



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on integrated maritime policy

*3022nd GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 14 June 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"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 Council Conclusions on the Integrated Maritime Policy adopted on 16 November 2009³;
- the Council Conclusions on Integration of Maritime Surveillance adopted on 17 November 2009⁴;
- the Council Conclusions on the Maritime Security Strategy adopted on 26 April 2010;

ACKNOWLEDGING the recent developments on the Integrated Maritime Policy since November 2009; and CONFIRMING the validity of the integrated approach to maritime affairs;

¹ Doc 14631/07 - COM (2007) 575 final

² Doc 16616/07, (*paragraph 58*)

³ Doc 15175/1/09 REV 1

⁴ Doc 15176/2/09 REV 2

P R E S S

REAFFIRMING that implementing and developing further the IMP in line with the European Council Conclusions of 14 December 2007 and the Council conclusions of 16 November 2009 on the Progress Report of the European Commission⁵ requires a continued financial underpinning;

RECALLING that the Commission Communication "EUROPE 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"⁶ reiterates the importance of the maritime sectors in the particular context of resource efficiency, competitiveness and climate action;

EMPHASISING the importance of the dialogue at international and regional level on an integrated maritime policy and other 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; AND the need to further identify the cooperation, through capacity building and technology transfer, with developing countries and Small Island Developing States, to enhance their capacity to assess their maritime activities and develop an integrated maritime policy;

CONSIDERING that the Integration of Maritime Surveillance across sectors and borders is a priority objective as reflected by the Council in November 2009;

RECOGNISING that the Union needs to actively contribute to a stable and secure global maritime domain by tackling the threats identified in the European Security Strategy, while ensuring coherence with EU internal policies including the EU Integrated Maritime Policy;

1. INVITES the Commission to present urgently the legislative proposals for the financing of integrated maritime policy actions within the existing Financial Perspective, with a view to entry into force by 2011;
2. WELCOMES the Commission communication "Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"; CALLS on the Commission to pursue its work on the future sources of sustainable growth and development of coastal regions and to identify the untapped future potential of cutting-edge marine and maritime technologies, resources and services as drivers for new innovations, competitiveness and, ultimately, growth and jobs;
3. WELCOMES the Commission's and Member States' continued efforts to implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)⁷ as the environmental pillar of the IMP and stresses the need for applying the ecosystem-based approach and for protecting and rehabilitating the marine biodiversity; RECALLS the Council conclusions of the 22 December 2009 on Regional approaches to management of the marine environment, including implementation of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;

⁵ Doc 14363/09 - COM(2009) 540 final

⁶ Doc 7110/10 - COM (2010) 2020 final

⁷ Directive 2008/56/EC, OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19-40

4. WELCOMES the continued implementation of the EU Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research as a coherent European Research Area framework in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas and aimed to provide the knowledge base for the implementation of the IMP; RECALLS that the Council of 26 May 2010 welcomed the progress made by the High Level Group on Joint Programming which identified "Healthy and Productive Oceans and Seas" as one of the themes for Joint Programming Initiatives and invited the Commission to contribute to the preparation of this initiative;
5. ENCOURAGES the Commission to continue working on the integration of maritime policies in the Mediterranean along the line of its Communication of 11 September 2009; ENCOURAGES the Commission to continue working in close cooperation with Member States on an integrated approach with non-EU Mediterranean coastal States and engage in the exchange of best practices complementing existing initiatives, paying attention, where appropriate, to the development of regional strategies at the sub-regional level; INVITES the Commission and the Member States to continue, where necessary and appropriate, the dialogue with the non European Mediterranean countries, taking into account the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant existing international conventions, based on UNCLOS;
6. RECALLS the Council Conclusions of 17 November 2009⁸ calling for further development of the strategic approaches to regional sea basins, and therefore INVITES the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States concerned, to present an EU strategy for the Atlantic region in the context of an EU IMP, based on a perspective of clear added value, by June 2011, which is intended to address common challenges faced by the countries of the region, including marine research, maritime surveillance, environmental and economic challenges;
7. CALLS upon the Commission to take into consideration the role and the importance of the Outermost Regions of the EU and associated overseas countries and territories in the implementation of its IMP, and ENCOURAGES the Commission and Member States to strengthen the contributions of those regions and territories to the IMP;
8. NOTES the importance to encourage the application of the Integrated Maritime Policy approach in the global framework; CALLS on Member States and the Commission to continue to work on moving oceans and coasts higher up on the climate change agenda, reinforce the efforts at the international level for the protection of marine biodiversity, in particular in areas beyond national jurisdiction; CALLS on Member States and the Commission to promote continuous improvement of safety, security, environmental performance and working conditions, enhancing the effective implementation of internationally agreed rules by all flag, port and coastal States in the world;
9. REAFFIRMS the high importance to continue pursuing the actions to ensure freedom, safety and security of maritime activities and to sustain the international efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery, namely in the framework of Atalanta, and to address the root causes of piracy;
10. INVITES the Commission, in close cooperation with Member States and next Presidencies to explore the opportunities and synergies that can be achieved in the context of the international dimension of the integrated approach to maritime affairs;

