathways and impacts. It illustrates ongoing responses, and supports the case for increased investment in global action against this problem. (Visit: [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)).

11. SDSN-MED: The mission of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDSN-MED is very active in the field of marine litter by supporting the Plastic Busters initiative which aims at monitoring the impact and reduction of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea as well as promoting policies to reduce plastic pollution. (Visit: [www.unsds.org](http://www.unsds.org) | <http://plasticbusters.unisi.it/>).
12. HELMEPA: The Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association is the pioneering voluntary commitment of Greek seafarers and ship owners to safeguard the seas from ship-generated pollution. Under the motto “To Save the Seas”, they have consistently supported their initiative from 1982 to date. HELMEPA’s Maritime Training Centre for Pollution Prevention, Maritime Safety and Environmental Awareness provides training programs, technical publications, an e-learning platform and advice to its members, 200 shipping companies and organizations and 16,000 Greek seafarers, towards the effective implementation of international maritime legislation. HELMEPA has promoted the engagement of its members in the recording of floating litter at sea. In terms of public awareness, since the mid-1980s it has established beach cleanups a key information and awareness tool for the prevention of marine litter pollution, maintains a database towards monitoring the trend of marine litter pollution in Greece and cooperates on the issue with UNEP/MAP, EEA, Ocean Conservancy, Algalita, etc. (Visit: [www.helmepa.gr](http://www.helmepa.gr)).
13. MEDASSET: The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) is an international environmental NGO registered as a charity and limited liability company in the UK and a Permanent Observer-Member to the Bern Convention, Council of Europe. MEDASSET is working closely with MEDASSET Greece, which is a partner to the United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). MEDASSET has been involved in several marine litter related initiatives and projects (e.g. “Healthy Seas” ghost net collection & upcycling initiative, beach clean-up campaigns Join in and Clean up, Small Garbage, various awareness campaigns, etc) while sharing their great experience on the effect of marine litter on sea turtles and encouraging national and regional decision makers towards improved marine litter management policies. (Visit: [www.medasset.org](http://www.medasset.org)).
14. MIO-ECSDE: The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), is a Federation of over 130 Mediterranean NGOs for Environment and Sustainable Development. For more than twenty years it has been catalyzing synergies, joining forces and building bridges in 25 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area on issues crucial for the sustainable future of the region. MIO-ECSDE has a long standing experience in research, policy, advocacy and awareness raising on marine litter issues and has been involved in several related projects: the IPA-Adriatic DeFishGear, the FP7 MARLISCO, the EU Pilot Project on the plastic recycling cycle and its loopholes in the four European regional seas; the H2020 CB/MEP; the Keep the Mediterranean litter-free campaign; etc. In 2008, MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with UNEP/MAP, HELMEPA and Clean up Greece prepared the first “Assessment of the status of marine litter in the Mediterranean”. In addition, MIO-ECSDE participates in and contributes to the work carried out by the MSFD TG10. (Visit: [www.mio-ecsde.org](http://www.mio-ecsde.org)).

