

### **Decision IG.24/13**

#### **Development of a Set of Regional Measures to Support the Development of Green and Circular Businesses and to Strengthen the Demand for more Sustainable Products**

*The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols at their 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in particular those paragraphs relevant to sustainable consumption and production,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling further* the Environment Assembly resolutions of 15 March 2019, UNEP/EA.4/Res.1, entitled “Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production” and UNEP/EA.4/Res.4, entitled “Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices”,

*Bearing in mind* the international community’s commitment expressed in the Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session to advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, including, but not only, through circular economy and other sustainable economic models and the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,

*Having regard to* the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (1996), in particular article 5 thereof on general obligations and Article 9 thereof on scientific and technical cooperation, to the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1996), in particular Article 5 thereof on general obligations, and to the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (2008), in particular Article 9 thereof on economic activities,

*Recalling* Decisions IG.22/2 and IG.22/5, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean respectively, which highlight that businesses, especially green businesses and entrepreneurs, are key drivers in the transition to green and blue economies in the Mediterranean countries,

*Recalling* the mandate of SCP/RAC within the MAP-Barcelona Convention System and its relevance to the implementation of this Decision,

*Acknowledging* also the need to shift from traditional linear business models to innovative green and circular business models, and that in order to achieve this shift, a proper enabling policy environment should be in place together with strengthened business support organisations and appropriated financial instruments at the regional and national level,

*Noting with appreciation* the work undertaken in that direction under the Mediterranean Green Businesses Programme which has contributed to the creation of green companies in the southern Mediterranean countries,

*Having considered* the report of the meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 14-15 May 2019,

1. *Request* the Secretariat to prepare a set of regional measures to support the development of green and circular businesses and strengthen the demand for more sustainable products, according to the timeline set out in Annex I to the present Decision, as a way to support the shift to green and circular economy from traditional linear business models to innovative green and circular business models;

2. *Also request* the Secretariat to ensure that regional measures target those economic sectors which are identified by the relevant Protocols to the Barcelona Convention and have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment, and address related cross-cutting issues;

3. *Further request* the Secretariat to develop specific criteria for the definition of green and circular businesses in the Mediterranean, based on existing initiatives at global, regional and national levels for consideration by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22);

4. *Require* the Secretariat to make every effort to ensure that the preparation of the set of regional measures and the development of criteria is in synergy with existing regional and national policy frameworks supporting the development of green and circular businesses.

**Annex I: Timeline for the development of a set of regional measures to support the development of green and circular businesses and to strengthen the demand for more sustainable products**

When?	What?
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to SCP/RAC Focal Points to nominate national experts to support the development of the regional measures and criteria (SCP/RAC will develop Terms of Reference for these national experts)</li> <li>• Review of existing information</li> <li>• Preparation of a baseline study</li> <li>• Preparation of the Terms of Reference of an online consultation mechanisms, using the appropriate existing relevant SCP web platform managed by SCP/RAC, facilitating the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders and partners</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the online consultation</li> <li>• Development of a first draft of the measures and criteria</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of a regional consultation meeting in order to ensure the inputs of key Mediterranean stakeholders, particularly the business sector, economic leaders, financing stakeholders and other relevant bodies active on green economy and circular economy in the Mediterranean region.</li> <li>• Closing on the online consultation</li> <li>• Updated list of regional measures and criteria and circulation of the draft to the SCP/RAC Focal Points for online consultation</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of a consultation meeting with national experts nominated by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention</li> <li>• Advanced list of measures and criteria shared with SCP/RAC Focal Points for a second online consultation</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of the final draft of the measures and criteria to the SCP/RAC Focal Points and MCSD Meetings</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCP/RAC Focal Points and MCSD Meetings</li> <li>• Updated list of measures and criteria integrating comments of MCSD Members and SCP/RAC Focal Points</li> <li>• Preparation of the draft Decision</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Decision submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Decision submitted to COP 22 for endorsement</li> </ul>