Terms of Reference

Expert group
ICZM Recommendation

1. BACKGROUND

The EU ICZM Recommendation of 30 May 2002 calls on Member States to set up national strategies for ICZM, by 30 February 2006. These national strategies have a crucial role to play in promoting ICZM in Europe, as indicated in the Commission Communication “On Integrated Coastal Zone Management: a strategy for Europe”.

The Demonstration Programme on which the Communication and proposal for the Recommendation are based indeed identified that the national level “must provide a legal and statutory framework adequate to enable implementation of ICZM at lower levels of administration. In order to do so, it needs to ensure coherence of national legislation and programmes which affect the coastal zone – a process which entails the co-operation and involvement of a wide range of sectoral branches of the administration. The national government also needs to promote a national vision to give guidance and support to promote coherent activities at regional and local level.” The Commission Communication recognised also that there are great differences between Member States in terms of administrative, legal and cultural contexts, as well as maturity of the ICZM process, and that therefore a flexible approach is required.

The Recommendation provides a set of common agreed principles and strategic elements that should ensure coherence of strategies throughout Europe. The Recommendation further identifies the basic steps of the implementation process and main components that the national strategies should address. Finally, the Recommendation underscores the need for co-operation to address cross-border issues and contains reporting and review requirements.

From 18-20 April 2002, the Spanish Presidency organised the 1st ICZM High Level Forum in Villajoyosa, Spain. The Forum was a first opportunity for Member States, coastal Accession Countries, the European Parliament and the Commission to

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3 Recommendation, Chapters I and II.
4 Recommendation, Chapters III and IV.
5 Recommendation, Chapters V and VI.
reflect on the outlook of ICZM in Europe after the adoption of the Recommendation. The Forum’s conclusions highlight the issues of common concern and possible areas for future work. As one point of the conclusions, the Commission proposed to facilitate an expert group in support of the High Level Forum and to accompany the implementation of the Recommendation.

This document sets out the remit of the expert group and its operational arrangements.

2. **OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPERT GROUP**

The expert group will accompany the implementation of the EU ICZM Recommendation. More in particular the group will

- allow exchanges of experiences among Member States in building national ICZM strategies;
- assist in establishing a common understanding and interpretation of the Recommendation requirements, so as to enhance its coherent implementation;
- establish common approaches, methodologies or guidelines on issues of common interest;
- support future High Level Forum initiatives and possibly a European Stakeholders Forum;
- facilitate cross-border co-ordination, at regional sea level and with relevant international organisations;
- provide transparency and visibility to the Recommendation implementation process.

Within the scope of the EU ICZM Recommendation and High Level Forum conclusions, the expert group will identify specific points for discussion and issues of common interest. To that effect annex 1 gives a non-exhaustive overview of potential issues.

3. **OUTPUTS**

The Expert Group work may lead to

- Commonly agreed interpretations of the Recommendation requirements
- Guidelines for the implementation
- Common methods or recommendations for specific issues

\[6\] 1st European ICZM High Level Forum Conclusions, see annex 3.
• Common promotion and awareness raising approaches, and/or possible joint actions

The outputs of the Expert group should focus on their use in the national strategy building processes.

4. OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

(1) Composition:

The expert group consists of Commission, Member States, Accession countries and where necessary relevant invitees from stakeholder groups, academia and administrative bodies.

Member states nominate representatives that are responsible for the implementation of the ICZM Recommendation. According to the agenda and topics to be discussed, the Member States can further invite to their delegations relevant other persons from national stakeholders and/or administrative bodies. Delegations are limited to maximum 2 persons.

The Commission chairs the expert group. The Commission can invite third parties to participate according to need.

Coastal Candidate Countries representatives (max. 1 per country) are invited to participate in the meetings.

(2) Meetings:

The expert group will meet maximum 2 / year. The Commission will organise these meetings.

The draft Agenda will be established by the Commission and circulated to Expert Group members one month before a meeting. The minutes will be drawn up by the Commission and submitted for observations to the members at the latest one month following the meeting. The minutes will be adopted by the Commission, taking account of observations, and circulated in final version to the members.

The expert group may set up working groups to deal with specific issues. Such working groups are led by one Member State and will report to the expert group. The lead Member State will organise the meeting of the working group.

Information about the expert group, and in particular the minutes and any other adopted documents will be made public on the ICZM web site on the Europa-server (http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm).

(3) Reimbursements
In accordance with the applicable Commission reimbursement rules, the Commission will cover costs for the expert group meetings only, as follows:

- for Member States and Countries acceding in 2004: travel expenditure up to economy fare for 1 expert (note: for the acceding countries except Malta and Chyprus; future candidate countries cannot be reimbursed);

- in case of participants invited by the Commission, non-governmental experts will be reimbursed for travel expenditure up to economy fare and per-diem for a full day’s meeting.
Annex 1