15. **WASTE FREE OCEANS:** Waste Free Oceans (WFO) is a ground breaking public-private Foundation aiming in mobilizing and uniting the fisheries sector, public authorities and the international plastics industry in combating the growing issue of floating litter on the coastlines, at the rivers and in the seas. Various projects were launched during 2011 with participation and full support of EU Commission and MEPs. Nowadays WFO coordinates worldwide actions and the joining of forces in cleanup operations on marine litter, to raise awareness on the issue, to work on educational campaigns and to continue WFO's pan-European and international projects of reducing and reusing the plastics waste from our oceans and seas – closing the loops for a sustainable future. (Visit: <http://www.wastefreeoceans.eu/>).
16. **PRINCE ALBERT II of MONACO FOUNDATION:** HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco established his Foundation with main focus to address our planet's alarming environmental situation. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is dedicated to the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development on a global scale. The Foundation supports initiatives of public and private organizations, in the fields of research and studies, technological innovation and socially-aware practices. The Foundation supports projects and initiatives on marine litter, has successfully organized the “Beyond Plastic MED” Conference (2015) and is contributing with data and new knowledge in the field through supporting the TARA Expeditions. (Visit: <http://www.fpa2.com>).
17. **JRC / MSFD TG ML:** The European Union, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Technical Group on Marine Litter (TG ML) is part of the Common Implementation Strategy for the MSFD. It supports the implementation of Descriptor 10 “Marine Litter” of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC (MSFD). The group's work is based on a mandate by the EU Marine Directors until 2018. The following work items have been assigned to TG ML: 1) Identify and review existing data and on-going data collection on marine litter; 2) Describe data needs and methods for future assessment of marine litter; 3) Consider standards for recording of marine litter; 4) Develop proposals for the development of impact indicators for each of the regions; 5) Address how to develop objectives (characteristics of GES ), environmental targets and associated indicators in relation to marine litter; 6) Discuss effectiveness of measures leading to reductions in marine litter, 7) Develop baselines and threshold setting approaches for marine litter and; 8) Recommend proposals for further research priorities.
18. **MEDITS:** The international bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITS) is a project started in 1994 which targets in conducting a common bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean in which all the participants use the same gear, the same sampling protocol and the same methodology, agreed and validated at international level. The MEDITS programme is currently conducted within the Data Collection Framework (DCF; EU Council Reg. 199/2008, EU Commission Regulation n. 665/2008, EU Commission Decisions n. 949/2008 and n. 93/2010). The MEDITS group is currently composed by 23 members (international coordinator, national coordinators and regional coordinators). MEDITS has a long experience in collecting data on all the demersal species of commercial interest, for stock assessment purposes, as well as on species of non commercial interest at level of the demersal marine ecosystem (currently 43 taxonomic categories are monitored; AA.VV., MEDITS Handbook, 2016). In addition, MEDITS has set a common protocol to collect seafloor marine litter, being one of the few in the field possessing data from 20 years back in time (e.g. Gulf of Lions, France). (Visit: <http://www.sibm.it/SITO%20MEDITS/principalemedits.htm>).
19. **PLASTICS EUROPE:** Is one of the leading European trade associations, networking with European and national plastics associations and have more than 100 member companies, producing over 90% of all polymers across the EU28 member states plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The European

plastics industry has been instrumental in bringing together 47 plastics industry organizations from around the world to sign up to a "Joint Declaration for Solutions on Marine Litter", which was announced at the 5th International Marine Debris Conference in Hawaii (2011). While acknowledging that the causes of marine litter are many and complex and the problem cannot be solved by one stakeholder group alone, the European plastics industry is determined to drive multi-stakeholder action on the issue both in Europe and at international level. (Visit: [www.plasticseurope.org](http://www.plasticseurope.org)).

20. DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH:  
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH provides services worldwide in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. Its sector project "Concepts for sustainable waste management" works on marine litter prevention on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The sector project closely cooperates for this purpose with bilateral waste management projects of GIZ/BMZ in North Africa and South-Eastern Europe. (Visit: [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de))

**Annex II**  
**Work Plan with Timetable and Cost for the Implementation of relevant Articles of the ML**  
**Management Regional Plan**

**Work Plan with Timetable and Cost for the Implementation of relevant Articles of the ML Management Regional Plan**

	<b>Article</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Lead Authority</b>	<b>Verification indicator</b>	<b>Possible contribution by the members of the Regional Platform</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>
<b>PART II - MEASURES AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS</b>							
1.	<b>Art. 7 - Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs)</b>	Update the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines	2014	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines sent to Contracting Parties		Completed
2.		Update the existing LBS National Action Plans to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan National Stakeholder Workshop and consultancy	2015	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Updated LBS National Action Plan sent to the Secretariat		
3.		Development of reporting format	2014	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Reporting format sent to countries		

4.		National reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially, together with the report for the implementation of the LBS protocol	Contracting Party	Report sent to Secretariat		
5.	<b>Art. 9 – Prevention of marine litter</b>	To base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal	2025	Contracting Party, in cooperation with the SCP/RAC and MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		
6.		Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/ recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
7.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
8.		Explore and implement to the extent	2017	Contracting	Report sent to		

	possible prevention measures related to Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products		Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Secretariat		
9.	Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
10.	Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
11.	Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
12.	Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
13.	Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce microplastic	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with SCP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		
14.	Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer,	2020	Contracting Party, in	Report sent to Secretariat		

		wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter		cooperation with MEDPOL			
15.		In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol explore and implement to the extent possible ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system and take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC	Report sent to Secretariat		
16.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		
17.		Explore and implement to the extent possible “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced ghost catches through the use of environmentally neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept”, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		
18.		Apply the cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		

		framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention					
19.		Take the necessary measures to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land in the area of the application of the Regional Plan	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		
20.		Take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan		Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		
21.	<b>Art. 10 – Removing existing marine litter and its environmental ly sound disposal</b>	Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to EIA procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP2 and WP3 activities)	
22.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the identification in collaboration with relevant stakeholders accumulations / hotspots of marine litter and implementation of national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP2 and WP3 activities)	
23.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		
24.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the participation in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		

