



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



13th UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (Brussels - 14 March, 2023)

Monitoring and Reporting by Ministerial priority:
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM
Ministerial Declaration on SBE – *SPAIN*

1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region

- Ministers **task** the UfM Secretariat to reinforce dialogue between UfM member countries and stakeholders on the sustainable blue economy;
- Ministers **welcome** the proposals made by civil society representatives of 10 countries within the Summit of the Two Shores to develop concrete projects in the fields of sustainable development, support to Mediterranean youth, development of digital technology, culture and circular economy;
- Ministers **take note of** the on-going implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and call participating member countries to make full use of future European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Instrument for pre-Accession (IPA), including Interreg programmes, to actively support the development of sustainable blue economy in the Adriatic and Ionian region;
- Ministers **recognise** both the WestMED initiative and the EUSAIR as successful examples of cooperation, focused on clear goals, priorities and measurable targets and as a catalyst for the development of sustainable blue economy projects in the region;
- Ministers **call** for further opportunities for exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as cooperation between the countries of the Mediterranean region;
- Ministers **call** on relevant Managing Authorities and participating countries to further enhance synergies between future Interreg programmes and other European Union funds, aligning them to the extent possible to address the needs of the whole region;
- Ministers **encourage** the engagement of all the relevant national and local authorities;
- Ministers **call** on other donors to further support the fruitful cooperation in the region and complement the ongoing and future actions;



Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

[Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#) - Blue Economy Working Group & 5+5 Dialogue

[WestMED Initiative](#) / [Spain website](#)

[EUSAIR](#)

[European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform](#) / [Spain website](#)

[UNEP MAP \(Mediterranean Action Plan\)](#) / [Spain website](#)

[The Barcelona Convention](#)

[The ICZM Protocol \(2010\)](#)

[BLUEMED Initiative](#)

[InterMediterranean Commission - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions \(IMC – CPMR\)](#)

[MED CITIES](#)

[UNI MED](#)

[Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

[Bologna Charter](#)

[IEMed European Institute for the Mediterranean](#)

[MedWet](#)

[MedPan](#)

[PIM- L'Initiative pour les petites illes en Mediterranée](#)

[The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation](#)

[General Fisheries Commission in the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#)

[PANACEA](#)

SUGGESTIONS / NEEDS: There is a need for better co-ordination among different sea basin strategies.



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

2. Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

Ministers *call for*:

- The **uptake** of the BLUEMED Implementation Plan and the continuation of the BLUEMED Initiative for Blue Jobs and Growth in the Mediterranean region under Horizon Europe; 
- The **promotion** of the Startup Europe Mediterranean (SEMED) initiative, aiming, in partnership with BLUEMED, to connect all the actors of the innovation system in the Mediterranean area as well as other instruments and initiatives to support the sustainable development, job creation and competitiveness of Blue economy SMEs; 
- The **continuation** and further development of the Copernicus marine service to tackle coastal challenges as called by the MED7 group white paper "*Copernicus for the blue economy in the Mediterranean sea and beyond*"; 
- The **establishment** of blue economy clusters - including transnational ones, the strengthening of existing clusters, and increased cooperation between national clusters in the Mediterranean; 
- Stakeholders to **work** together in sector-specific partnerships to develop and implement strategies to address skill gaps and promote decent work and tailored training for blue economy sectors; 
- Further **use** of the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform managed by the UfM Secretariat to facilitate contacts between existing education networks, exchange information including pedagogic tools and serve as an interface for mobility programs; 
- The UfM countries to **collaborate** in the relevant international fora to adapt training and education requirements for maritime-related professions, in view of technological developments and climate-related commitments; 

Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

[UfM Regional Platform in Research and Innovation](#)
[BLUEMED Initiative](#)
[EMSEA\(European Marine Science Educators Association\)- Med](#)
[PRIMA \(Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area \)](#)
[United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#)
[BlueSkills](#)
[DEEP BLUE](#)
[Mediterranean New Chance \(MedNC\)](#)
[HOMERe Programme](#)
[Startup Europe Mediterranean \(SEMED\)](#)
[Towards a Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform](#)
[Summer School / Master Schools](#)
[PELAGOS](#)
[Blue Growth Community](#)
[BLUEBIOMED](#)
[MISTRAL](#)

