

## COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



## **Council conclusions on the Integrated Maritime Policy**

GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting Luxembourg, 24 June 2013

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union

## HAVING REGARD TO

- the Presidency conclusions of the European Council on June 2007<sup>1</sup>;
- the Commission Communication on an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union and Action Plan, presented on 10 October 2007<sup>2</sup>;
- the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council on 14 December 2007<sup>3</sup>;
- the Commission Progress Reports on the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy of 15 October 2009 and 11 September 2012 <sup>4</sup>;
- the Council Conclusions on Integration of Maritime Surveillance of 17 November 2009 and 23 May 2011<sup>5</sup>;
- the Council Conclusions on the Integrated Maritime Policy of December 2008, 16 November 2009, of 14 June 2010, of 19 December 2011 and of 11 December 2012<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 16616/07 §58

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Docs. 16503/1/08 REV 1, 15175/09, 10300/10, 18279/11 and 16553/12



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Doc. 11177/1/07 REV 1, § 43

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Doc. 14631/07

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Docs. 14363/09 and 13715/12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Docs. 15176/2/09 REV 2 and 9250/11

EMPHASISING the potential of **Blue Growth**<sup>7</sup> to unlock cutting-edge marine and maritime innovative technologies that support the sustainable growth, competitiveness and job-creating potential of the blue economy; REITERATES that the Limassol Declaration, a **Marine and Maritime Agenda for Growth and Jobs**<sup>8</sup>, endorsed by the Council, is a substantial component of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

RECALLING that all activities in the oceans and seas including those undertaken in the framework of the IMP, should be carried out in line with the legal framework set out by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant international conventions;

RECOGNISING the value of marine ecosystem goods and services and the protection of the marine environment as an important element for sustainable development and prosperity;

- 1. ENCOURAGES Member States and relevant authorities to support the development of marine and maritime activities as an important source of innovation, sustainable growth and employment for the European Union through the implementation of the Operational Programmes of the European Structural and Investments Funds in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, and taking account, where appropriate, of relevant sea-basin and macro-regional strategies and without prejudice to the outcome of the on-going negotiations;
- 2. WELCOMES the efforts of the Commission and the Member States to deliver the **Blue Growth strategy** and to implement the Limassol Declaration in a timely manner, and especially:
  - a. ENDORSES the Action Plan for the implementation of the Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean area adopted by the Commission on 13 May 2013 to create sustainable growth in coastal regions and drive forward the blue economy in the Atlantic Member States; RECOGNISES the invaluable contribution of the Atlantic Forum to its development; and INVITES the Commission; the concerned Member States, regional and local authorities; civil society; and the private sector to consider how to implement as appropriate the Action Plan through to 2020, acknowledging the respective competences and priorities of the various actors in the implementation process and without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing preparation of the Operational Programmes; INVITES stakeholders to focus on priorities that can promote innovation and entrepreneurship, improve the Atlantic's marine environment and the connections between Atlantic coastal regions and their hinterland, support the move towards the low carbon economy, and create synergies for a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development based on cooperation, sharing of expertise and best practice between Member States and regions;

<sup>8</sup> Doc. 14792/12

7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Doc. 13908/12

- b. WELCOMES the signing on 24 May 2013 of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a Canada European Union United States of America Research Alliance to deepen our common understanding of the Atlantic ecosystem as a first step in developing the international dimension of the Atlantic Strategy, in consultation with the concerned States;
- c. NOTES the adoption by the Commission of a Proposal for a Directive establishing a framework for **maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management** and AWAITS the outcome of on-going discussions between the co-legislators;
- d. WELCOMES the new impetus given to the LeaderSHIP initiative by the adoption of the new **LeaderSHIP 2020 strategy** on 20 February 2013, jointly elaborated by all relevant stakeholders, and SUPPORTS the ambition to provide orientations on innovation, greening and diversification of the shipbuilding industry into new emerging markets, such as off-shore renewable energy, that can contribute to growth and economic recovery; INVITES Member States and the Commission to contribute to the implementation of the renewed initiative and thereby to the competitiveness of the European shipping industry;
- e. WELCOMES the **Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture** adopted by the Commission on 29 April 2013 and STRESSES that European aquaculture offers good quality products that can contribute to fill the gap between consumption and production of seafood in a way that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; INVITES Member States to define their own national strategy for market led growth in aquaculture production, through multiannual plans, taking account of administrative simplification, spatial planning and the competitiveness of EU aquaculture;
- f. URGES the Commission to further explore initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of EU **maritime transport** while improving its efficiency and environmental performance; NOTES the adoption by the Commission of the Clean Power for Transport package on 24 January 2013, which aims to facilitate the development of a single market for alternative fuels for transport in Europe and AWAITS the results of the studies launched by the Commission in 2013 to assess the use and benefits of Liquefied Natural Gas as a more environmentally friendly shipping fuel;
- g. WELCOMES the cross-thematic Call for Proposals "**The Ocean of Tomorrow 2013**" focused on marine technologies under the Seventh Framework Programme and STRESSES that the development of competitive and innovative marine technologies supports Blue Growth and contributes to assessing the good environmental status of the seas;
- 3. INVITES Members States and the Commission to further pursue the delivery of the Limassol Declaration and LOOKS FORWARD to the Communications on **maritime and coastal tourism**, and on **marine renewable energy** in 2013, as well as Commission initiatives on the sustainable development of **blue biotechnologies** and on the safe and sustainable extraction of **minerals from the seafloor** in 2014;

