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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Delegations

Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on the Marine and Maritime Agenda for Growth and Jobs

Delegations will find attached draft Council conclusions on the Marine and Maritime Agenda for Growth and Jobs.

Council Conclusions on the Marine and Maritime Agenda for Growth and Jobs

The Council of the European Union

HAVING REGARD TO

- the Commission Communication on an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union and Action Plan, presented on 10 October 2007¹ ;
- the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council on 14 December 2007² ;
- the Commission Progress Reports on the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy of 15 October 2009 and 11 September 2012³ ;
- the Council Conclusions on Integration of Maritime Surveillance of 17 November 2009 and 23 May 2011⁴ ;
- the Council Conclusions on the Integrated Maritime Policy of 16 November 2009, of 14 June 2010 and of 19 December 2011⁵.

RECOGNISING that marine and maritime economic sectors are vital to Europe's sustainable growth and employment; RECOGNISING the value of marine ecosystem goods and services upon which marine activities depend; EMPHASISING the **potential of the blue economy** to help steer the EU out of the current economic crisis and to reach the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy in terms of sustainable economic growth and employment, innovation, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy;

¹ Doc. 14631/07

² Doc. 16616/07 §58

³ Docs. 14363/09 and 13715/12

⁴ Docs. 15176/2/09 REV 2 and 9250/11

⁵ Docs. 15175/09, 10300/10 and 18279/11

CONFIRMING the validity of the **integrated approach to maritime affairs** and
ACKNOWLEDGING the achievements described in the second Progress Report⁶;

WELCOMING the successful informal Ministerial Conference on IMP organised by the the Cyprus
Presidency, in Cyprus on 7-8 October 2012 giving political priority to create a new impetus toward
this cross-cutting policy and to enhance the economic potential of maritime Europe;

THE COUNCIL THEREFORE;

ENDORSES the content of the Limassol Declaration, a **Marine and Maritime Agenda for
Growth and Jobs**⁷, and RECOGNISES the Declaration as a substantial component of the Europe
2020 strategy that supports the growth, competitiveness and job-creating potential of the blue
economy; INVITES Members States and the Commission to implement the Agenda in view of
reaching 7 million jobs and a yearly gross added value of €600 billion in the European maritime
economy by 2020;

WELCOMES the Commission Communication on "**Blue Growth**⁸: opportunities for marine and
maritime sustainable growth", which places a new focus on cutting-edge marine and maritime
innovative technologies and which highlights the untapped potential of established as well as
emerging marine and maritime sectors; CALLS on the Commission to:

- Enhance the competitiveness of shipping worldwide and improve the efficiency of
intra-EU **maritime transport** through a European maritime transport space without
barriers and the further implementation of Motorways of the Sea, while supporting
the development of EU ports infrastructures and services;
- Deliver a Communication on **ocean renewable energy** in 2013 to help accelerate the
development and commercialisation of ocean energy, including tidal, wave and
thermal power, and increase the share of renewable energy in Europe to 20% by
2020;

⁶ Doc. 13715/12

⁷ Doc. 14792/12

⁸ Doc. 13908/12

- Deliver a Communication on **maritime and coastal tourism** to identify the possibilities for strategic investments in infrastructure, the upgrading of skills and competitive diversification, based on healthy marine and coastal environments;
- Enhance initiatives and measures to promote and implement innovations in European **shipbuilding** and facilitates diversification in emerging new business areas;
- Continue working with Member States so as to develop best practices and agree on Strategic Guidelines on **Aquaculture** in 2013; STRESSES the need to facilitate the sustainable spatial development of aquaculture activities, increase competitiveness in the global market and reduce administrative and licensing constraints;
- Deliver a Communication on the sustainable development of **blue biotechnologies** so as to present options to benefit from the diversity of marine life, to support research to the benefit of EU industry and to move towards the commercialisation of innovative products;
- Assess how European industry can become more competitive in **extracting minerals from the seafloor** while ensuring that this activity does not prevent future generations from benefiting from marine ecosystems;
- Support Member States' efforts to strengthen **synergies between industries, research and education** through the promotion of maritime clusters, cooperation between social partners and the development of cross-sectoral maritime training, recalling the Europe 2020 objective to raise the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 from the current 69% to at least 75% by 2020;