[‘Blue Biotechnology Master for a Blue Career’ \(BBMBC\)](#)
[EMBRC \(European Marine Biological Resource Centre\)](#)
[Youth Employment in Ports of the Mediterranean \(YEP MED\)](#)
[Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development \(MedAID\)](#)
[Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform \(MED BESP\)](#)
[JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Ocean](#)
[MedSkippers](#)
[Blue Academy for Professionals of the Seafood Industry \(BAPSI\)](#)
[Technological Transfer for Logistics Innovation in Mediterranean area \(TECHLOG\)](#)
[Empowering the 4 helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favour of MED blue growth \(4 HELIX+\)](#)
[BLUEDEAL](#)
[EMUNI](#)
[UNIMED](#)
[European Universities of the Seas \(SEA EU\)](#)

SUGGESTIONS / NEEDS: UfM and the mediterranean basin strategies can play a crucial role in:

- A system of **mutual recognition of marine official skills** among mediterranean countries will drive to a better mobility of human resources, in special between north and south shores of the mediterranean sea
- Professional training could be improved through a transfer of experiences based on a **twinning-like scheme**, mainly between countries of EU and non EU countries.
- The establishment of a **new marine culture** in the countries, that put in value the Waters and the work of the different sectors and refurbish the image that people have of those who live and work in the Sea.



3. Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports

- Ministers **call for** strengthening expertise and boosting investments in infrastructure taking duly into account the specific needs and priorities of Mediterranean countries; including investments on the provision of Onshore Power Supply and energy saving technologies for ports activities as well as on the development of alternative fuels, and transitional fuels as appropriate, and technical and operational energy efficiency for ships;
- Ministers **encourage** Mediterranean countries to actively cooperate and participate in the implementation of joint projects in the provision of clean energy and technology and welcome the establishment of the WestMED Technical Group on Sustainable Transport/ Green shipping;
- Ministers **stress** the importance of developing necessary means for facilitation of maritime trade such as a fully digital administrative environment for waterborne transport that will reduce costs for the operators and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of administrations, including the digitalisation of reporting formalities in ports, necessary for achieving the full benefits of a Maritime Single Window system.
- Ministers **underline** the need to ensure that seagoing vessels are dismantled in a manner which is environmentally sound and respectful of worker's rights; in that regard, they call on Mediterranean countries to ratify the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, and to make sure that vessels flying their flag only get dismantled in facilities which meet high social and environmental standards;



Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

IMO
MARPOL
Dumping Protocol
Offshore Protocol
Emergency Protocol
Prevention and Emergency Protocol
Hazardous Wastes Protocol
UfM Ministerial declaration on transport and the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean
UfM Strategic Action Plan for Transport Connectivity

WestMED Technical Group on Sustainable Transport/ Green shipping
OPTIMED IMPLEMENTATION: Towards a new Mediterranean Corridor: from South-Eastern to North-Western ports
AWARD - All Weather Autonomous Real logistics operations and Demonstrations
GAINN 4 Ship Innovation - LNG Technologies and Innovation for Maritime Transport
DataPorts - New smart platform for European ports
COREALIS
EnerNETMob - Mediterranean Interregional Electromobility Networks for intermodal and

interurban low carbon transport systems
[Technological Transfer for Logistics Innovation in Mediterranean area](#) (TECHLOG)
LOCATIONS - Low Carbon Transport in Cruise Destination Cities
PSAMIDES - Ports small and medium alliance for sustainable development
SUMPORT - Sustainable Urban Mobility in MED PORT cities
REMEDIIO - Regenerating mixed-use Mediterranean urban communities congested by traffic through innovative low carbon mobility solutions
Masterplan for OPS in Spanish ports
TransLogMED
green mind - GREEN and smart Mobility INDustry innovation
GO SUMP - Improving Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans & Measures in the Med
URBAN TRANSPORTS - Improving sustainable urban mobility plans & measures in the Mediterranean
CAMP-SUMP - Campus sustainable university mobility plans in Mediterranean areas
LIFE4MEDECA



4. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

- Ministers **recall** the important role played by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) as the key pillar for regional cooperation on fisheries and **urge** all UfM member countries to comply with the management recommendations adopted by the GFCM;
- Ministers **welcome** the adoption of the MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration;
- Ministers **strongly encourage** the adoption of an ambitious new GFCM strategy for the period 2021-2025 to further turn around fisheries governance in the Mediterranean towards increased sustainability;
- Ministers **urge** all UfM member countries to apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and provide adequate protection of marine environments, notably vulnerable species and sensitive habitats, through the establishment and strengthening of marine protected areas and fisheries restricted areas;
- Ministers **emphasize** the urgent need to reduce anthropogenic driven impacts, such as climate change, and all forms of pollution, including land-based and sea-based pollution, pollution from air, chemical pollution, excess nutrients, underwater noise as well as the invasive alien species in accordance with the objective of reaching Good Environmental Status within Ecosystem Approach process of the Barcelona Convention;
- Ministers **welcome** initiatives for increased cooperation between the Mediterranean countries in the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing , including inter alia the GFCM's IUU Plan of Action (IPOA-IUU) and the cooperation between the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and national fisheries control authorities;
- Ministers **recall** the significance of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector in supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities across the Mediterranean, and call for further support to the GFCM's Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (RPOA-SSF) as a vital political commitment to strengthen and support sustainable SSF in the region as well as their resilience to shocks;
- **Taking into account** the potential for development of aquaculture and blue bio-economy in the Mediterranean, Ministers emphasize the GFCM's Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture as instrumental to ensure a level playing field in the Mediterranean and bring about a more competitive, sustainable, profitable and equitable aquaculture sector;
- Ministers **call** for further research, innovation and support to SMEs to diversify the sustainable blue bio-economy in the Mediterranean and invite UfM countries to invest in market innovation, including ecolabelling and traceability to support more sustainable and resilient seafood systems.



4. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

- Spain has **published** a “NEW SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES ACT” –[07/03/2023](#)
- There is a **great improvement** margin for fisheries. Not for fishing more, but for fishing better, in a sustainable way.
- Need to move to sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea:
 - Fishermen and fish associations are the first interested group
 - People of Mediterranean countries have a food demands that must be attended, and it cannot be entirely supplied by aquaculture.
 - Any improvement must also take care the social and economic dimensions.
 - All measures have to be approached from a complete (fisheries and aquaculture) view so to avoid conflicts as these two ways of producing food are complementary.
- Spain has committed to **achieve the protection of 25% of marine waters under national jurisdiction by 2025** as an intermediate step towards the objective of achieving the 30% by 2030, and thus complying with the National Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity to 2030 (approved by royal decree, December 27th) and contributing to the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Spain is committed to **address and reduce** the anthropogenic driven impacts applying an ecosystem approach. Some examples that merit to be mentioned:
 - ✓ Marine spatial plans and Marine Strategies
 - ✓ Designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the North Western Mediterranean sea to protect the populations of cetaceans threatened by collisions with ships
 - ✓ National Plan to reduce by-catch in fisheries activities.

Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	BLUEFasma MedAid
European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	LabMAF
Malta MedFish4 Ever Ministerial Declaration	Mainstreaming Small Scale Low Impact Fisheries in the Mediterranean
	STREAMLINE
SFS-MED Platform	CopeMed II
FAO National Aquaculture Legislation Overview (NALO)	MEDFISIS
"AquaWest" WestMED Technical Group on Aquaculture	NewTechAqua
Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM)	EASY FEED
Developing site selection and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas (SHoCMed)	DEMO-BLUESMARTFEED
	MedFish
	ConFish
	FishMPABlue 2
	MINOUW
	Pharos4MPAs Recommendations for Aquaculture
	IMPAQT
	Mediterrane-On
	FIUUFRA



5. Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

- Ministers **welcome** the progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean, and the application of the Sustainable Consumption and Production approach;
- Ministers **welcome** the UfM Secretariat's support and actions to promote regional coordination and partnership on marine litter possibly within a wider green, circular economy approach, in close cooperation with the Barcelona Convention Secretariat and many other relevant (international, regional, national and local) stakeholders and frameworks;
- Ministers **welcome** the BLUEMED pilot initiative for a 'Healthy, plastic-free Mediterranean Sea', launched in 2018, and **call upon** all UfM countries to contribute to its implementation as appropriate;
- Ministers further **welcome** the Barcelona Convention's COP 21 commitment to take urgent action to prevent plastic leakage in the Mediterranean Sea, by promoting prevention measures and circular approaches, and adopting national plans to progressively achieve 100% plastic waste collection and recycling, by 2025;

