ROADMAP	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	**Communication from the Commission on Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU - achievements and future development**
TYPE OF INITIATIVE	● CWP ✕ Non-CWP ● Implementing act/Delegated act
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	MARE.E.1
EXPECTED DATE OF ADOPTION	4th Quarter 2010
VERSION OF ROADMAP	No: 1 Last modification: Month/Year: 09/2010

A. Context, problem definition

(i) What is the political context of the initiative?
(ii) How does it relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?
(iii) What ex-post analysis of the existing policy has been carried out and what results are relevant for this initiative?

(i) The initiative is the continuation of the work on Maritime Spatial planning which is part of the Integrated Maritime Policy. It is the announced follow-up to the Commission Communication "Roadmap on Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU", adopted in 2008[1], which identified 10 key principles on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and launched a stakeholder discussion on the development of a common approach among Member States on MSP.

(ii) The initiative reports on the work launched with the above Roadmap Communication[1] in particular the workshops on Maritime Spatial Planning which took place in 2009. It will derive ideas on possible future action and/or proposals by the Commission on MSP. The Communication will include references to other policy areas and priorities with a link to MSP, such as:
- The global economic crisis and the conditions for maritime growth
- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Climate change and renewable energy
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- EU Integrated Maritime Policy, in particular as regards regional specificities and marine data and knowledge
- The European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- Maritime transport policy
- Common Fisheries Policy
- Relevant INTERREG programmes

Given that IMP is an integrated, cross-cutting policy, any of its implementation tools will have an impact on actions taken/planned by other Commission departments. The Communication will therefore take into account the specific maritime actions developed by other departments.

(iii) During the workshops that took place in 2009, stakeholders from all relevant maritime sectors discussed the 10 key principles set out in the Roadmap Communication[1]. The Commission has also launched studies on MSP (economic impacts of MSP and potential for MSP in the Mediterranean, respectively), as well as two preparatory actions in the Baltic Sea (as part of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) and the North Sea/North East Atlantic, aiming at developing cross-border cooperation aspects of MSP.[2]

This Communication will outline the outcome of the above work and identify possible further steps. As such it is a means of ex-post/mid-term analysis (see also section B. on objectives of this Communication).

What are the main problems which this initiative will address?

Continuation of the work on Maritime Spatial Planning launched with the Roadmap Communication of 2008[1]. Main issues raised in this context are: Increased activities on Europe's seas lead to growing competition for limited marine space among human activities and between human activities and environmental aspects. There is a need to balance sectoral interests and achieve sustainable use of marine resources with the ecosystem based approach as the underpinning principle and to provide a stable, reliable and future-oriented planning framework for public authorities and stakeholders to coordinate their action and optimise the use of marine space to benefit economic development and the marine environment. If not addressed, the current non-coordinated situation might hamper the growth potential of European maritime sectors.

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[1] COM(2008) 791 final of 25 November 2008
[2] For more information, consult the Maritime Affairs website: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/spatial_planning_en.html

Who will be affected by it?
Administrations in the 22 coastal Member States in particular, maritime industries in all Member States, marine environment, and the EU's society as a whole are all affected by the problem.
(i)   Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can Member States not achieve the objectives of the proposed action sufficiently by themselves? (Necessity Test) (iii) Can the EU achieve the objectives better? (Test of EU Value Added)
(i) N/A: the present Communication is a report on activities that have already taken place, and the presentation of outcomes of a reflection process, including possible future action. Any further action would require an Impact Assessment. (ii) N/A: the necessity test would be part of a future impact assessment and the roadmap preceding it. (iii) N/A see above.

B. Objectives of the initiative

What are the main policy objectives?
The objective of the Communication is to sum up the developments on MSP in the EU since the publication of the 2008 Roadmap Communication. This includes: - Addressing the issues of governance and the added value of EU action in the field of MSP; - Reporting on the discussions and conclusions from the workshops organised by the Commission in 2009; - Presenting MSP developments at national and international level; - Outlining the current EU-level policy context and links to other EU policies; - Informing on action by the Commission to enhance the conceptual development of MSP (studies and preparatory actions); - Presenting the conclusions of all these elements and options for future action on MSP at EU level; and - Forming the basis for an online stakeholder consultation on future EU action on MSP.
Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas?
The Communication will present conclusions on past work, including options for future action, including the option of developing EU policy in new areas. Any future action on MSP, separate from this Communication, would be subject to a specific roadmap and impact assessment.

C. Options

(i)   What are the policy options being considered? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? (iii) How do the options respect the proportionality principle?
(i) The Report will present conclusions of the work undertaken as a follow-up to the 2008 Roadmap Communication[1]. These conclusions will include reflections on further work on MSP at the EU level that will be presented at the end of this Communications and propose to carry out a further stakeholder consultation. (ii) Any further action on MSP would be separate from this Communication and would require a specific Roadmap and Impact Assessment. (iii) N/A: this is a report on the outcome of past work on MSP, and discussion on future action will be part of the roadmap and impact assessment to be set out for further action.

D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the benefits and costs of each of the policy options?
A separate roadmap and impact assessment will be carried out in the context of a future initiative on MSP (separate from this Communication).
Could any or all of the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden and (iii) on relations with other countries, (iv) implementation arrangements? And (v) could any be difficult to transpose for certain Member States?
These impacts will be evaluated in the forthcoming roadmap and impact assessment (cf. the preceding and the following point).

(i) Will an IA be carried out for this initiative and/or possible follow-up initiatives? (ii) When will the IA work start? (iii) When will you set up the IA Steering Group and how often will it meet? (iv) What DGs will be invited?
With regard to the more analytical and recapitulating character of this initiative, no impact assessment is required at this stage. A detailed roadmap and impact assessment would be carried out in the context of a future initiative on MSP, separate from this Communication.
(i) Is any of options likely to have impacts on the EU budget above €5m? (ii) If so, will this IA serve also as an ex-ante evaluation, as required by the Financial regulation? If not, provide information about the timing of the ex-ante evaluation.
No.

E. Evidence base, planning of further work and consultation
(i)   What information and data are already available? Will existing impact assessment and evaluation work be used? (ii) What further information needs to be gathered, how will this be done *(e.g. internally or by an external contractor)*, and by when? (iii) What is the timing for the procurement process & the contract for any external contracts that you are planning (e.g. for analytical studies, information gathering, etc.)? (iv) Is any particular communication or information activity foreseen? If so, what, and by when?
(i) – (iii) See above under A. (iii). (iv) A press release by the time of adoption of the Communication is envisaged.
Which stakeholders & experts have been or will be consulted, how, and at what stage?
See above under A. (iii).