

PROPOSAL OF OUR GENERAL DIRECTORATE

According to the IPCC reports, we are consequently exposed to disasters such as floods, wildfires, drought and desertification more than ever before in our country, which is in the Mediterranean Basin, which is one of the most vulnerable regions against the negative impacts of climate change.

COP 22 adopted the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO). With Post-2020 SAPBIO Decision, the MAP system currently works for reducing the impact of maritime traffic (noise and collision) on sensitive marine species (cetaceans, turtles, others) by implementing quieter technologies and designating restricted areas to put in place the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean.

COP22 adopted a groundbreaking decision on the Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (MED SOx ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI. On 15 December 2022 the 79th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) adopted the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA), with effect from 1 May 2025, to further limit air pollution from ships, pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) nitrogen oxides (NOx) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) studies were accepted in COP22 Antalya Declaration of the Barcelona Convention. UNEP MAP declared to encourage the Contracting Parties to start further work exploring the feasibility of a NOx ECA in the Mediterranean Sea to minimize shipping emissions and achieve significant health and environmental benefits in Ministerial Declaration of the COP22 in Antalya.

In addition, the steps taken to protect the marine ecosystem are very beneficial in the climate change adaptation process. The healthier the marine ecosystems are, the more positive their contributions to our fight against climate change. Therefore, the decision taken at COP22 sets an example for declaring sensitive marine ecosystems an emission control

area. In this context, it is important that new and clean technologies are used for these areas and that they are accessible to all participants in order to the improvement of marine ecosystems.

Many new technological opportunities exist for the maritime and shipping industries. Technology can help solve environmental problems and improve, while sustainable technologies can help improve ocean space and protect the environment. The current rate of innovation is high, especially with the introduction of new transformative technologies of digitalization and monitoring. However, the availability and affordable of these technologies to all is important for the improvement of the managing the marine and coastal environment. In this context, on the theme the report "New maritime technologies: challenges and opportunities" is important.