

**Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UNEP
(Online meeting, 23 April 2020)**

**Agenda Item 2: Draft decision for the IGR for the Global Programme of Action for the
Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**

Comments by the European Union and its Member States

The EU and its MS thank the Secretariat for the new version of the draft decision and for taking on board most of our comments.

In line with the previous interventions, we would like to briefly reiterate the EU and its MS' support to the proposed way forward:

- to “dissolve” the GPA and IGR,
- to “integrate” the relevant activities and partnerships of the GPA in the Programme of Work in view of their shared objectives,
- to endorse such a decision in an extraordinary IGR, as well as at UNEA and,
- to report to UNGA through the report of UNEA.

Following further reflection by the EU and its MS on the formulation of OP1, we need an reassurance that the current wording indeed dissolves/discontinues the IGR. We appreciate a clarification on what are the impacts on the future of the GPA as that mechanism. We are concerned that this wording, which only refers to IGR “meetings”, is ambiguous and risks being interpreted as not definite.

We would like to bring to the attention of distinguished colleagues that in the very first version of the Draft elements, that was uploaded on UNEP website on 26 February, the OP1 read differently:

“1. *Decides* to discontinue the Global Programme of Action as an intergovernmental mechanism governed by periodic Intergovernmental Review Meetings (IGRs); “

The EU and its MS prefer this wording as it gives clarity with regard to discontinuation of the GPA as an inter-governmental mechanism and discontinuation of its governing body and asks clarifications on why this wording was dropped.