RECOGNISES the importance of offshore energy sector in the enhancement of the EU's seas and oceans potential for growth and jobs; RECALLS the need to ensure the uninterrupted availability on the European market of energy and its associated services;

REAFFIRMS that the EU **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (MSFD)⁹ is the environmental pillar of the IMP and helps ensuring that collective pressures of human activities on the environment are kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status by 2020; STRESSES the importance of Member States' 2012 reports on the initial assessment of their marine waters, the determination of good environmental status and the establishment of environmental targets for their seas and oceans and LOOKS FORWARD to the Commission's guidance on possible modifications to meet the requirements of the MSFD;

CONFIRMS the importance of **Maritime Spatial Planning** (MSP) and **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** (ICZM) to deliver the Marine and Maritime Agenda for Growth and Jobs and ensure the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, by ensuring planning transparency for investments, a balanced approach between relevant sectors and stakeholders, and coherence between the environmental, societal and economic objectives of Member States;

ENCOURAGES the Commission to support coordinated **marine and maritime research** so as to provide the knowledge and innovation base for the implementation of the Marine and Maritime Agenda for Growth and Jobs; RECALLS the objective of Europe 2020 to invest 3% of GDP in R&D in 2020 and HIGHLIGHTS the importance of identifying the economic value of marine goods and services and exploring future market potentials; WELCOMES progress of the Joint Programming Initiative “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans” (**JPI Oceans**) towards reducing the fragmentation of marine research efforts of Member States;

WELCOMES the Commission's Green Paper "**Marine Knowledge 2020**¹⁰, from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting" and INVITES the Commission to work together with Member States in enhancing the accessibility of marine data so as to stimulate innovation for industries and researchers and to cut costs for public authorities; INVITES the Commission to work towards a seamless multi-resolution digital seabed map of Member States marine waters by 2020; WELCOMES the Interim Evaluation of the European Marine Observation and Data Network and the delivery of six web portals for which some previously hard-to-access data have been made available free of charge;

⁹ Doc. PE-CONS 3695/2/07

¹⁰ Doc. 13457/12

HIGHLIGHTS the importance of **efficient surveillance of the EU maritime domain** to protect the EU's fundamental interests while ensuring security and sustainable blue growth; UNDERLINES the results of the pilot projects, BlueMassMed and Marsuno, which confirmed the added value of improving information exchange between user communities and interoperability between systems; INVITES the Commission and Member States to further increase their collaboration to implement the "Roadmap towards establishing a Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the EU maritime domain"¹¹; URGES the Commission to define the CISE requirements to allow for the coordinated development of sectorial systems and for a research CISE test-bed as soon as possible;

STRESSES the importance of improving integrated maritime governance through increased cooperation, at the appropriate level, among the competent authorities performing functions ensuring cleaner, safer and more secure seas and oceans; ENCOURAGES cooperation across sectors and borders between bodies participating in **coastguard functions** on the terms agreed by the EU coast guard functions forum and other regional fora, with a view to building upon mutual knowledge, synergies, experiences and best practices fostering effective and coordinated action at sea;

RECOGNISES the importance of promoting dialogue, enhanced cooperation and exchange of best practices **at international level** on an integrated maritime policy and other marine and maritime issues in the competent fora, including on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and relevant existing international conventions based on UNCLOS;

ENCOURAGES the Commission to engage further with relevant international and regional organisations, and financing institutions to define priorities for marine and maritime cooperation that set a strategic framework for future funding programmes in the Mediterranean; RECALLS 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 UNCLOS and other relevant existing international conventions;

¹¹ Doc. 15361/10

ENCOURAGES the Commission to continue working on the appropriate development and implementation of **sea basin strategies**, where there is a demand and a perspective of clear added value, to support the Blue economy in coastal regions and enhance connectivity between coastal regions and with the hinterland; NOTES that an overall assessment of the macro-regional strategies and evaluation of their added value is to be undertaken by the Commission in mid-2013;

