

## What is Marsafenet

The **NETwork of experts on the legal aspects of MARitime SAFETY and security**

Maritime safety and security have become matter of concern for many States and for the international community as a whole. This Cost Action will take an in-depth look at current urgent maritime matters focusing on four main issues: i.e., shipping and marine environmental protection, new developments of economic activities at sea, maritime international security and border surveillance and, finally, protection of fragile and semi-enclosed seas. In terms of societal implications, the Action is aimed at facilitating the identification of solutions for old and new issues and criticalities, that may be implemented within the public realm (decision-makers, international institutions, international and national tribunals, EU institutions, etc.) and within the private sector (shipping sector, civil society, NGOs, etc.).

MARSAFENET is currently composed of more than 50 legal experts from 22 different countries working together to develop a common conceptual and methodological framework with the aim of contributing to filling the existing gaps and transforming scientific results into feasible solutions for ensuring safety and security at sea.

[www.marsafenet.org](http://www.marsafenet.org)

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Stakeholders Workshop

# State environmental compliance and enforcement in the Mediterranean Sea

Rome, 17 March 2014

National Research Council of Italy

Aula Marconi

Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7



## **The Workshop**

This workshop aims to analyse the fundamental aspects of State environmental compliance and enforcement in the Mediterranean Sea, with particular reference to the rules applicable to the Ecological and Fisheries Protection Zones (EFPZ and EPZ) as well as the Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZ) and marine transnational areas.

This Workshop represents an opportunity to come together, exchange ideas and discuss emerging legal issues concerning States' powers at sea with particular emphasis on the protection of the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea, both under or not the sovereignty and jurisdiction of States, within the legal framework of the current maritime boundary delimitation.

The workshop is divided into two sessions: the morning session and the afternoon session, respectively in Italian and English.

### **I Session**

9:30 to 13:00

#### **The Implementation of the Italian Ecological Protection Zone**

The morning session is devoted to analyse the implementation of the Italian Ecological Protection Zone (EPZ) and the evolution of its concept from its origins to its final form to give an insight into the balance of different interests involved, within the international, EU and national legal framework, while examining its criteria assessment in terms of relevance, sustainability, effectiveness and positive impact.

In particular, the attention will be devoted to ascertain whether the Italian choice of claiming EPZ is informed by or is consistent with the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and with the maritime strategies launched by the Neighbouring Countries, and how it has been considered and applied in the current legal framework.

The invited stakeholders, coming from Italian Ministries, Italian navy forces, NGOs and public research institutions, will take an in-depth look at the results and challenges involved in the Italian policies on:

- as to how the EPZ is involved in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC MSFD) as the environmental pillar of the IMP;
- the protection of biodiversity and living resources in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction;
- the environmental impacts and threats posed by offshore activities for marine resources and biodiversity;
- as to how to contrast pressure and impacts on marine environment like marine litter and underwater noise (e.g. from shipping, underwater acoustic equipment), causing harm to the marine and coastal zones.

### **II Session**

14.30 to 17:00

#### **Sharing responsibilities for environmental protection and living resources conservation of the Mediterranean Sea**

From a particular to general interests, the afternoon session is devoted, firstly, to the analysis of the international legal framework and of other existing instruments, including national laws and best practices, and, secondly, to the EU member States enforcement actions to ensure environmental compliance in the Mediterranean Sea.

The final scientific output is to examine, with a comparative perspective, the maritime boundary delimitation in the Mediterranean Sea, with particular focus on the EEZ/EPZ proclamations of some EU member States, as well as transnational areas.

The environmental concerns related to the delimitation process will introduce the proposal of some scientific organizations of creating Marine peace parks in transnational zones.

Several EU member States representatives, academics, NGOs and other interested stakeholders will attend the Workshop.