As regards reduction of marine litter generated by blue economy sectors:

- Ministers **welcome** the International Maritime Organisation Action Plan addressing marine litter and **invite** UfM member countries to improve port reception facilities to ensure proper collection and recycling of waste coming from all maritime activities;
- Ministers **call for** exchange of best practices to address the issue of marine litter from aquaculture and the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear in the framework of the GFCM, and **invite** UfM member countries to engage with fishermen to involve them in the collection of marine litter at sea.



Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

Dumping Protocol
LBS Protocol - Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources
SPA & Biodiversity Protocol
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
ECAP-MED - Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) in the Mediterranean by the Contracting parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols
Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
[BLUEMED Initiative](#)

ACCOBAMS
MED MARINE LITTER - EO Tracking of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean
PlasticBusters MPAs - Plastic Busters: preserving biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas
MEDSEALITTER - Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols to protect biodiversity from litter impact at basin and local marine protected areas' scales.
ACT4LITTER - Joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in the Mediterranean protected areas
Healthy, plastic-free Mediterranean Sea
CLAIM
Plastic Busters CAP
EU4Ocean Coalition
"DIGICIRC - European cluster-led accelerator for digitisation of the circular economy across key emerging sectors"



5. Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

- Marine Litter, including microplastics, is not only an aesthetic problem. It is a global concern with socioeconomic, environmental and health dimensions.
- In Spain, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive was transposed into [Law 41/2010, of 29th December, for the protection of the sea](#) and has the aim to achieve and maintain a Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters of national jurisdiction.
- [Spanish Marine Strategies](#) are the main marine environmental planning tool. Spain has finalized the 2nd cycle of the Spanish Marine Strategies and is working on the GES Assessment of the 3rd implementation phase.
- Marine litter is one of the eleven GES descriptors in the Marine Strategies. Spain has a [Marine Litter Monitoring Strategy](#) in place and has developed a [Marine Litter Programme of Measures](#) that comprises land and sea-based litter, and prevention, removal and raise-awareness actions.
- A Circular Economy policy is also in place through a specific [National Strategy](#).
- Spain has also engaged with fishermen through Fishing for litter and Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear national initiatives.



6. Coastal and maritime tourism

Ministers agree to:

- **Promote** policy coordination, stakeholder collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of the tourism sector in the Mediterranean;
- **Develop** comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and statistics schemes and promote the digitalization of the sector;
- **Implement** sectoral strategies and action plans to green and reduce carbon emissions from the whole tourism industry, including tourism-related maritime transport;
- **Address** seasonality and over tourism by promoting the diversification of the tourism offer, encouraging experience-based and slow tourism as well as associating the hinterland;
- **Promote** eco-tourism and niche tourism, including activities such as pesca-tourism, culinary tourism, and sport tourism, among others;
- **Promote** fiscal and investment policies to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism.



SUGGESTIONS / NEEDS:

- Tourism can be seen also as a very effective way of diversification for other marine activities, in the sense of obtaining complementary incomes for those sectors (e.g. fisheries) contributing to its economic sustainability as well as fixing inhabitants in small ports.
- Pesca-tourism is one of the newest possibilities that have not still been used, in special in southern shore of Mediterranean Sea

Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

Athens Declaration for a Sustainable Tourism
 MEET NETWORK
 The Sustainable Urban Tourism Acceleration Programme
 TRAMES – smart TouRism Across the MeditErranean Sea
 Social tourism for SMEs and municipalities of the Mediterranean coast
 Tourban - Accelerating SME capacity and innovation for sustainable urban tourism
 TourISME - Improving sustainable tourism development and capacity of tourism SMEs through transnational cooperation and knowledge transfer
 CEnTOUR – Circular Economy in Tourism
 MED GAIMS - GAMification for Memorable tourist experiences
 MEDPEARLS: The Mediterranean as an innovative unique destination for slow tourism initiatives
 iHERITAGE: ICT Mediterranean platform for UNESCO cultural heritage
 MEDUSA - Development and promotion of Mediterranean Sustainable Adventure Tourism
 FIT4BLUE
 TunaRoute - The Tuna Route
 MedCoast4BG – Med Coasts for Blue Growth
 CIVITAS DESTINATIONS
 MED Sustainable Tourism Community
 MEDFEST - Culinary heritage experiences: how to create sustainable tourist destinations
 Emblematic - Mediterranean Mountains as Coastal destinations of excellence
 BLUEISLANDS - Seasonal variation of waste as effect of tourism
 ALTER ECO - Alternative tourist strategies to enhance the local sustainable development of tourism by promoting Mediterranean Identity
 MEDCYCLETOUR - MEDiteranean CYcle route for sustainable coastal TOURism
 CO-EVOLVE - Promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems for the development of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism
 BLUEMED - Plan/test/coordinate Underwater Museums, Diving Parks and Knowledge Awareness Centres in order to support sustainable