WELCOMES the adoption of a Maritime Strategy for the **Adriatic and Ionian Seas** on xx November 2012 and CALLS on the Commission and Member States to elaborate an Action Plan by the end of 2013, in close cooperation with other Adriatic and Ionian countries; CALLS upon the Commission and Member States to further engage in dialogue and cooperation on maritime affairs in the **Mediterranean**, including with the the Union for the Mediterranean, to help achieve sustainability and economic prosperity in the region; UNDERLINES the progress of the Atlantic Forum in developing an Action Plan for the **Atlantic Ocean Area**; RECALLS the Council Conclusions of 26 June 2012 on the review of the Strategy for the **Baltic Sea Region**¹² and LOOKS FORWARD to the adoption of a revised Action Plan, in particular for its maritime component; CALLS upon the Commission and Member States to actively explore the opportunities for a more strategic approach on maritime affairs in the **Black Sea region**, in close cooperation with the Black Sea coastal countries;

WELCOMES the Joint Communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: "Developing a European Union Policy towards the **Arctic Region**: progress since 2008 and next steps";

RECALLS that implementing the IMP requires a continued **financial underpinning** and therefore WELCOMES the proposal for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund¹³ supporting the implementation of IMP cross-border and cross-sectoral actions to develop the blue economy in all sea-basins; ENCOURAGES the support of marine and maritime activities in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, i.a. within the framework of the Cohesion Policy and Horizon 2020, without prejudice to the outcome of the on-going negotiations;

¹² Docs. 10054/12 + ADD1 + ADD2

¹³ Doc. 17870/11

CONGRATULATES the Swedish Government to have held a successful **European Maritime Day** (EMD) conference in Gothenburg on 21-22 May 2012 and WELCOMES the invitations of the Maltese Government and the German Government to hold the conference in Valletta in May 2013 and Bremen in May 2014; INVITES Member States to express interest for the organisation of EMD from 2015.

**Draft Declaration of the European Ministers responsible for the Integrated Maritime Policy
and the European Commission, on a Marine and Maritime Agenda for growth and jobs
"The Limassol Declaration"**

We, Ministers responsible for the Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union Member States, Croatia and the European Economic Area, under the chairmanship of Efthemios Flourentzou, Minister of Communications and Works, and in the presence of Demetris Christofias, President of the Republic of Cyprus, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission and Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, on the occasion of the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Nicosia Cyprus, on 7 October 2012, have agreed to the following:

1. **Considering** that the present economic context calls for the European Union to find a fast and effective road to recovery based on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; **Recognising** that Member States need to approach the Europe 2020 goals from innovative perspectives that can unlock new sources of growth and jobs;
2. **Recognising** that marine and maritime sectors are crucial drivers for growth and jobs for the EU economy, since their annual Gross Value Added amounts to 495 billion euros, 5,4 million Europeans are employed in those sectors across EU Member States, and that 88 million Europeans are working in coastal regions, where over 205 million live;
3. **Highlighting** that EU Member States share several sea basins with third countries and that the sea basins, outermost regions and associated overseas countries and territories are strategic gateways from and into the Internal Market and important for the development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy;

4. **Recognising** that the development of an integrated approach to maritime affairs since 2007, consistent with other sectoral policies, contributes to the enhancement of Europe's capacity to maximise the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and coasts, while at the same time ensuring safety of people and the health of oceans and seas;
5. Recognise the value of marine ecosystem goods and services and the protection of the marine environment as an important element for sustainable development and prosperity;
6. **Stressing** the importance of promoting dialogue, enhanced cooperation and exchange of best practices on maritime affairs at regional and international level; **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 existing international conventions.

A DYNAMIC MARINE AND MARITIME AGENDA FOR GROWTH AND JOBS

7. **Affirm** that Europe's seas and oceans offer unexplored areas for innovation, sustainable growth and employment;
8. **Stress** that the Europe 2020 strategy should be backed by a dynamic agenda for seas and oceans that supports the growth, competitiveness and job-creating potential towards a sustainable blue economy;
9. **Call** on European Institutions to support sustainable development of marine and maritime activities in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, i.a. within the framework of the Cohesion Policy, without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing negotiations;
10. **Support** the appropriate development and implementation of integrated sea basin and macro-regional strategies as important platforms to drive sustainable growth in coastal regions.

