



DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE

WATER STRATEGY IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

June 2016

1. Preamble

The Ministers responsible for Water and Environment of the Western Mediterranean members of the 5+5 Dialogue, in the presence of their partners, the European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Arab Union of the Maghreb.

Having held, on 31st March 2015 in Algiers, the first Ministerial Conference on Water of the 5+5 Dialogue in the presence of all the member countries of this initiative.

Having endorsed at the said Conference and at ministerial level, the “Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean” (WSWM) as a guide to jointly manage in a sustainable manner the common challenges the Mediterranean countries are confronted with.

Having formulated an Action Plan which identifies projects at national and regional level that, according to the guidelines provided by the strategy and depending on the available funding be it national, regional or international, should serve to devise a roadmap that allows to implement the strategy through the enforcement of different activities that are key for our respective national water policies.

Having decided to adopt the following rules of procedure in order to organise the works of the Working Group of the Ministers responsible for Water and Environment policies of the countries of the Western Mediterranean, members of the 5+5 Dialogue.

2. Organisation and operational rules of the Ministerial Group on Water of the 5+5 Dialogue (MGW 5+5)

2.1 The members of the Ministerial Group on Water of the 5+5 Dialogue (MGW 5+5), are the Ministers responsible for the water and environmental policies of the Western Mediterranean countries, members of the 5+5 Dialogue, namely Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

The European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Arab Union of the Maghreb, as official members within 5+5 dialogue, shall participate in the meetings and deliberations of the MGW 5+5.

Those international organisations at multilateral or regional level in the water sector that operate in the Mediterranean region and formally apply for such condition of observers shall benefit from the condition of observers of the MGW 5+5 provided their admission is accepted by the Ministerial Group.

2.2 The MGW 5+5 shall choose among its members one President on a rotating basis. The Presidency shall run for two years.

2.3. The MGW 5+5 shall meet at least once every two years in the country that holds the rotating Presidency.

The MGW 5+5 shall supervise the implementation of the Action Plan and its working lines; it shall propose as many measures as necessary to achieve the objectives of the Strategy and shall revise the priorities of the Action, where appropriate.

3. The Group of Experts

3.1 The MGW 5+5 shall be assisted by a technical Working Group (WG) formed by representatives of the administrations of the countries members of the MGW 5+5.

3.2 The WG shall be assisted by the representative of the country that holds the rotating MGW presidency.

3.3 The WG shall meet at least once a year in the country that holds the rotating Presidency of the MGW 5+5.

3.4 The WG will exercise the following functions:

- a) Propose the working lines of the MGW 5+5 aiming at the implementation of the Action Plan.
- b) Submit projects, to be endorsed by the MGW 5+5, to be included in the working lines of the Action Plan.
- c) Identify those issues of a technical and cooperative nature on water matters, eligible to be debated within the MGW 5+5 or in the WG.
- d) Assess progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and inform the MGW 5+5.

4. Technical Secretariat of the MGW 5+5

4.1 The Technical Secretariat (TS) of the MGW 5+5 shall be exercised by the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), located in the headquarters of the *Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar*, based in Valencia (Spain).

4.2. La TS shall perform the functions of logistical, administrative and technical support of the decisions taken by the WG and the MGW 5+5

4.3. The TS shall prepare the minutes of the meetings of the WG and of the MGW 5+5; it shall refer the notices of the meetings and maintain the Web Page of the “Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean”.

5. Decision making

5.1 The decisions of the MGW 5+5 and of the WG shall be taken by consensus.

5.2 The opinions and contributions of the associated countries and of the observers shall feed the debates of the MGW 5+5 and that of the WG.

6. Funding

6.1 The funding of the activities derived from the implementation of the Action Plan shall be provided by the promoters of such activities, be it unilaterally or within the framework of the existing bilateral, regional or multilateral cooperation programs.

6.2 The costs linked to the organisation of the meetings of the MGW 5+5 and of the WG will be borne by the country that holds the rotating presidency of the MGW 5+5, excluding the travel and accommodation expenses and without prejudice to any financial assistance that the members of the MGW 5+5 may provide to each other or to that provided by its associated members or by other donors.