and responsible tourism development and promote Blue growth in coastal areas and islands of the Mediterranean
 CONSUME-LESS - Consume Less in Mediterranean Touristic Communities
 TOURISMED - Fishing Tourism for a Sustainable tourism development in the Mediterranean area
 CASTWATER - Coastal areas sustainable tourism water management in the Mediterranean
 ShapeTourism - New shape and drives for the tourism sector: supporting decision, integrating plans and ensuring sustainability
 DESTIMED - Mediterranean Ecotourism Destination: main components (joint planning, monitoring, management and promotion) for a governance system in Mediterranean protected areas
 SIROCCO - Sustainable InterRegional cOastal & Cruise maritime tourism through COoperation and joint planning
 MITOMED+ Models of Integrated Tourism in the MEDiterranean Plus
 COASTING - Coastal INtegrated Governance for Sustainable Tourism
 INHERIT - Sustainable Tourism Strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean Coastal and Maritime Natural Heritage
 HERIT-DATA - Sustainable Heritage Management towards Mass Tourism Impact thanks to a holistic use of Big and Open Data
 DESTIMED PLUS - Ecotourism in Mediterranean Destinations: From Monitoring and Planning to Promotion and Policy Support
 INCIRCLE - Support INSular and low density areas in the transition towards a more CIRCuLar tourism Economy
 LABELSCAPE - Integration of sustainability labels into Mediterranean tourism policies
 SUSTOWNS - enhancing SUSTainable tourism attraction in small fascinating med TOWNS
 WINTER MED - Winter Islands Network for all year round Tourism ExpeRience in the MEDiterranean
 BleuTourMed_C3: Maritime and Coastal SustainaBLE Tourism in the Mediterranean - Community building, Communication and Capitalisation
 BEST MED - Beyond European Sustainable Tourism MED Path
 SMARTMED - Empower Mediterranean for SMART Tourism
 Integration of biodiversity and energy efficiency aspects in the tourist sector in North Africa
 CAST - Creative Accelerators for Sustainable Tourism
 Panoramed



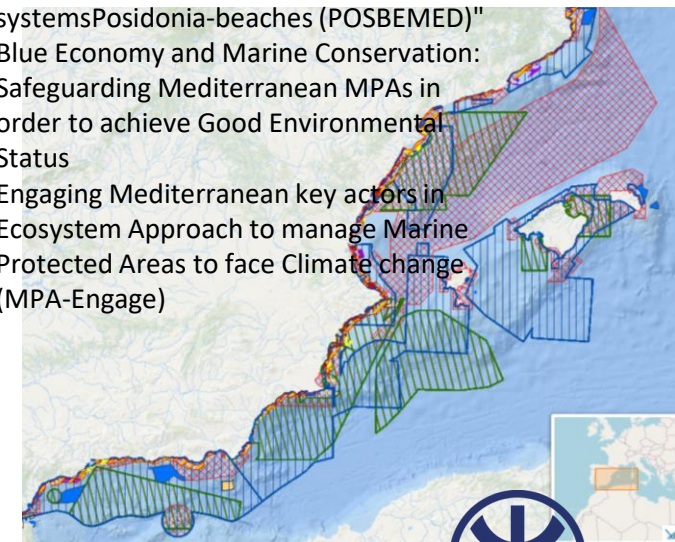
7. Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

