# HASEC 23/11/1, Annex 5

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| OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic |
| Meeting of the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC)  Hybrid meeting from Edinburgh (Scotland, UK): 20 – 24 March 2023 |

Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Measures and Recommendations (ICG-MaRE)

# Background

1. OSPAR measures are typically implemented through Recommendations, Decisions or Other Agreements. Developing these involves a substantial workload.The function of ICG-MaRE is to assistHASEC with its requirement to develop and implement measures, as well as to coordinate these with external bodies in order to deliver the new strategy and through this, the objectives of the OSPAR Convention. Measures should reflect the scope of the HASEC Terms of Reference.

# Objectives

1. ICG-MaRE will:
   1. propose measures of relevance to HASEC e.g., through identifying the linkages between the assessments, strategy and existing measures;
   2. develop background documents;
   3. propose recommendation or agreement text;
   4. assist with the review of measures of relevance to HASEC;
   5. identify opportunities and challenges for work with national/ international competent organisations whose mandates intersect with OSPAR with respect to the hazardous substances and eutrophication Recommendations;
   6. ensure cross committee liaison where this is appropriate to the implementation of the Recommendations;
   7. facilitate the process to implement those actions in the Recommendations for Contracting Parties to be undertaken whilst acting collectively within the framework of the OSPAR Commission;
   8. design the implementation reporting of Recommendations;
   9. serve as a platform for expert discussions;

3. As a starting point, ICG-MaRE will look at the compilation of MSFD measures and review selected OSPAR recommendations such as*, PARCOM Recommendations 94/6, 88/2 and 94/7*. The intention of the starting list of recommendations is to provide HASEC with an informed decision on whether to keep them, revise them or set the measures aside. The MSFD measures provide a good basis for identifying the need for new Decisions, Recommendations and Agreements.

Practical arrangements

1. ICG-MaRE will be coordinated by the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee.
2. ICG-MaRE will be convened by Maria Teresa Hernández Sánchez (Spain).
3. Initially ICG-MaRE will meet via videoconference to discuss the prioritisation of tasks. Individual Contracting Parties can then suggest the necessary experts who can participate.
4. Tasks identified by ICG-MaRE will be implemented by pairs of Contracting Parties as far as possible.
5. ICG-MaRE will work initially on a trial basis to see if the group delivers on the tasks. The group will work through correspondence, making use of appropriate electronic communication means.
6. Participation will be on an ad hoc basis, dependent on what will be discussed at the meetings. But the ICG is open to all Contracting Parties and Observers in accordance with the OSPAR Rules of Procedure.
7. The Secretariat shall assist the convenor of an intersessional correspondence group as far as resources allow.