⁸ Doc 15175/09, (*paragraph 11*)

11. ENCOURAGES the Commission's Member State Expert subgroup on the integration of maritime surveillance to continue working on the 'Roadmap towards establishing a Common Information Sharing Environment for the EU maritime domain' in collaboration with respective sectoral fora; ENCOURAGES appropriate cooperation between the civilian and military communities in this process; URGES the Commission to finalise the above mentioned Roadmap, in cooperation with Member States, by end 2010 and to submit it to the Council. This roadmap would be further detailed in 2011 to take into account the results from relevant cross sectoral and cross-border projects and research and development projects, in particular the pilot projects and lessons learned from CSDP operations relevant to the integrated maritime surveillance. RECALLING the Council conclusions of 26 April 2010⁹, the roadmap should also take into account any other relevant contributions, as appropriate, such as for example the work of the Wise Pen Team;

WELCOMES the ongoing surveillance projects and the promising launch of the two pilot projects, BlueMassMed and Marsuno, which give also the needed political basis to the will of an enhanced cooperation in the matter; ENCOURAGES the two projects to be a catalyst for the necessary coherence to reach among the multiple initiatives in the domain; AND RECOMMENDS to further explore the possibility to develop a project in the Atlantic and, as appropriate, in the Black Sea;

12. RECALLS the Council's conclusions inviting the High Representative, together with the Commission and the Member States, to undertake work with a view to preparing options for the possible elaboration of a Security Strategy for the global maritime domain, including the possible establishment of a Task Force. Work will take place in the context of CFSP/CSDP, within the framework of the European Security Strategy¹⁰;
13. LOOKS FORWARD to the upcoming communication on the Marine Knowledge 2020, to increase operational efficiency of users of marine data, to promote cooperation and competition between these users and to reduce uncertainties in knowledge of the behaviour of the seas and oceans;
14. WELCOMES the integration of maritime actions into the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region; LOOKS FORWARD to the outcome of the first Annual Forum on the Baltic Sea Strategy reporting on the first year of implementation;
15. ENCOURAGES the Commission to develop a maritime dimension of the Black Sea Synergy through concrete action;
16. WELCOMES the Atlas of the Seas¹¹ recently developed by the Commission and ENCOURAGES stakeholders to avail the Maritime Forum as the new instrument for collaboration¹²;
17. AWAITS the upcoming Social Maritime Agenda implementing IMP objectives of strengthening education, careers and employment in the maritime sectors, as crucial elements to ensure the EU's competitiveness and sustainability in these sectors;

⁹ Doc. 8671/10

¹⁰ Doc 8871/10

¹¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeatlas>

¹² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum>

18. EXPRESSES gratitude to the European Commission and the Spanish Government for having organised the successful 3rd European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference in Gijón on 18-21 May 2010, being the most important gathering of maritime stakeholder communities; RECOGNIZES the importance of the numerous and high level participation in this conference and the important role of stakeholders in preparing the themes for discussion; and UNDERLINES the quality of the debates contributing to the future development of IMP, notably as regards the main theme of the Conference - Innovation and Sustainable Growth in the Maritime Sectors and Coastal Regions;
19. INVITES the Commission together with Member States to reflect on how to increase even further the added value of the European Maritime Day stakeholder conferences and to develop new criteria for this purpose to be applied from 2012, and regarding selection of location, from 2015; RECALLS the Council Conclusions of 17 November 2009¹³ with the proposal of the four countries which have expressed their interest to host the annual European Maritime Day Stakeholders Conference and AGREES that the next central Stakeholders Conferences will be hosted in Poland (Gdansk) in 2011, Sweden (Göteborg) in 2012, Malta (Valletta) in 2013 and Germany (Bremen) in 2014, thus guaranteeing the rotation between sea basins. "
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¹³ Doc 15175/09, (*paragraph 14*) – the four countries: Poland, Sweden, Malta and Germany.