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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

MED POL Focal Points Meeting

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**SECRETARIAT EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE LINK BETWEEN THE GES AND TARGETS OF
THE SPECIFIC ECOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES OF THE POLLUTION AND LITTER CLUSTER**

Delegates are kindly requested to bring their documents to the meeting

Secretariat Explanatory Note on the link between the GES and Targets of the specific Ecological Objectives of the Pollution and Litter Cluster

The Ecological Objective on **Eutrophication** (EO5: Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters) is achieved, when:

- Concentrations of nutrients in the eutrophic layer are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions, i.e. the concentrations of key nutrients in water column do not exceed reference nutrients concentrations of the un-impacted marine region or there is a decreasing trend of nutrients concentrations in water column of human impacted areas.
- Natural ratios of nutrients (silica, nitrogen and phosphorus) are kept.
- Natural levels of algal biomass in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions, i.e. Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column in high-risk areas is below thresholds defined or there is a decreasing trend in chl-a concentrations in high risk areas affected by human activities.
- Clear water in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions, i.e. Secchi disk depth is above threshold defined in risk areas or there is an increasing trend of transparency in areas impacted by human activities.
- There are no Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) or there is a decreasing trend in the frequency of the occurrence of HABs.
- Bottom water fully oxygenated in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions, i.e. dissolved oxygen concentrations in high-risk areas are above local threshold or there is an increasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentrations in areas impacted by human activities.

The Ecological Objective on **Pollution** (EO9: Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health) is achieved, when:

- Concentrations of contaminants are below a determined threshold defined for the area and when they are not giving rise to pollution effects, i.e. concentrations of specific contaminants are below EACs or below reference concentrations defined or there is a decreasing trend in contaminants concentrations in sediment and biota from human impacted areas.
- Concentrations of contaminants are not giving rise to pollution effects, i.e. contaminants effects are below threshold defined.
- Pollution events are not occurring, i.e. there are decreasing trends in the concentrations of oil in the water column and the occurrence of tar balls on the beach

- Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits for consumption by humans, i.e. concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits set by legislation.
- No regulatory levels of contaminants in seafood are exceeded, i.e. there is a decreasing trend in the frequency of cases of seafood samples above regulatory limits for contaminants.
- Concentrations of intestinal enterococci are within established standards, i.e. there is an increasing trend in the percentage of intestinal enterococci concentrations within established standards.
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are not occurring, i.e. there is a decreasing trend in the frequency of the occurrence of HABs.

The Ecological Objective on **Marine Litter** (EO10: Marine and coastal litter do not adversely affect coastal and marine environment) is achieved, when:

- Number of marine litter on the coastline do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life and ecosystem services, i.e. there is a decreasing trend in the number of marine litter items deposited on the coast.
- Number of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life, ecosystem services and do not create risk to navigation, i.e. there is a decreasing trend in the number of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor.
- Effects on marine organisms by ingestion or entanglement in marine litter items are minimised¹, i.e. there is a decreasing trend in the cases of entanglement or/and a decreasing trend in the stomach content of the sentinel

¹ This GES needs further specification, this is the proposal of the Secretariat