- Ministers **recognise** that tools such as ecosystem-based Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) are important to enable the development of sustainable blue economy sectors and activities, attract investment, and reduce impacts on the environment; ✓
- Ministers **underline** the importance of preserving and enhancing ecosystems, including vulnerable marine ecosystems notably through well-connected and effectively managed marine and coastal protected areas and **highlight** the importance of preserving the connection with inland wetlands in line with the recommendations adopted under the RAMSAR convention; ✓
- Ministers **take note** of the progressive use as governance tool of ICZM and MSP since the adoption of the 2015 UFM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy, **welcome** the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on Maritime Spatial Planning in the western Mediterranean and **invite** all UfM member countries to further use Maritime Spatial Planning in support of the development of the sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean, including by addressing Land-Sea Interactions, as appropriate; ✓
- Ministers **commend** UfM Member Countries that developed ICZM national strategies and **call** for their further development and update, when necessary, through the provision of adequate financial and technical support; ✓
- Ministers **welcome** the adoption by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, in last December 2019, of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM, as a guiding document to facilitate the implementation, in the Mediterranean, of the ICZM Protocol; ✓
- Ministers **recognise** the crucial role played by national and local authorities, in MSP and ICZM and **call for** their further involvement and coordination as appropriate. ✓

Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)
 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) on
 Maritime Spatial Planning in the western Mediterranean
 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) protocol
 MedPAN (Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean)
 MSP-MED
 CO-EVOLVE
 CO-EVOLVE4BG
 Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean (SIMWESTMED)
 Maritime spatial planning and land-sea interactions (MSP-LSI)
 Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP)
 People for Ecosystem Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of

Ocean and Coast (PEGASO)
 Actions for Marine Protected Areas (AMARe)
 Coastal Governance and Adaptation Policies in the Mediterranean (COAST GAP)
 The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNet)
 "Sustainable management of the systems Posidonia-beaches (POSBEMED)"
 Blue Economy and Marine Conservation: Safeguarding Mediterranean MPAs in order to achieve Good Environmental Status
 Engaging Mediterranean key actors in Ecosystem Approach to manage Marine Protected Areas to face Climate change (MPA-Engage)



7. Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

- Maritime Spatial Planning is an essential tool to develop a sustainable Blue Economy in its three components: social, economic and environmental.
- In Spain, Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning was transposed into Royal Decree 363/2017, de 8 de abril, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning.
- Spain has recently adopted its five Marine Spatial Plans by Royal Decree 150/2023, of 28th February. They include Priority Use Areas and High Potential Areas and consider land sea interactions.
- INFOMAR is the GIS where all the MSP geographic information is publicly available.
- More info: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/ordenacion-del-espacio-maritimo/default.aspx>

SUGGESTIONS / NEEDS:

- Need to further explore multi-use approaches within MSP Plans



8. Marine renewable energies

- Ministers **recognize** that marine renewable energies (MRE's) can play a crucial role in meeting the reduction targets in greenhouse gas emissions and in combatting climate change;
- Ministers recognize the potential role of MRE's for the sustainable development of the economies of the coastal areas and islands and the need for closer regional cooperation;
- Ministers call for cooperation on research and innovation towards the development of technologies capable of fully exploiting the potential of MRE sources of the Mediterranean, including combining different marine activities (i.e. renewable energy, aquaculture, fisheries, bio-resources, environmental conservation and restoration, maritime transport, and tourism services) in the same marine space;
- Ministers **call for** offshore operations for renewable energy production to be carried out by taking safety precautions and considering environmental impacts;
- Ministers **call for** the enhancement of relevant regulatory frameworks and facilitation of licensing process while preserving adequate assessment and public consultation prior to installing MRE infrastructure.



- Spain's long-term objective is to become a climate-neutral country before 2050 based on a 100% renewable electricity sector. The **Spanish National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030** (*March 2021*) sets capacity targets for 2030 to achieve 74% of the electricity generation coming from renewable sources, including:
 - ✓ 50 GW of wind, including both onshore and offshore.
 - ✓ 80 MW of other renewable technologies, including marine energy.
- The **Roadmap for the Development of Offshore Wind and Marine Energy in Spain** (*December 2021*) sets specific objectives for offshore wind and marine energies for 2030 at national level:
 - ✓ 1 to 3 GW of offshore wind.
 - ✓ 40 to 60 MW of marine energies (tidal and wave).
 - [Roadmap offshore wind and marine energy in Spain. \(miteco.gob.es\)](https://www.miteco.gob.es)
- The **Maritime Spatial Plans** approved (*February 2023*) include the areas that are more suitable for the development of offshore wind for each of the five marine subdivisions, considering environmental protection and other uses and activities of the sea.
- **Non-binding agreements** on goals for offshore renewable generation in 2050 with intermediate steps in 2040 and 2030 for priority offshore grid corridor Atlantic offshore grids and South and West offshore grids pursuant to Article 14(1) of the TEN-E Regulation (EU) 2022/869 have been concluded (*January 2023*).

Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

Mediterranean Association of National Agencies for Energy Management (MEDENER)
 Med-Reg
 Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie
 BLUE DEAL
 PELAGOS

MAESTRALE
 BGC's Working Group on "Marine Renewable Energy"
 GREENCAP
 LOCAL4GREEN
 TROPOS
 MARINA Platform
 MARIBE



Union for the Mediterranean
 Union pour la Méditerranée
 الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

9. Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

- Ministers **welcome** the active role taken by the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MedCGFF) in enhancing regional cooperation and promoting understanding of maritime issues of mutual importance and of common interest related to Coast Guard Functions across borders and sectors, both civil and military, and invite the forum to develop training activities and further facilitate exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance, training and best practices to address illicit activities at sea;
- Ministers **recall** the importance of improving maritime safety, in accordance with the Conventions of the International Maritime Organisation, capacity to prevent and react against manmade and natural disasters, as well as pollution from ships, in cooperation and within the agreed legal framework, with relevant regional organisations, and through regional institutions such as the regional Maritime Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and initiatives, such as the SAFEMED initiative implemented by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA);



Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:

Emergency Protocol
Prevention and Emergency Protocol
Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MedCGFF)
European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)
European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)
Common information sharing environment (CISE)
Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) Service
European Coast Guard Functions Training Network (ECGF)
MED OSMoSIS
SHAREMED
WestMOPoCo
EUCISE 2020
PROteuS



10. Sustainable investments in the blue economy

- Ministers **reiterate** their **call** on UfM members to continue making the necessary domestic reforms to create a more conducive environment for investments;
- Ministers **commit** to promote the transition to sustainable blue economy in their national recovery strategies;
- Ministers **call upon** International Financial Institutions, development partners, public and private actors to prioritize investment in the sustainable blue economy according to the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles and notably in the following domains:
 - preservation of the marine environment;
 - innovation in a sustainable blue economy, circular economy, waste management and reduction;
 - sustainable food value chains from the sea – incl. both fisheries and aquaculture;
 - marine renewable energies and de-carbonization of blue economy sectors;
 - sustainable maritime transport including energy efficiency in ports;
 - sustainable coastal and maritime tourism, including the protection and valorisation of maritime cultural heritage;
 - adaptation to climate change, notably adapting relevant infrastructure and acting against coastal erosion by using nature-based solutions.



Projects/ Initiatives in which Spain is involved:	procurement
Blue Sustainable Ocean Strategy	European Investment Bank
BLUEBIO COFUND	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
BlueCrowdMED	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
BlueInvest	Galatea Blue Growth Accelerator
BLUEMED Call for Start up Actions	Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP)
COSME Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises	Horizon 2020
Creative Europe	Horizon Europe - Cluster 6
Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Instrument	Interreg Mediterranean
– Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020	Interreg SUDOE
DigiCirc Funding Calls in Blue Economy	LIFE Programme
EASME – Executive Agency for SMEs	Mava Foundation
Erasmus + Programme	MedFund
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	MedPAN
European Commission Blue Economy Window 2020	Prince Albert II Monaco Foundation
European Commission – Annual work programme for grants and	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA
	The SwitchersFund
	United Nations' Sustainable Blue Finance Initiative
	World Wildlife Fund



SUGGESTIONS / NEEDS:

- Most investments are directed to emerging sectors of blue economy, forgetting the fact that most of them need large infrastructures in ports, so they can only be implemented in large ports, taking out opportunities to smaller ones. This is driving to a small population abandonment in favor of large cities, that are the ones with large ports.
- It is crucial to find an alternative for small ports and small villages associated to them, so they do not lose population that moves to cities.