Taking into account the above, confirm and work towards our shared goals for a European Marine and Maritime Agenda, notably to:

11. **Enhance the competitiveness of the EU shipping sector**, maintain its leading role worldwide, and increase the share of short sea shipping in intra-EU trade, while developing the EU ports infrastructures and services;
12. **Maximise opportunities for innovation in the European shipbuilding and marine equipment industry** in order to improve the environmental performance of ships, diversify into emerging sectors and exploit the increasing demand for recreational crafts;
13. Contribute to the objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy with respect to carbon emissions and renewable energy, and create new employment opportunities by **increasing marine renewable energy production and exploration**, so as to strengthen the EU's global leadership position;
14. **Ensure the uninterrupted availability on the European market of energy** and its associated services; without compromising the safety of people and the health of oceans and seas;
15. Support research and innovation to **improve the sustainability and competitiveness of aquaculture and to stimulate sustainable fisheries** activities notably by increasing selectivity and creating more added value products;
16. **Foster the cultivation of aquatic products** to stimulate the growth potential of algae aquaculture and other bioproducts. Sustain the development of the blue biotechnology sector, and promote the access and fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from the use of genetic resources;
17. **Support the development of a highly diversified and sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in Europe**, including maritime and coastal heritage, nautical, cruise and leisure activities, by addressing the issues of competitiveness, seasonality, product diversification, connectivity, improved infrastructure and skills;

18. **Foster the development of new technologies for the safe and sustainable harvesting of marine mineral deposits** by developing further possibilities for the sustainable exploration and exploitation of raw materials for industry and green technologies.

THE BLUE ECONOMY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

We reaffirm that growth can be boosted by coherent and effective public policy that sets out the conditions necessary for the full development of the blue economy. It should reduce administrative and regulatory burdens and remove bottlenecks for innovation and investment. We therefore call for involved parties to:

19. **Enhance innovation and marine and maritime research** to ensure targeted and cross-cutting research aiming at realising the high growth potential of the blue economy, in particular through Horizon 2020;
20. **Work towards the effective development and accessibility of marine knowledge** notably by improving ocean observation, marine scientific research and seabed mapping of Member States' marine waters by 2020;
21. **Support the integration of maritime surveillance** towards an active operational Common Information Sharing Environment for the EU maritime domain by 2020, as an effective and cost-efficient way of safeguarding EU interests;
22. Stress the **importance of improved maritime governance** including increased cooperation, at the appropriate level, among the competent authorities performing functions ensuring cleaner, safer and more secure seas and oceans;
23. Improve planning transparency for investments and a balanced approach between relevant sectors and stakeholders, by deploying **maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management** in Member States and in their crossborder areas, to ensure coherence with environmental, societal and economic objectives;

24. Achieve or maintain good environmental status of marine waters by 2020, by continuing the effective implementation of the obligations of the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** being the environmental pillar of the IMP, including the development of a coherent network of marine protected areas, and implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020;
 25. Implement suitable management, prevention and adaptation practices, in order to enhance the resilience of coastal areas, marine ecosystems and maritime activities, **to the impacts of climate change**;
 26. **Enhance marine and maritime careers** and their attractiveness by bridging the gap between education, science and industry, ensuring relevant training, and promoting a safety culture and appropriate labour mobility;
 27. Ensure that local communities, the workforce in peripheral regions of Europe and civil society, are **participating in and benefit from the development of innovative activities** especially through European maritime clusters and cooperation with social partners;
 28. Enhance sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation, **exchange best practices and promote dialogue at international, national and regional level**, both between Member States and with third countries sharing a sea basin with the EU, as well as with international and regional organizations;
 29. We call on the Council to endorse this policy agenda as a substantial component of the Union's strategy for growth and jobs, and on the Commission and the forthcoming Presidencies, in close cooperation with other EU Institutions, to undertake appropriate initiatives and set milestones, taking this declaration as a basis, to further develop and implement the Integrated Maritime Policy.
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