EU ICZM Recommendation and 1st European High Level Forum conclusions - Non-exhaustive overview of themes and issues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation Process and Tools:</th>
<th>Specific issues:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Scope of the national stocktaking exercise</td>
<td>- Natural resources management</td>
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<td>- Involvement of all relevant policy areas</td>
<td>- Climate change</td>
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<td>- Involvement of regional/local authorities, economic-social actors and other stakeholders</td>
<td>- Coastal protection, erosion</td>
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<td>- Format of national strategies</td>
<td>- Protection of sensitive areas</td>
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<td>- Co-ordination and control mechanisms among coastal actors</td>
<td>- Water quality</td>
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<td>- Improvement co-ordination land-sea interaction</td>
<td>- Protection of cultural heritage</td>
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<td>- Co-operation at regional sea level</td>
<td>- Sustainable economic and job opportunities in coastal communities</td>
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<td>- Promotion and awareness raising at various levels (policy makers, local authorities, public)</td>
<td>- Functioning social and cultural systems</td>
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<td>- Best practice dissemination</td>
<td>- Adequate access to the coast, for recreation and aesthetic purposes</td>
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<td>- Establishment of a European Coastal Stakeholders Forum</td>
<td>- Cohesion of remote coastal communities</td>
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<td>- Information systems, including indicators and state of coast reports</td>
<td>- Control of urbanisation and exploitation of non-urban areas</td>
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<td>- Reporting on and evaluation of the national strategies</td>
<td>- Managing tourism pressures</td>
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<td>- Planning instruments, including sea-use planning, integrated assessment and landscape approaches</td>
<td>- Eco-system based approach of the coast</td>
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<td>- Financing mechanisms for durable funding of ICZM</td>
<td>- Economic valuation techniques for externalities impacting on the coast</td>
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<td>- Conflict resolution methods</td>
<td>- Scenarios and methods to deal with global warming, depleting fish stocks, increasing population growth in the coastal zone</td>
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<td>- Land purchase mechanisms and declarations of public domain</td>
<td>- Co-ordination of implementation and application of Community legislation and policies</td>
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<td>- Contractual and voluntary agreements</td>
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<td>- Economic and fiscal incentives</td>
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<td>- Regional development mechanisms</td>
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<td>- Education and training programmes to support ICZM</td>
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The Spanish Ministry of Environment in the context of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission as well as representatives of EU Member States and Candidate Countries, with the value support of representatives of European Parliament, meeting in La Vila Joiosa, Alicante, España, from 18 to 20 April 2002, reflecting a true political will to implement ICZM in Europe, recommend to:

1. Make advances towards achieving an integrated and ecosystem approach of the coast, considering the interrelation of physical, biological and geomorphological processes, relevant aspects such as biodiversity, social progress, degree of satisfaction, and particularly advances towards devising objective economic valuation techniques for externalities of main impacting activities.

2. Emphasise the need to propose and agree upon a common understanding of the "coastal zone" in functional terms, a sense of vision of how we wish the coast to meet the needs of current and future generations as well as the interpretation of ICZM as a pro-active tool to facilitate appropriate development of coastal areas and resources.

3. Consider the urgent need to define precise scenarios and their probable consequences, in coordination with the relevant International Bodies, such as UNEP MAP, concerning the three most patent issues that affect to European coasts: the possible rising sea level due to global warming, the gradual depletion of fishing stocks and the increasing population growth registered in coastal areas. At this respect, short-term financial profits should not prevail over broader, long-term economic, social and environmental costs.

4. Promote the general use of existing comparable indicators i.e. for sustainable development, and if appropriate to develop indicators on a national basis to provide standardised descriptions of the status of the coast and possible impacts of human activities, throughout the European Union, as well as of the progress made towards ICZM in Europe.

5. Make advances in the management and development of knowledge, specifically, in knowledge organisation, in light of the opportunities provided by new technologies, and supported by common, systematic and standard formats, capable of producing standardised data bases that facilitate the flow of information on a European scale with the use of standardised G.I.S. too.

6. Underscore the need to compile a Guide to Good Practices with particular reference to main impacting activities (i.e. tourism, fishery, aquaculture, harbours management urban planning in coastal zone) so as to integrate horizontal decision making processes, and also provide a foundation for communicating the benefits brought by ICZM implementation.

7. Promote ICZM on a local scale, in the conviction that local governmental bodies and stake-holders play an essential role in the success of ICZM. Furthermore emphasising the possibility to use spatial planning integrated with sea-use planning and marine resources management, at national, regional and local level as a way to apply a holistic and dynamic perspective in ICZM in order to create a common vision of the sustainable development in the coastal zone and to ensure dialogue and participation of local and regional stakeholders.

8. Continue with the IZCM Demonstration Projects Programme undertaken by the European Commission, giving priority to those that can serve as good examples for the implementation of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ICZM and to those that aim to optimise the use of public resources, administrative processes and decision making, as well as to transnational and co-operation projects with non-European Union neighbouring countries.

9. Take advantage of the synergies arising in the application of numerous Community instruments affecting coastal zones, such as Water Framework Directive, EIA and SEA, and particularly those emerging from the new Environmental Action Programme: Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice, and from the Community Strategy on Sustainable Development. Ensure compatibility between Community large-scale financing/investment instruments and national/regional/local co-ordination of initiatives and subsequent strategies on ICZM.

10. Ensure the continuity of the La Vila Joiosa Forum, with the aim of facilitating progress towards a common ICZM understanding, and to improve the sharing of information on future national developments in the implementation of the European Recommendation on ICZM.

Finally, in support of the high level forum, the Commission could facilitate an expert group, recognising the enormous complex challenges coastal zones face and the need to develop common understanding and methodologies to adapt to the challenges. This expert group will follow the principles of transparency and stakeholder involvement.