- REAFFIRMS its support for the appropriate development and implementation of integrated 4. sea basin and macro-regional strategies as important platforms to drive sustainable growth in coastal regions, enhance connectivity of islands and coastal regions with the hinterland and promote social and territorial cohesion; LOOKS FORWARD to the adoption by the European Commission of a comprehensive Action Plan for the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-regional Strategy in spring 2014 and INVITES the Commission to highlight the maritime achievements of the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in the context of the overall assessment of the macro-regional strategies being undertaken in 2013; ENCOURAGES the Commission to consider the development of a maritime strategy for the Black Sea, in close cooperation with other countries in the region. WELCOMES the political commitment for supporting the blue economy of the **Mediterranean** as expressed at the 12th Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) Conference held on 18-19 April 2013 in Athens and LOOKS FORWARD to further marine and maritime cooperation across all coastal States on maritime clusters, networking of training institutes, safety and surveillance and the establishment of a Virtual Knowledge Centre in particular;
- 5. WELCOMES the initiative of the Irish Presidency to explore the **challenges and opportunities in maritime security and surveillance** for effective governance and
  innovation in the EU's Maritime Domain, including cross-sectoral innovation between the
  maritime sector and other high technology sectors, and INVITES Member States to pursue
  cross-sectoral cooperation; NOTES the intention of the Commission and the External Action
  Service to explore how to interlink internal and external maritime policies for a more coherent
  approach to safeguarding the EU's maritime strategic interests;
- 6. ENCOURAGES cooperation across sectors and borders between bodies participating in **coastguard functions** as promoted by i.a. the European Coast Guard Functions Forum or any regional coastguard functions fora, with a view to building upon mutual knowledge, synergies, experiences and best practices fostering effective and coordinated action at sea. INVITES Member States and the Commission to actively contribute to the work of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum and regional coast guard functions fora;
- 7. WELCOMES the launch of the Cooperation Project accompanying the design of the **Common Information Sharing Environment** (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain; INVITES Member States and the Commission to continue improving cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, including effective exchange of surveillance information and data to establish further interoperability between existing and future maritime surveillance systems; LOOKS FORWARD to the Commission White Paper on CISE before June 2014;

- 8. WELCOMES the launch of the second phase of the European Marine Observation and Data Network that should deliver low-resolution maps of the European seabed by the end of 2014 and the broad support for the **Marine Knowledge 2020** initiative shown in the recent public consultation; INVITES the Commission to continue building synergies between the various EU data, information and knowledge initiatives and to develop a roadmap towards a sustainable structure that is driven by the needs and priorities of public authorities, industry, the research community and other stakeholders;
- 9. WELCOMES the agreement reached by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the **reform of the Common Fisheries Policy** and looks forward to implementation of a reformed CFP which will contribute to fisheries and aquaculture activities providing long-term sustainable environmental, economic and social conditions, and the availability of food supplies.
- 10. RECALLS the importance of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the need to apply the ecosystem based approach to the development of Blue Growth activities in order to achieve good environmental status of all European Seas and Oceans by 2020; RECOGNISES the importance of Member States' reports on the initial assessment of their marine waters, the determination of good environmental status and the establishment of environmental targets and indicators for their seas and oceans; AWAITS the Commission's assessment on whether the elements notified are appropriate to meet the requirements of the MSFD; RECOGNISES the need to ensure the coordinated development of marine strategies within each marine region or sub region, especially by strengthening existing cooperation between Member States within and across Regional Sea Conventions, and where relevant, involving other competent intergovernmental organisations and third countries concerned;
- 11. CONGRATULATES Malta on holding a successful European Maritime Day Conference in Valetta on 21-22 May 2013 and LOOKS FORWARD to the next Conference in Bremen, Germany in May 2014. RECALLS the Council Conclusions of 11 December 2012 inviting Member States to express interest for the organisation of **European Maritime Day** from 2015 and AGREES that the next European Maritime Day Conferences will be hosted in 2015 in Piraeus, Greece; in 2016 in Turku, Finland; in 2017 in Poole, United Kingdom; in 2018 in Burgas, Bulgaria and in 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal."

5