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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP) REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

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Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI

REMPEC/WG.50/1/1  
Date: 23 April 2021

Online, 27-28 April 2021

Original: English

Agenda Item 1

### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DRAFT TIMETABLE

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

**Executive Summary:** This document provides brief information on the actions to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

**Actions to be taken:** As indicated under each agenda item.

**Related documents:** UNEP/IG.43/6, UNEP/MED IG.24/22, REMPEC/WG.50/1, REMPEC/WG.50/5, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.4, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.7, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.9, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.10, REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11

#### Introduction

1 The Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened remotely by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) from 27 to 28 April 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) (UNEP/MED IG.24/22).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the road map for a proposal for the possible designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA, notably the completion of the necessary knowledge gathering, the carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI, and the updating of the initial draft submission to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out;
- .2 to examine the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO, and to discuss about the next steps; and

- .3 to discuss and approve the proposed conclusions and recommendations, prior to their submission to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be held remotely from 31 May to 2 June 2021.

3 All REMPEC Prevention Focal Points were invited to nominate jointly and, in consultation with the REMPEC Governmental Focal Points and the representative(s) serving on the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, their representatives in the Meeting. The invitation to participate in the Meeting was also extended to observers from relevant regional and international organisations, the activities of which are relevant to the objectives of the Meeting.

4 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

### **Opening of the Meeting**

5 The Meeting will open on Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Wednesday, 28 April 2021 at 1600 hours<sup>1</sup>.

### **Organisation of the Meeting**

#### **Rules of Procedure**

6 The Rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

#### **Election of Officers**

7 **The Meeting will be invited** to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur.

#### **Working Languages**

8 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation is provided in the second working language.

### **Agenda Item 1**                      **Adoption of the Agenda**

9 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.50/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in the **Annex** to the present document.

### **Agenda Item 2**                      **Completion of the necessary knowledge gathering**

10 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the completion of the necessary knowledge gathering pursuant to Decision IG.24/8 on the Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention, hereinafter referred to as the road map.

11 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 the Report of the further work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5; and

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<sup>1</sup> Malta local time or GMT+2.

- .3 the Terms of Reference for the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparations of further studies as well as the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO, hereinafter referred to as the set of Terms of Reference, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6.

12 The consultants will introduce:

- .1 relevant sections of the Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.7; and
- .2 the Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering related to land-based emissions control measures of SO<sub>x</sub> and Particulate matter (PM) in the Mediterranean coastal States, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.8.

13 Participants will be encouraged to briefly present their views on the completion of the necessary knowledge gathering.

14 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to comment, as deemed appropriate.

**Agenda Item 3**                    **Carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI**

15 The Secretariat will provide information on the carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI, pursuant to the road map.

16 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 the report of the further work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5; and
- .3 the set of Terms of Reference, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6.

17 The consultants will introduce:

- .1 the final report on the carrying out of the further study related to the additional analyses of fuel supply and alternative compliance methods, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.9; and
- .2 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the carrying out of the further study related to the additional economic impact evaluation, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.10.

18 Participants will be encouraged to briefly present their views on the carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI.

19 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to comment, as deemed appropriate.

**Agenda Item 4**                    **Updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out**

20 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out, pursuant to the road map.

21 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 the report of the further work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5; and
- .3 the set of Terms of Reference, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6.

22 The consultants will introduce the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11.

23 Participants will be encouraged to briefly present their views on the updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out.

24 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to comment, as deemed appropriate.

**Agenda Item 5**                      **Draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO**

25 The Secretariat will provide information on the development of a draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO, pursuant to the road map, as presented in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/5.

26 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 Submission by REMPEC to the 76th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.4; and
- .3 the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11.

27 Participants will be invited to provide information on the developments at national level regarding ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, including future prospects and initiatives.

28 Participants will also be encouraged to briefly present their views on the development of a draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO.

29 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to comment, as deemed appropriate.

**Agenda Item 6**                      **Other business**

30 **The Meeting will be invited** to consider any other matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 7**                      **Conclusions and recommendations**

31 Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend, as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the meeting discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

32 The report of the Meeting will be prepared and circulated after the Meeting.

**Closure of the Meeting**

33 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Wednesday, 28 April 2021 at 1600 hours<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Malta local time or GMT+2.



**Annex**

**Draft timetable**





<b>Day 1 – Tuesday, 27 April 2021<sup>3</sup></b>		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Meeting access opens</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda
09:45 – 11:00	Agenda Item 2	Completion of the necessary knowledge gathering
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:30 – 12:30	Agenda Item 3	Carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch break</b>	
13:30 – 15:00	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:30 – 17:00	Agenda Item 4	Updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out

<b>Day 2 – Wednesday, 28 April 2021<sup>4</sup></b>		
09:00 – 10:45	Agenda Item 5	Draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO <sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO
10:45 – 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:15 – 12:15	Agenda Item 5 (cont.)	Draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO <sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO
12:15 – 12:30	Agenda Item 6	Other business
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:00 – 15:45	Agenda Item 7	Conclusions and recommendations
15:45 – 16:00	Closure of the Meeting	

<sup>3</sup> Malta local time or GMT+2.

<sup>4</sup> Malta local time or GMT+2.