25.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the application as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		
26.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the application of the Fishing for Litter practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP3 activities)	
27.		Explore and implement to the extent possible charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable application of No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10.	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC	Report sent to Secretariat		
<b>PART III – ASSESSMENT</b>							
28.	<b>Art. 11 – Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean</b>	Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean	Every six years, first report 2 years after entry into force of the Regional Plan	MEDPOL	Report issued		2015 Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean
29.	<b>Art. 12 – Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme</b>	Establishment of an Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	2014	MEDPOL	Expert Group established		Established
30.	<b>Art. 12 – Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme</b>	Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations	2014	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international	Guidelines prepared		Completed

				organizations			
31.		Preparation of the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme <sup>2</sup>		MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme prepared		Completed
32.		For the purpose of the Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol design National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter	2017	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Implementation started		Ongoing
33.		Report, in accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, on the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	Biennially	Contracting Party	Report sent to the Secretariat		Expected: 20/6/2017
34.		Establishment of the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter	2016	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Data Bank established		Analysis of State of Play
<b>PART IV - SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION</b>							
35.	<b>Art. 13 – Research topics and scientific cooperation</b>	Assistance for scientific cooperation	As appropriate	MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Assistance provided	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP2 activities in the identification of hot spot areas, effect on bioindicator species and fisheries resources)	A priority list decided by COP 18 and may require further prioritization
36.	<b>Art. 14 – Specific</b>	Preparation of specific guidelines for measures listed in Articles 9 and 10 of	By 2016/2017	MEDPOL, SCP/RAC,	Guidelines published	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters	- FfL Guidelines; - List of Existing

<sup>2</sup> In line with EcAp timeline

	<b>guidelines</b>	the Regional Plan		REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations		project (WP2 and WP4 activities)	Guidelines Identified; - List of Potential Guidelines to be Explored.
37.	<b>Art. 15 - Technical assistance</b>	Technical assistance, including capacity building provided	As appropriate	MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report sent to Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP2, WP3 and WP4 activities)	- Regional Actions Undertaken (Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016; Athens, Greece, 6 Sept. 2016); - New Activities to be identified by the partners.
38.	<b>Art. 16 – Enhancement of public awareness and education</b>	Undertaking, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and in partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production	As appropriate	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP5 activities)	- Marine Litter side event at COP 19; - Marine Litter side event for the Mediterranean at UNEA 2.
39.	<b>Art. 17 – Major groups and stakeholder participation</b>	Ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Regional Plan and other measures	As appropriate	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat		- Proposal for establishing of a Cooperation Platform (ReCoP) on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean; - Proposal for a

							joint Work Plan.
40.	<b>Art. 18 – Regional and international cooperation</b>	Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives	As appropriate	MEDPOL in cooperation with, SCP/RAC, REMPEC AND SPA/RAC And other regional partners	Report on the implementation of the Regional Plan by the Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP4 activities)	- Proposal for establishing of a Cooperation Platform (ReCoP) on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean; - Proposal for a joint Work Plan.
41.		Direct cooperation of Contracting Parties, with assistance of the MEDPOL or competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary marine litter cases	As appropriate	Contracting Parties with assistance of the MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project	Partners to provide feedback on any collaboration with the Contracting Parties.
42.	<b>Art. 19 – Reporting</b>	National biennial reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Report issued		- Expected in 2017; - Reporting format under preparation.
43.		Regional report on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report issued		- Expected in 2017; - Reporting format under preparation.
44.		Review the status of the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	MEDPOL, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation		SDSN-MED through the Plastic Busters project (WP4 activities)	- Expected in 2017; - Reporting format under preparation.

				with regional and international organizations			
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