



## **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**

### ***Common Implementation Strategy***

#### **Thirteenth Meeting of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG)**

**12th May 2014 11.00 – 18:00**

European Commission, Conference Centre Albert Borchette, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels, Room 3/C

**13th May 2014 09.30 – 12.30**

European Commission, DG Environment, Avenue Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels, Room BU-5 0/C

Agenda item:	6a
Document:	MSCG_13-2014-06
Title:	Follow up to joint Directors' meeting on Nature, Biodiversity, Water and Marine – information on progress
Prepared by:	European Commission
Date prepared:	06/05/2014

**The Members of the MSCG are invited to take note of the progress and in particular, take note that the tentative date for a joint workshop will be 2/3 December 2014 in Brussels.**

## **Follow up to joint Directors' meeting on Nature, Biodiversity, Water and Marine – information on progress**

The first joint meeting of the Nature Directors with the Water/Marine Directors took place in December 2014 under LT Presidency. Following a fruitful and comprehensive discussion, the Directors conclude some operational steps to further shape the joint agenda and strengthen the cooperation between the policies<sup>1</sup>.

### **Joint technical workshop**

As part of the outcome, Directors "*agreed to organise, as a further step, a workshop [during the second half of 2014] with representation from the different policy areas to discuss issues of joint interest (possible issues to discuss at the workshop are listed in the Annex). The preparation of such a workshop should be done jointly by the Italian Presidency, the Commission and interested Member States (Commission, EEA and others).*" The Annex of the document listed a number of issues that were proposed for the workshop during the discussions, such as, e.g.:

- identify those issues for which there is a need to establish a common understanding across the different policy areas including terminology and make recommendations as to how these issues should be addressed;
- look at the relationship between the various objectives (good status, favourable status, etc) and exemptions under the various water and marine Directives, e.g. also making the link to air policy and biodiversity protection (using eutrophication as first examples);
- encourage ways for joint and integrated monitoring and joint up preparation of programme of measures and thereby maximise the ecosystem delivery;
- reflect on ecosystem services;
- identify commonalities and differences where they exist (e.g. on timing of cost effectiveness assessment which is different in MSFD and WFD);
- identify differences between the Directives which need to be factored in;
- compare and prioritise measures of the Directives, define their scope and contribution to the Directives' objectives and identify synergies as well as possible conflicts;
- explore the possibility to use strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as a tool to identify and manage cross-cutting issues;
- discuss improvements to horizontal dissemination of knowledge (i.a. on guidance papers, tool, good practices, research results) and identify concrete and specific joint products that

---

<sup>1</sup> See final Outcome document at <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/607f2f6b-393e-4bac-8412-b61d39596a7d>

could be developed further (such as joint policy documents, FAQ or other guidance documents);

- discuss on deadlines and timetables and the potential to streamline public participation processes.

In order to prepare such a workshop in an effective and useful way, a Preparatory Group had been set up following the Directors' meeting. Until the end of February, the Nature, Water and Marine Directors had an opportunity to nominate participants for the Preparatory Group. As a result, several Member States have nominated participants (BE, NL, RO, SE, UK). Furthermore, experts from several policy units in DG Environment, the JRC and the EEA will take part in the meeting. The Commission has also invited the incoming Italian Presidency.

The first preparatory meeting will take place on 21 May with a second (and probably last) meeting scheduled for autumn (October). The draft agenda of the first meeting is enclosed. It highlights that the tentative date for the workshop will be 2/3 December 2014 in Brussels and makes some initial suggestions towards the focus of issues.

The outcome of the preparatory meeting will be communicated to the Directors (e.g. at the next Water and Marine Directors' meeting) and the detailed planning for the workshop will be presented to the Coordination meetings after summer (SCG, MSCG and CGBN).

### **Other progress**

In addition to the joint workshop, a number of other activities and events have taken (or will take) place which aim, amongst other, to improve cooperation and synergies between nature, biodiversity, water and marine policies, in particular:

- A **workshop with the Marine Expert Group (MEG) on coherence and representativity of networks of Marine Protected Areas under MSFD** (6 May) in the context of the MEG's role to improve collaboration on these issues between MSFD and Habitats Directive implementation (see MSFD [CIRCABC](#) for details).
- A **workshop on "Marine Environment and Fisheries"** (3/4 April) which looked at the relationship between the new CFP and the relevant marine environment policies, in particular the MSFD, HBD and the Biodiversity Strategy (see MSFD [CIRCABC](#) for details).
- The Commission is organising a High Level **Conference on "Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services"** (MAES) on 22 May. It will feature a thematic water and marine session, see [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem\\_assessment/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/index_en.htm)

To explore how the ecosystem services concept can be integrated with WFD and FD implementation a study is carried out for DG ENV. The study will feed in to the discussions of relevant working groups.

- As a follow up to the Blueprint Communication that recognised the role of Green Infrastructures for limiting the negative effects of floods and droughts, as well as for

improving water status and biodiversity, a policy document is being prepared by WFD CIS Working Group Program of Measures on Natural Water Retention Measures. (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/adaptation/ecosystemstorage.htm>). This is supported by a Pilot Project which builds the knowledge base providing practical recommendations and tools. This is coordinated with the work of the Green Infrastructure and Restoration Working Group in support of the Biodiversity Strategy.

- **Other activities are underway under the MEG** (e.g. draft document on sensitivity analysis for marine habitats/species to support the preparation of fishery measures, setting up a marine Natura 2000 Biogeographic process) – see Marine N2000 [CIRCABC](#) for details.

## ANNEX

### Draft agenda

- 1) Welcome, Introduction, Setting the Scene
- 2) Outcome of the joint Directors' meeting
- 3) Overview on progress since joint Directors' meeting
- 4) Practical arrangements for the Workshop (scheduled 2/3 Dec 2014 in Brussels)
- 5) Key issues for the workshop focussing on coordinated implementation
  - a. Presentation of DG ENV focussing on three main aspects proposed for the workshop (assessment/objectives, programme of measures and monitoring/reporting)
  - b. Presentation by other participants (to be confirmed)
  - c. Brainstorming discussion on draft workshop agenda
- 6) Preparation of a working document for the workshop
- 7) Conclusions and next steps
- 8) Any other business